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DISD MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Dickinson Independent School District is to ensure that all students have safe and successful learning opportunities that help them reach their full potential and add quality throughout their lives.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact (281) 229-6024.

Preface

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2019–20 school year! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

The Dickinson High School Student Handbook is designed to provide basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. The handbook is divided into two sections:

Section I—Parental Rights—with information to assist you in responding to school-related issues. We encourage you to take some time to closely review this section of the handbook.

Section II—Other Important Information for Students and Parents—organized alphabetically by topic, and, where possible, further divided by applicability to ages and/or grade levels, for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

Please be aware that the term “parent,” unless otherwise noted, is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of the student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Dickinson High School Student Code of Conduct, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found on the district’s website at www.dickinsonisd.org and is available in hard copy upon request.

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

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

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

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

If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact Dr. Billye Smith, Dickinson High School Principal.

Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following forms provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon the student’s enrollment:

1. Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook;
3. Parent’s Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education, if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities; and

[See Objecting to the Release of Directory Information and Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation for more information.]

Note: References to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to board policy. The district’s official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at www.dickinsonisd.org.
Section I: Parental Rights

This section of the Dickinson ISD Student Handbook includes information related to certain rights of parents as specified in state or federal law.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service
A district employee will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent unless the examination, test, or treatment is required under state or federal law regarding requirements for special education or by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for child abuse investigations and reports.

Consent to Display a Student’s Original Works and Personal Information
Teachers may display students’ work, which may include personally identifiable student information, in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement.

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying students’ artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, original videos or voice recordings, and other original works on the district’s website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district, such as a campus or classroom website, and in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if Student is Under Age 14
A child under the age of 14 must have parental permission to receive instruction in the district’s parenting and paternity awareness program; otherwise, the child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE), is incorporated into the district’s health education classes.

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Otherwise Permitted by Law
State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity;
- When it relates to media coverage of the school; or
- When it relates to the promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

The district will seek parental consent through a written request before making any other video or voice recording of your child not otherwise allowed by law.
Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment—spanking or paddling the student—may NOT be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the district’s policy manual.

Limiting Electronic Communications with Students by District Employees

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

However, text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity needs to communicate with a student participating in the extracurricular activity. The employee is required to include his or her immediate supervisor and the student’s parent as recipients on all text messages.

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee or if you have questions related to the use of electronic media by district employees, please contact the campus principal.

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated “directory information” from a child’s education records without written consent. “Directory information” is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Examples include a student’s photograph for publication in the school yearbook; a student’s name and grade level for purposes of communicating class and teacher assignment; the name, weight, and height of an athlete for publication in a school athletic program; a list of student birthdays for generating school-wide or classroom recognition; a student’s name and photograph posted on a district-approved and -managed social media platform; and the names and grade levels of students submitted by the district to a local newspaper or other community publication to recognize the A/B honor roll for a specific grading period. Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of a student’s directory information. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of your child’s first day of instruction for this school. [See the “Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent’s Response Regarding Release of Student Information” included in the forms packet.]

The district requests that families living in a shelter for survivors of family violence or trafficking notify district personnel that the student currently resides in such a shelter. Families may want to opt out of the

[See Video Cameras for more information, including a parent’s right to request video and audio equipment be placed in certain special education settings.]
release of directory information so that the district does not release any information that might reveal the location of the shelter.

As allowed by state law, the district has identified two directory information lists—one for school-sponsored purposes and the second for all other requests. For all district publications and announcements, the district has designated the following as directory information: student name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; honors and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent school previously attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; and enrollment status. If you do not object to the use of your child’s information for these limited school-sponsored purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use the information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

For all other purposes, the district has identified the following as directory information: student name, honors and awards received, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and enrollment status. If you do not object to the use of your child’s information for these purposes, the school must release this information when the school receives a request from an outside entity or individual.

Also, review the information at Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records.

**Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education**

The district is required by federal law to comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students’ names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the district not to release their child’s information without prior written consent. A form included in the forms packet is available if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

**Participation in Third-Party Surveys**

**Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation**

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
• Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student’s eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [For further information, see policy EF(LEGAL).]

“Opting Out” of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information

As a parent, you have a right to receive notice of and deny permission for your child’s participation in:

• Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.

• School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information.

  **Note:** This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

• Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

As a parent, you may inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction

Human Sexuality Instruction

As a part of the district’s curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for such instruction.

State law requires that any instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) must:

• Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;

• Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;

• Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;

• Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
• If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district’s curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction: the district presents abstinence as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried persons of school age.

As a parent, you are entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, you may remove your child from any part of the human sexuality instruction with no academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. You may also choose to become more involved with the development of curriculum used for this purpose by becoming a member of the district’s SHAC. Please see the campus principal for additional information.

**Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3–12**

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK(LEGAL).]

**Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags**

All students are expected to stand and follow classroom procedures during morning pledges. Students and staff members in the hallway during the pledges must stop during the pledges. As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence and policy EC(LEGAL).]

**Religious or Moral Beliefs**

You may remove your child temporarily from the classroom if an instructional activity in which your child is scheduled to participate conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, your child must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

**Tutoring or Test Preparation**

Based on informal observations, evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests, or results from diagnostic assessments, a teacher may determine that a student is in need of additional targeted assistance in order for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills. The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible. In accordance with state law and policy EC, the school will not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student’s parent consents to this removal.
The school may also offer tutorial services, which students whose grades are below 70 will be required to attend.

[Also, refer to policies EC and EHBC, and contact your student’s teacher with questions about any tutoring programs provided by the school.]

**Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies**

**Instructional Materials**
As a parent, you have a right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.

You are also entitled to request that the school allow your child to take home any instructional materials used by the student. If the school determines that sufficient availability exists to grant the request, the student must return the materials at the beginning of the next school day if requested to do so by the child’s teacher.

A school must provide printed versions of electronic instructional materials to a student if the student does not have reliable access to technology at home.

**Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent**
A noncustodial parent may request in writing that he or she be provided, for the remainder of the school year, a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to his or her child’s misconduct that may involve placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expulsion. [See policy FO(LEGAL) and the Student Code of Conduct.]

**Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments**
You may request information regarding any state or district policy related to your child’s participation in assessments required by federal law, state law, or the district.

**Student Records**

**Accessing Student Records**
You may review your child’s student records. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations,
• Reports of behavioral patterns,
• Records relating to assistance provided for learning difficulties, including information collected regarding any intervention strategies used with your child, as the term intervention strategy is defined by law,
• State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child, and
• Teaching materials and tests used in your child’s classroom.

**Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records**

A federal law, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, affords parents and eligible students certain rights with respect to student education records. For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is one who is age 18 or older or who is attending an institution of postsecondary education. These rights, as discussed in this section as well as at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information**, are:

- The right to inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
- The right to request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA.
- The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student’s records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

  Family Policy Compliance Office  
  U.S. Department of Education  
  400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
  Washington, DC 20202-5901

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy. Before disclosing any personally identifiable information from a student’s records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information.

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records.

Inspection and release of student records is primarily restricted to an eligible student or a student’s parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student’s education records.

Federal law requires that, as soon as a student reaches the age of 18, is emancipated by a court, or enrolls in a postsecondary institution, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may
continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and under limited circumstances when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student’s education records, without written consent of the parent or eligible student, in the following circumstances:

- When district school officials have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records. School officials would include board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals; teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or district medical staff); a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer); a person appointed to serve on a school committee to support the district’s safe and supportive school program; a parent or student serving on a school committee; or a parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties. “Legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records includes working with the student; considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student’s case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities; compiling statistical data; reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official’s professional responsibility to the school and the student; or investigating or evaluating programs.

- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General’s office, the U.S. Attorney General’s office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, TEA, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture’s office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or other child welfare representatives, in certain cases.

- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.

- To another school, school district/system, or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.

- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or which the student has received.

- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.

- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction.

- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.

- When the district discloses information it has designated as directory information [see Objecting to the Release of Directory Information for opportunities to prohibit this disclosure].

Release of personally identifiable information to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.
The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

A parent or eligible student who wishes to inspect the student’s records should submit a written request to the records custodian identifying the records he or she wishes to inspect. Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records.

The address of the superintendent’s office is 2218 FM 517; Dickinson, TX 77539.

The address of the principals’ office is 3800 Baker Drive; Dickinson, TX 77539.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student’s records and request a correction or amendment if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. A request to correct a student’s record should be submitted to the appropriate records custodian. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information in the record is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student’s record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student’s grade in a course or on an examination is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district’s grading policy. [See FINALITY OF GRADES at FNG(LEGAL), Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences, and Complaints and Concerns for an overview of the process.]

The district’s policy regarding student records found at policy FL is available from the principal’s or superintendent’s office or on the district’s website at http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/498?filter=FL.

The parent’s or eligible student’s right of access to and copies of student records do not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as a teacher’s personal notes about a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher—do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

**Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications**

You may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s teachers, including whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and whether the teacher is
currently teaching in the field of discipline of his or her certification. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.

**Students with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances**

**Children of Military Families**

Children of military families will be provided flexibility regarding certain district requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from a deployment of at least four months will be excused by the district. The district will permit no more than five excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent’s return from deployment. Additional information may be found at [Military Family Resources at the Texas Education Agency](#).

**Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments**

**Multiple Birth Siblings**

As a parent, if your children are multiple birth siblings (e.g., twins, triplets, etc.) assigned to the same grade and campus, you may request that they be placed either in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. Your written request must be submitted no later than the 14th day after the enrollment of your children. [See policy FDB(LEGAL).]

**Safety Transfers/Assignments**

As a parent, you may:

- Request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the district to have been a victim of bullying, which includes cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the principal for information.

- Consult with district administrators if your child has been determined by the district to have engaged in bullying and the board decides to transfer your child to another classroom or campus. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus.

[See Bullying, policy FDB, and policy FFI.]

- Request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE.]
• Request the transfer of your child to another district campus OR a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. If the victim does not wish to transfer, the district will transfer the assailant in accordance with policy FDE.

Service/Assistance Animal Use by Students
A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student’s disability must submit a request in writing to the principal before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within ten district business days. The student is responsible for attending to the animal’s physical needs and for cleaning-up after the animal.

Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)
A student who is currently in the conservatorship (custody) of the state and who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities outside the district’s established testing windows, and the district will grant proportionate course credit by semester (partial credit) when a student only passes one semester of a two-semester course.

A student who is currently in the conservatorship of the state and who is moved outside of the district’s or school’s attendance boundaries, or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and who is moved outside the district’s or school’s boundaries, is entitled to continue in enrollment at the school he or she was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at the particular school. In addition, if a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

[See also Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration, Course Credit, and Students in Foster Care for more information.]

Students Who Are Homeless
Children who are homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:
• Proof of residency requirements;
• Immunization requirements;
• Educational program placement, if the student is unable to provide previous academic records, or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness;
• Credit-by-examination opportunities;
• The award of partial credit (awarding credit proportionately when a student passes only one semester of a two-semester course);
• Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
• Graduation requirements.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 is homeless and transfers to another school district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.
Federal law also allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in what is called the “school of origin” or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

If a student who is homeless in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, state law allows the student to request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied by the district’s eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL). The district will expedite local timelines, when possible, for prompt dispute resolution.

[See also Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration, Course Credit, and Students who are Homeless for more information.]

**Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services**

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individuals listed below to learn about the school’s overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

**Special Education Referrals**

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or to a district administrative employee of the school district, the district must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district must give the parent prior written notice of whether it agrees or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards. If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements as well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.

If the district decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student’s initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent’s written consent. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days,
the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If the district receives a parent’s consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30 due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled *Parent’s Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

**Contact Person for Special Education Referrals**

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is Laurie Goforth Rodriguez at (281) 229-6020.

**Section 504 Referrals**

Each school district must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district’s Section 504 program. Districts must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

**Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals**

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is Laurie Goforth Rodriguez at (281) 229-6020.

[See also **Students with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504**]

The following websites provide information to those who are seeking information and resources specific to students with disabilities and their families:

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](#)
- [Partners Resource Network](#)
- [Special Education Information Center](#)
- [Texas Project First](#)
Notification to Parent of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to Student in General Education

The district will annually notify parents that it provides assistance to students, other than those already enrolled in a special education program, who need assistance for learning difficulties, including intervention strategies.

Students Who Receive Special Education Services with Other School-Aged Children in the Home

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. However, the district is not required to provide transportation to the other children in the household. The parent or guardian should speak with the principal of the school regarding transportation needs prior to requesting a transfer for any other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English

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

Students with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected Under Section 504

A child determined to have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law, and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services, may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities. When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine if the child is in need of services and supports under Section 504 to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as this is defined in federal law.

[See policy FB.]

[See also Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services]
Section II: Other Important Information for Students and Parents

Topics in this section of the Student Handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Where possible, the topics are also organized to alert you to the applicability of each topic based on a student’s age or grade level. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Dr. Billye Smith at (281) 229-6400.

Absences/Attendance

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

Compulsory Attendance

Age 19 and Older

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day until the end of the school year. If a student age 19 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student’s enrollment. The student’s presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. [See policy FEA.]

Between Ages 6 and 19

State law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 19 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:
• Religious holy days;
• Required court appearances;
• Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship;
• Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, if the student comes to school or returns to school on the same day as the appointment. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student’s arrival or return to campus; and
• For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state,
  o An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
  o Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student’s participation in the activity outside of school hours.

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

**Secondary Grade Levels**

In addition, a junior or senior student’s absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university will be considered an exemption, provided this has been authorized by the board under policy FEA(LOCAL), the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

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

• A student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the district’s board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences; and
• A student serving as an election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

An absence will also be considered an exemption if a student 17 years of age or older is pursuing enlistment in a branch of the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the absence does not exceed four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school, and the student provides verification to the district of these activities.

An absence of a student in grades 6–12 for the purpose of sounding “Taps” at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran will also be excused by the district.

**Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance**

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

**Students with Disabilities**

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student’s ARD committee or Section 504 committee will be notified, and the committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant
an evaluation, a re-evaluation, and/or modifications to the student’s individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

**Age 19 and Older**

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district will send the student a letter as required by law explaining that the district may revoke the student’s enrollment for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking a student’s enrollment, the district may implement a behavior improvement plan.

**Between Ages 6 and 19**

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

The district has two truancy prevention facilitators. If you have questions about your student and the effect of his or her absences from school, you may contact Jessica Jenkins at (281) 229-6040 or John Hall at (281) 229-6041.

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

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

[See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

**Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (Kindergarten–Grade 12)**

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student in kindergarten–grade 12 must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit or a final grade for the class if he or she completes a plan approved by the principal that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the approval of the judge presiding over the case will also be required before the student receives credit or a final grade for the class.

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed the plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the attendance review committee to
determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences. [See policy FEC (LOCAL)]

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered extenuating circumstances for purposes of attendance for credit or the award of a final grade.

- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.

- In reaching a decision about a student’s absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.

- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student’s absences.

- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student’s parent could exercise any control.

- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.

- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit or a final grade.

- Dickinson High School will no longer provide opportunities on Saturday or after school for students to make-up time for attendance and/or credit purposes.

The student or parent may appeal the committee’s decision to the board by following policy FNG(LOCAL).

The actual number of days a student must be in attendance in order to receive credit or a final grade will depend on whether the class is for a full semester or for a full year.

**Official Attendance-Taking Time**

The district must submit attendance of its students to the TEA reflecting attendance at a specific time each day.

Official attendance is taken every day at 9:30 am which is during the third instructional hour as approved by the superintendent.

A student absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.
**Documentation after an Absence**

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent’s permission, will not be accepted unless the student is an emancipated minor under state law or is an unaccompanied youth under the McKinney-Vento Act. The district requires a written note within five (5) school days of the student’s return.

The campus will document in its attendance records for the student whether the absence is considered by the district to be excused or unexcused. **Note:** Unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence. Excuse notes from parents/guardians must include the following:

- Written on a full sheet of paper
- Full legal name and school Id# of the student
- The reason for the absence of each date listed
- A contact phone number for the parent/guardian
- The date the excuse is written
- The signature of the parent/guardian listed on the enrollment form as the person who enrolled the student.

**Example provided below:**

```
September 3, 2015
Please excuse John Doe (Id#15432) for his absences on September 1-2, 2015. He was ill with fever and flu like symptoms.
Kathy Doe 281-433-1649
```

- A student is not allowed to sign a parent’s name even with the parent’s permission. Such a signature may be considered forgery and will result in disciplinary action.
- Absences not documented with written excuses will be considered unexcused.

**Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness**

Within five (5) days of returning to school, a student absent for more than 5 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s extended absence from school. Otherwise, the student’s absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s absence from school in order to determine whether the absence or absences will be excused or unexcused.

[See policy FEC(LOCAL).]
Driver License Attendance Verification

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to obtain a driver license, written parental permission must be provided for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to access the student’s attendance records and, in certain circumstances, for a school administrator to provide the student’s attendance information to DPS. A verification of enrollment (VOE) and attendance form may be obtained from the office, which the student will need to submit to DPS upon application for a driver license. A request for a VOE will be fulfilled within 72 hours of the initial written request. A request for a VOE will be denied if the students fails to meet the DISD attendance requirement of 90% for the current semester or was denied credit for any course the previous semester due to attendance.

Academic Dishonesty-Cheating

Academic dishonesty or academic misconduct is any type of cheating that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise. Academic dishonesty/misconduct may include any of the following: Plagiarism and/or sharing materials/content/answers through any means. (See Student Code of Conduct)

Accountability under State and Federal Law

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

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

This information can be found on the district’s website at www.dickinsonisd.org. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district’s administration office.

TEA also maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at TEA Performance Reporting Division and the TEA homepage.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test

A student in grades 10–12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.
Please contact the principal for information about this opportunity.

**Awards and Honors**

Awards and honor ceremonies are held throughout the school year. See the Dickinson High School Academic Handbook for more information.

**Booster Clubs**

Neighborhood patrons form booster clubs to help enrich the school’s participation in extracurricular activities. The fundraising role of booster clubs is particularly crucial in today’s economic climate. Positive and direct communication can prevent most problems. Keep the superintendent (or designee) informed of all activities.

- Follow a chain of command for communication with the administration.

- Clear all activities through the campus advisor/director/coach and the campus administration.

- The superintendent (or designee) who does not coach or direct a UIL contest but has approval authority over booster clubs should be invited to all meetings. All meetings should be open to the public.

- Booster clubs should apprise school administrators of all club activities. Make sure your local administration has a copy of all booster club publications. Invite administrators to all booster club meetings. Have an officer meet with the school administration regularly.

- Booster clubs do not have authority to direct the duties of a school district employee. The scheduling of contests, rules for participation, methods of earning letters and all other criteria dealing with interschool programs are under the jurisdiction of the local school administration.

- Minutes should be taken at each meeting and submitted to campus administration within five (5) school days.

- Monthly financial statements itemizing all receipts and expenditures should be made to the general club membership and submitted to the campus administration.

**Bullying**

Bullying is defined in state law as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student damaging a student’s property,

- placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or of damage to the student’s property;

- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action of threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
• Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
• Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined by state law as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

The district is required to adopt policies and procedures regarding:

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;

2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and

3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying. A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by contacting the school counselor.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student’s parent, the student may also be transferred to another campus in the district. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying
may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See Safety Transfers/Assignments.]

A copy of the district’s policy is available in the principal’s office, superintendent’s office, and on the district’s website, and is included at the end of this handbook in the form of an appendix. Procedures related to reporting allegations of bullying may also be found on the district’s website.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL).

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments, Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation, Hazing, policy FFI, the district’s Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

The district offers career and technical education programs in several areas. See the 2019-2020 Academic Handbook for a listing of programs available to students. Admission to these programs is based on interest, age appropriateness, successful completion of prerequisite courses, and available class space.

It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

[See Nondiscrimination Statement for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and Section 504 coordinator, who will address certain allegations of discrimination.]

**Child Sexual Abuse, Sex Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)**

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at www.dickinsonisd.org.

**Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse (All Grade Levels)**

As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child’s mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such materials to a child.

Possible physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs of sexual abuse include:
• Difficulty sitting or walking;
• Pain in the genital areas;
• Claims of stomachaches and headaches;
• Verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children;
• Fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender;
• Sexually suggestive behavior;
• Withdrawal;
• Depression;
• Sleeping and eating disorders; and
• Problems in school.

Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade levels).]

**Warning Signs of Sex Trafficking (All Grade Levels)**

Sex trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches, although traffickers frequently make contact with victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

• Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude;
• Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology);
• Tattoos or branding;
• Refillable gift cards;
• Frequent runaway episodes;
• Multiple phones or social media accounts;
• Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone;
• Unexplained injuries;
• Isolation from family, friend, and community, and
• Older boyfriends or girlfriends.

**Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Sex trafficking, and other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)**

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused, sex trafficked, or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

A child who has experienced sexual abuse, trafficking, or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware, as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse and sex trafficking may be more indirect than disclosure of physical abuse and neglect, and
it is important to be calm and comforting if your child, or another child, confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling you.

Parents, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. [To find out what services may be available in your county, see Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in your County.]

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to:

The CPS division of the DFPS (1-800-252-5400 or on the web at Texas Abuse Hotline Website).

**Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Sex Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)**

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet
- KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Resources
- Office of the Texas governor’s Child Sex trafficking Team
- Human Trafficking of School-aged Children

**Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student**

**Information regarding calculation of GPA and class rank is available in the Academic Handbook.**

For further information, see policy EIC.

**Class Schedules**

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a class/course schedule to fulfill each period of the day. Students are not allowed to “drop” classes after course selections have been made and classes have been scheduled.

[See Schedule Changes for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

**College and University Admissions and Financial Aid**

For two school years following his or her graduation, a district student who graduates as valedictorian, in the top ten percent and, in some cases, the top 25 percent, of his or her class is eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas if the student:

- Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program (a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as one of the four required math courses); or
• Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

In addition, the student must submit a completed application for admission in accordance with the deadline established by the college or university. The student is ultimately responsible for ensuring that he or she meets the admission requirements of the university or college to which the student submits an application.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the university’s enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. For students who are eligible to enroll in the University during the summer or fall 2020 term or spring of 2021 term, the university will admit the valedictorian or the top six percent of the high school’s graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

Should a college or university adopt an admissions policy that automatically accepts the top 25 percent of a graduating class, the provisions above will also apply to a student ranked in the top 25 percent of his or her class.

Upon enrolling in their first course that is eligible for high school credit, the district will provide written notice concerning automatic college admission, the curriculum requirements for financial aid, and the benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid. Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgement that they received this information.

Students and parents should contact the school counselor for further information about automatic admissions, the application process, and deadlines.

[See Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student’s rank in class, and requirements for Graduation for information associated with the foundation graduation program].

[See Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care) for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

**College Credit Courses**

Students in grades 9–12 have opportunities to earn college credit through the following methods:

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college preparatory;
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN);
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with College of the Mainland, which may be offered on or off campus;
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities; and
- Certain CTE courses.

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the school counselor for more information. Depending on the student’s grade level and the course, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment may be required for graduation.
It is important to keep in mind that not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student’s desired degree plan.

**Communications—Automated**

**Emergency**
The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency purpose may include early dismissal or delayed opening because of severe weather or another emergency, or if the campus must restrict access due to a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child’s school when a phone number previously provided to the district has changed.

[See Safety for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

**Nonemergency**
Your child’s school will request that you provide contact information, such as your phone number and e-mail address, in order for the school to communicate items specific to your child, your child’s school, or the district. If you consent to receive such information through a landline or wireless phone, please ensure that you notify the school’s administration office immediately upon a change in your phone number. The district or school may generate automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or e-mail communications that are closely related the school’s mission, so prompt notification of any change in contact information will be crucial to maintain timely communication with you. Standard messaging rates of your phone carrier may apply. If you have specific requests or needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child’s principal. [See Safety for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

**Complaints and Concerns**
Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be resolved at the campus level, the board has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the district’s policy manual available on the district’s website at [http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/498?filter=FNG](http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/498?filter=FNG). A copy of the complaint forms may be obtained in the principal’s or superintendent’s office.

Should a parent or student feel a need to file a formal complaint, the parent or student should file a district complaint form within the timelines established in policy FNG(LOCAL). In general, the student or parent should submit the written complaint form to the campus principal. If the concern is not resolved, a request for a conference should be sent to the superintendent. If still unresolved, the district provides for the complaint to be presented to the board of trustees.
Conduct

Applicability of School Rules
As required by law, the board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus as well as on district vehicles—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules. During any periods of instruction during the summer months, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

Campus Behavior Coordinator
By law, each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The campus behavior coordinators are Matthew Cooper, Kimberly Fouts, Cara Reyes, Alex Rodriguez, Philip Salazar, and Paul Trahan. They can be reached at (281) 229-6400.

Deliveries
Except in emergencies, delivery of messages or packages to students will not be allowed during instructional time. A parent may leave a message or a package, such as a forgotten lunch, for the student to pick up from the front office during a passing period or lunch.

Disruptions of School Operations
Disruptions of school operations are not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building.
- Failure to clear an area when directed to do so by school officials.
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator.
- Disruption of classes or other school activities while on district property or on public property that is within 500 feet of district property. Class disruption includes making loud noises; trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity; and entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct.
- Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district.
Social Events

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of his or her guest.

A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event; anyone leaving before the official end of the event will not be readmitted.

Please contact the campus principal if you are interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events.

Counseling

Academic Counseling

High School Grade Levels

High school students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn more about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures. Each year, high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and CTE opportunities, as well as information on the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission, financial aid, housing, and scholarships as these relate to state colleges and universities. The school counselor can also provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional or mental health issues, or substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should contact the counselor’s office. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child’s mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

[See Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention, Suicide Awareness and Mental Health Support, Child Sexual Abuse, Sex Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children, and Dating Violence.]

Course Credit

A student in grades 9–12, or in a lower grade when a student is enrolled in a high school credit-bearing course, will earn credit for a course only if the final grade is 70 or above and the student meets the 90% attendance requirement. For a two-semester (1 credit) course, the student’s grades from both semesters will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. (See Academic
Handbook for exceptions) Should the student’s combined average be less than 70, the student will be required to retake the semester in which he or she failed.

**Credit by Examination—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6-12)**

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit or a final grade for it—may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an exam approved by the district’s board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to take an examination to earn credit for a course or to be awarded a final grade in a subject after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as “credit recovery.”

If the student is granted approval to take an examination for this purpose, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an exam.

[For further information, see the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL).]

**Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject**

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction, i.e., for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level. The exams offered by the district are approved by the district’s board of trustees. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the 2019–20 school year will be published in appropriate district publications and on the district’s website. The only exceptions to the published dates will be for any exams administered by another entity besides the district or if a request is made outside of these time frames by a student who is homeless or by a student involved in the foster care system. When another entity administers an exam, a student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity. During each testing window provided by the district, a student may attempt a specific exam only once.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [For further information, see policy EHDC.]

**Students in Grades 6–12**

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, a scaled score of 50 or higher on an exam administered through the CLEP, or a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam, as applicable. A student may take an exam to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school’s high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.
Crime Stoppers
Crime Stoppers is a peer driven program to reduce weapons and drug violations on campus and increase safety awareness. Students are oriented each year as to how to report emergency situations and staff are trained in dealing with student information and confidentiality. This program encourages students to confide potentially dangerous situations to the proper authority. The number to call for Crime Stoppers is: 281-229-STOP

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)
The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that their welfare is best served when they are free from this prohibited conduct while attending school. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. District employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person’s race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district’s policy is available in the principal’s office and in the superintendent’s office or on the district’s website at http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/498?filter=FFH. [See policy FFH.]

Dating Violence
Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student’s academic performance.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; threats to hurt the student, the student’s family members, or members of the student’s household; destroying property belonging to the student; threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship; threats to harm a student’s current dating partner; attempts to isolate the student from friends and family; stalking; or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

Discrimination
Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law that negatively affects the student.
**Harassment**

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student’s academic performance.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person’s religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

In addition to dating violence as described above, two other types of prohibited harassment are described below.

**Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment**

Sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student are prohibited.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; sexual advances; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child’s hand. However, romantic and other inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student’s gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student’s gender, or the student’s failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender.

Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student’s or the harasser’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

**Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.
Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

**Reporting Procedures**

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced dating violence, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other district employee. The report may be made by the student’s parent. [See policy FFH(LOCAL) and (EXHIBIT) for other appropriate district officials to whom to make a report.]

Upon receiving a report of prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by that policy. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine if the allegations, if proven, would constitute bullying, as defined by law and that policy. If the alleged prohibited conduct, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct and would also be considered bullying as defined by law and policy FFI, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted.

The district will promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the district. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy FFH.

**Investigation of Report**

To the extent possible, the district will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with law. Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the district that it is investigating the matter and requests that the district delay its investigation, the district will resume the investigation at the conclusion of the agency’s investigation.

During the course of an investigation and when appropriate, the district will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct.

If the district’s investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary action, and, in some cases, corrective action, will be taken to address the conduct. The district may take disciplinary and corrective action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint was not unlawful.

All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the district investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).
Discrimination
[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.]

Distance Learning

All Grade Levels
Distance learning and correspondence courses include courses that encompass the state-required essential knowledge and skills but are taught through multiple technologies and alternative methodologies such as mail, satellite, Internet, video-conferencing, and instructional television.

If a student wishes to enroll in a correspondence course or a distance learning course that is not provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN), as described below, in order to earn credit in a course or subject, the student must receive permission from the principal prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, the district may not recognize and apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)
The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) has been established by the state as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TXVSN to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the TXVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations.] In addition, for a student who enrolls in a TXVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required, the student must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

If you have questions or wish to make a request that your child be enrolled in a TXVSN course, please contact the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the campus principal, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TXVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

A copy of policy EHDE will be distributed to parents of middle and high school students at least once each year. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact the campus principal.

Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents

School Materials
Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, flyers, etc.

The school newspaper and the yearbook are available to students.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.
Nonschool Materials

From Students
Students must obtain prior approval from the campus principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. The decision regarding approval will be made within two school days.

The principal has designated the front office as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy FNAA.]

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes non-school material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without approval will be removed.

From Others
Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any district premises by any district employee or by persons or groups not associated with the district, except as permitted by policy GKDA. To be considered for distribution, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the campus principal for prior review. The campus principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies at DGBA or GF.]

The campus principal has designated the front office as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL) or a noncurriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with FNAB(LOCAL).
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

All non-school materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from district property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

Dress and Grooming
The district’s dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student’s personal dress and grooming standards,
provided that they comply with the Dickinson ISD Board approved Standard of Dress. If the principal (or designee) determines that a student’s grooming or clothing violates the school’s dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school.

If not corrected, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. See 2019-2020 Dickinson ISD dress expectations.

**Electronic Devices and Technology Resources**

**Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones**

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student/parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal’s office.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student’s parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student’s personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on and policy FNF.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

Reports of lost or stolen property may be reported to the School Liaison Officer (SLO).

**Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices**

**Dickinson High School Technology Integration - Cell Phone/Electronic Devices**

- Students may use their cell phones/electronic devices for **texting during their designated lunch period.**
- Students may use their cell phones/electronic devices for **texting during passing periods in the hallways. For safety reasons, headphones (ex. Beatz) are not allowed.** Students are permitted to use ONE earbud during passing periods, before or after school, and during the lunch period.

Students must be able to hear instructions and/or directives at all times. Violation of this policy may result in the confiscation of both the listening device and the phone. Confiscated items will only be returned to parents. Students may **not** use their cell phones/electronic devices in the classroom for any reason including checking the time of day unless otherwise directed by the
teacher for instructional purposes. Any space used for the delivery of instruction is considered a classroom i.e. gym, library, LGI room, field house, athletic fields, weight room, computer labs.

- Earbuds/headphones may be utilized in classrooms when directed by the teacher to access the curriculum.
- **Voice conversation will not be allowed at any time from** 7:15AM to 2:35 PM in any location on the Dickinson High School property during the school day. If an emergency situation occurs, students must have permission from an administrator to use voice conversation, and the conversation must occur in the privacy of an office area.
- Cell phones/electronic devices may not be used in the halls/restrooms/common areas during a student's class time. A student found using his/her cell phone/electronic device when he/she is assigned to a classroom but is in the hallway or in a restroom (with or without permission) will be considered in violation of this policy and the phone/electronic device will be confiscated.
- Students may not use their cell phones/electronic devices to take pictures or streaming video of other students, teachers, or classrooms without the expressed written permission of the person(s) being photographed. This is a violation of a person's privacy and will not be tolerated at school. Any violation of this policy will result in a disciplinary action and may result in further legal action.
- All administrators, teachers and/or staff members are authorized to confiscate cell phones and/or electronic devices during class time, during a testing situation, and/or any time the student is in violation of the Electronic Device policy.
- Dickinson ISD and its employees will make every effort to ensure the security of electronic devices that are confiscated in accordance with District, campus and/or classroom rules/policy. The district accepts no liability for a device that is lost, stolen, or damaged after the item is confiscated in accordance with the campus rules and/or District policy.
- DISD is not responsible for cell phone plan data use and access on campus. However, all district acceptable use guidelines still apply.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored events.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student’s parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

Under circumstances deemed appropriate by campus administrators and in accordance with law, a student’s personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and policy FNF.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

**Dickinson ISD and its employees will make every effort to ensure the security of electronic devices that are confiscated in accordance with campus rules and/or District policy. However, the district accepts no liability for a device that is lost, stolen, or damaged after the item is confiscated in accordance with the campus rules and/or District policy.**
**Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices**

In some cases, students may be allowed to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook). When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

**Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

District-owned technology resources for instructional purposes may be issued to individual students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district’s network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

**Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as “sexting,” will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child ‘Before You Text’ Sexting Prevention Course, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district’s computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

**End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

[See Graduation and Standardized Testing.]

**English Learners**

A student who is an English-learner is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. To determine whether the student qualifies for services, a Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will be formed, which will consist of both district personnel and at least one parent representative. The student’s parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC for an
English learner. However, pending the receipt of parental consent or denial of services, an eligible student will receive the services to which the student is entitled and eligible.

In order to determine a student’s level of proficiency in English, the LPAC will use information from a variety of assessments. If the student qualifies for services, and once a level of proficiency has been established, the LPAC will then designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs that the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student’s continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at Standardized Testing, may be administered to an English learner for a student up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student’s LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to English-learners who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an English learner and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student’s ARD committee will make instructional and assessment decisions in conjunction with the LPAC.

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Participation in some of these activities may result in events that occur off-campus. When the district arranges transportation for these events, students are required to use the transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions to this may only be made with the approval of the activity’s coach or sponsor. [See Transportation.]

Eligibility for initial and continuing participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students involved in UIL athletic activities and their parents can access the UIL Parent Information Manual; a hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request. To report a complaint of alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of TEA at (512) 463-9581 or curriculum@tea.texas.gov.

[See UIL Texas for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. The equipment used in football is no exception. As a parent, you are entitled to review the district’s records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.
Generally, a student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

However, if a student receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course, or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or language other than English, the student remains eligible for participation in all extracurricular activities.

In addition, the following provisions apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board. A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of 17 extracurricular absences. An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- Students must be present for the majority of the school day (four of the seven classes) in order to participate in any after school performances, games and/or activities.

**Standards of Behavior**

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization’s standards of behavior.

**Travel**

Students who have the opportunity to travel in connection with the DHS extracurricular activity/organization are representatives of the District and must exhibit exemplary behavior at all times.

Students who dress or act inappropriately while traveling to or from or during a DHS activity may be suspended or removed from the activity or organization, depending upon the nature of the misconduct.

Students involved in travel shall:

Dress neatly and in compliance with the grooming requirements of the organization as instructed by the Teacher/Coach/Sponsor/Director and/or the district dress code.

Be on their best behavior in restaurants and hotels; care for any equipment assigned to the student and return it to the proper storage location upon return to the school;
Be on their best behavior while on the bus or other vehicle; and promptly obey all instructions given by the Teacher/Coach/Sponsor/Director or any adult chaperone.

If a student traveling with a DISD or DHS student group chooses to participate in an activity that warrants a disciplinary action by the sponsor or coach, the student will be immediately sent home at the parent’s or guardian’s expense. The student’s parents and the DHS administrators will be notified immediately should this action be taken.

Attendance and discipline records will be reviewed by the director/coach/sponsor to determine eligibility to participate in all travel opportunities.

**Disciplinary Infractions and Loss of Extracurricular Privileges**

A student’s participation in a particular extracurricular activity is conditioned upon the student’s compliance with the requirements and standards of behavior set forth in the individual activity guidelines, the DISD Student Code of Conduct, the DHS Student Handbook and these Extracurricular Standards. Students who commit infractions that result in ISS, Suspension, DALC, and JJAEP placements are subjected to additional consequences and/or removal from a program. The following consequences will be a minimum for all extracurricular activities:

**Behaviors resulting in In-School Suspension (ISS)**

Additional consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor and parent contact.

**Behaviors resulting in Out-of-School Suspension**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense Out of School Suspension-

Additional consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor and parent contact

2<sup>nd</sup> and further Offense Out of School Suspension-

In season - 1 event suspension in addition to suspension time.

Out of season - Additional consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor and parent contact.

**Behaviors resulting in AEP (Alternative Education Placement) Assignment**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense-

Additional consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor and parent contact. Students assigned to an AEP placement will be required to appeal to a campus advisory committee consisting of a grade level administrator, a counselor, and a panel of coaches/directors before being reinstated into an extra-curricular program.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-

9-12 may result in the loss of the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities. A campus level committee will be convened to review the situation and make a recommendation regarding extra-curricular participation.

**Off-Campus Violations**

The following list of actions will receive additional consequences as determined by the coach/sponsor and parent contact.
(a) Using, possessing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage;
(b) Using, possessing, or being under the influence of a controlled substance, illegal or dangerous drug, steroids, aerosol paint, or any other mood altering drug;
(c) Theft or stealing;
(d) Lewd, disruptive, or other offensive conduct that offends or affronts school district standards of propriety;
(e) Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of any criminal offense identified in state or federal law, with the exception of minor traffic offenses;
(f) Any arrest by a law enforcement official.

**Offices and Elections**

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. Each club and/or organization will elect officers based on the guidelines contained in the organization’s constitution and/or chapter by-laws.

**Fees**

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles**.]
- A fee not to exceed $50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN). Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the campus principal. [For further information, see policy FP.]

**Fundraising**

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. [For further information, see policies FJ and GE.]

**Gang-Free Zones**

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

**Gender-Based Harassment**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.]

**Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9–12 Only)**

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits Earned</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Grade 10 (Sophomore)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Grade 11 (Junior)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Grade 12 (Senior)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Guidelines**

Grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated and distributed to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines have been reviewed by each applicable curriculum department and have been approved by the campus principal. These guidelines establish the minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period. In addition, these guidelines establish how the student’s mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (i.e., letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, etc.). Grading guidelines also outline in what circumstances a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination for which the student originally made a failing grade. Procedures for a student to follow after an absence will also be addressed.

[See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences for additional information on grading guidelines.]
Graduation

Requirements for a Diploma
A student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

- Complete the required number of credits established by the state and any additional credits required by the district;
- Complete any locally required courses in addition to the courses mandated by the state;
- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law; and
- Demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the specific communication skills required by the State Board of Education (SBOE).

Testing Requirements for Graduation
Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments. State law and state rules also provide for certain scores on norm-referenced national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities to substitute for the requirement to meet satisfactory performance on an applicable EOC assessment, should a student choose this option. [See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.]

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation to the student in the content area for which the performance standard was not met. This may require participation of the student before or after normal school hours or at times of the year outside normal school operations.

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on two or fewer of the required assessments may still be eligible to graduate if an individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, unanimously determines that the student is eligible to graduate.

[See Standardized Testing for more information.]

Foundation Graduation Program
Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the “foundation graduation program.” Within the foundation graduation program are “endorsements,” which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student’s transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term “distinguished level of achievement,” which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. A personal graduation plan will be completed for each high school student.
State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and student’s parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

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

A student is not required to complete Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program and the district will annually notify a student’s parent of this fact. However, the student and parent should be aware that not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

**Credits Required**

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Area</th>
<th>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program</th>
<th>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English/Language arts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social studies, including economics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Area</td>
<td>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program</td>
<td>Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>22 credits</td>
<td>26 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

- **Mathematics.** In order to obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, which will be included on a student’s transcript and is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission purposes to a four-year Texas college or university, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the 4 mathematics credits.

- **Physical education.** A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student’s ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

- **Language other than English.** Students are required to earn 2 credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. A student may satisfy one of the two required credits by successfully completing in elementary school a dual language immersion program or a course in American Sign Language. In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

### Available Endorsements

A student must specify upon entering grade 9 which endorsement he or she wishes to pursue:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics;
- Business and Industry;
- Public Services;
- Arts and Humanities; or
- Multidisciplinary Studies.

### Personal Graduation Plans

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four-year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness and career placement and advancement,
as well as facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The student’s personal graduation plan will denote an appropriate course sequence based on the student’s choice of endorsement.

Please also review TEA’s Graduation Toolkit.

A student may, with parental permission, amend his or her personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation. Any change in the plan must be approved by the campus principal or his/her designee.

**Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs**

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area will be distributed to students each spring in order to enroll in courses for the upcoming school year. Note: The district may require the completion of certain courses for graduation even if these courses are not required by the state for graduation.

Please be aware that not all courses are offered at every secondary campus in the district. A student who wants to take a course not offered at his or her regular campus should contact the school counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents of at least 22 students request a transfer for those students to take a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or CTE, the district will offer the course for the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

**Certificates of Coursework Completion**

A certificate of coursework completion will be issued to a student who has successfully completed state and local credit requirements for graduation but has not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on the state-mandated tests required for graduation.

**Students with Disabilities**

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, a student with a disability who receives special education services may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her IEP and in accordance with state rules.

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school, but has not met the requirements of his or her IEP, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL).]

ARD committees for students with disabilities who receive special education services will make instructional and assessment decisions for these students in accordance with state law and rules. A student who receives special education services may earn an endorsement under the foundation program. If the student’s curriculum requirements for the endorsement were modified, the student’s ARD committee will determine whether the modified curriculum is sufficiently rigorous for purposes of earning the endorsement. The ARD committee must also determine whether the student must perform satisfactorily on any end-of-course assessment instrument required to earn an endorsement.
Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will include:

- Mandatory Graduation Practices (scheduled by the campus)
- Senior Walk of Honor
- Senior Breakfast

Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on end-of-course assessments and have not been declared eligible to graduate by an individual graduation committee, if applicable, will be allowed to participate in graduation activities. However, please keep in mind that participating in the activities and ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating. Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student’s completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.

The following students and student groups shall be recognized at graduation ceremonies:

- Valedictorian and Salutatorian
- Honor Societies
- Military

Graduation Speakers

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to have speaking roles at graduation ceremonies.

A student must meet local eligibility criteria, which may include requirements related to student conduct, to have a speaking role. Students eligible for speaking roles will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer.

[See FNA(LOCAL) and the Student Code of Conduct. For student speakers at other school events, see Student Speakers.]

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See Fees.]

Scholarships and Grants

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the foundation graduation program, may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program and the Teach for Texas Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions.

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.
**Harassment**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.]

**Hazing**

Hazing is defined by Section 37.151 of the Education Code as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

- Any type of physical brutality;
- An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student’s mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small places, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; and
- Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

Hazing will not be tolerated by the district. If an incident of hazing occurs, disciplinary consequences will be handled in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal or superintendent.

[See Bullying and policies FFI and FNCC.]

**Health-Related Matters**

**Student Illness**

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she won’t be attending that day. It is important to remember that schools are required to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for periods of time as identified in state rules. For example, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. In addition, students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea free without diarrhea-suppressing medications for at least 24 hours. A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she must gain permission and a hall pass from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. If the nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent. Students will not be released for purposes of illness unless the parent has been contacted directly by the nurse.
The district is also required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from DSHS on these notifiable conditions.

Contact the school nurse if you have questions or if you are concerned about whether or not your child should stay home.

**Bacterial Meningitis**

State law requires the district to provide information about bacterial meningitis:

**What is meningitis?**

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is common and most people recover fully. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and may involve complicated medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and life support management.

**What are the symptoms?**

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 2 years old) and adults with bacterial meningitis commonly have a severe headache, high fever, and neck stiffness. Other symptoms might include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion, and sleepiness. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

**How serious is bacterial meningitis?**

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

**How is bacterial meningitis spread?**

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. They are spread when people exchange respiratory or throat secretions (such as by kissing, coughing, or sneezing).

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body’s immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

**How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?**

Maintaining healthy habits, like getting plenty of rest, can help prevent infection. Using good health practices such as covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing and washing your hands frequently with soap and water can also help stop the spread of the bacteria. It’s a good idea not to share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.
There are vaccines available to offer protection from some of the bacteria that can cause bacterial meningitis. The vaccines are safe and effective (85–90 percent). They can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

**What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?**
You should seek prompt medical attention.

**Where can you get more information?**
Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Department of State Health Services office to ask about a meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the websites for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov), particularly the CDC’s information on bacterial meningitis, and the [Department of State Health Services](https://www.dshs.texas.gov).

**Note:** DSHS requires at least one meningococcal vaccination on or after the student’s 11th birthday, unless the student received the vaccine at age 10. Also note that entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

[See Immunization for more information.]

**Food Allergies**
The district requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially those allergies that could result in dangerous or possibly life-threatening reactions either by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact with the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services’ (DSHS) “Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis.” The district’s management plan addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district’s food allergy management plan can be accessed at [www.dickinsonisd.org](http://www.dickinsonisd.org).

The complete text of the “Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis” can be found on the DSHS website at Allergies and Anaphylaxis.

[See policy FFAF and Celebrations.]
**Head Lice**

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread very easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, or nap time and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones. If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student’s parent to determine whether the child will need to be picked up from school and to discuss a plan for treatment with an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student has undergone one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent their return.

Notice will also be provided to parents of elementary school students in the affected classroom.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/). [See policy FFAA.]

**School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)**

During the preceding school year, the district’s School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held four meetings. Additional information regarding the district’s SHAC is available from the SHAC Coordinator, Laurie Goforth Rodriguez at (281) 229-6020.

The duties of the SHAC include:

- Making recommendations regarding physical and mental health curriculum.
- Developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing issues such as school health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, improving student fitness, mental health concerns, substance abuse prevention, and employee wellness.
- Making recommendations for increasing parents’ awareness of warning signs of suicide and mental health risks and community mental health and suicide prevention services.

[See policies at BDF and EHAA. See Human Sexuality Instruction for additional information.]

**Seizures (All Grade Levels)**

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district before the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following a diagnosis of a seizure disorder for the student. For more information, contact the school nurse.

For more information, see “A student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504.

**Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan**

Dickinson ISD is committed to encouraging healthy students and therefore has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement the
policy. You are encouraged to contact the campus principal with questions about the content or implementation of the district’s wellness policy and plan.

**Other Health-Related Matters (All Grade Levels)**

**Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3–12)**
Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12 who are enrolled in a physical education course or a course for which physical education credit is awarded. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to campus principal to obtain the results of his or her child’s physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

**Vending Machines**
The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies and guidelines for food service, including the guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines, see the campus principal. [See policies at CO and FFA.]

**Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Prohibited**
Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or any other electronic vaporizing device, while on school property at any time or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. Students found to be in possession of any of the aforementioned items shall be disciplined according to the District Code of Conduct.

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or any other electronic vaporizing device, by students and all others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies at FNCD and GKA.]

**Asbestos Management Plan**
The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district’s Asbestos Management Plan is available in the superintendent’s office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district’s plan in more detail, please contact Jimmy Anderson, the district’s designated asbestos coordinator, at (281) 229-7250.

**Pest Management Plan**
The district is required to follow integrated pest management (IPM) procedures to control pests on school grounds. Although the district strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, periodic indoor and outdoor pesticide use is sometimes necessary to maintain adequate pest control and ensure a safe, pest-free school environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area. Parents who have further questions or who want to be notified of the times and types of applications prior to pesticide application inside their child’s school assignment area may contact Gary Botello, the district’s IPM coordinator, at (281) 229-7250.
**Homework**

Students are expected to report to class with all needed supplies and prepared to fully participate in classroom activities. This means having read the assigned material and/or completed work assigned as homework. Homework grades are important to the student’s overall average and are computed as practice and/or daily grades.

**Illness**

[See Student Illness under Health-Related Matters.]

**Immunization**

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunization. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; rubeola (measles), mumps, and rubella; polio; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; varicella (chicken pox); and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by TDSHS. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor’s opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student’s family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a lifelong condition.

As noted at Bacterial Meningitis, entering college students must also, with limited exception, furnish evidence of having received a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five years prior to enrolling in and attending classes at an institution of higher education. A student wanting to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus may be subject to this requirement.

[For further information, see policy FFAB(LEGAL) and the DSHS website at Texas School & Child-Care Facility Immunization Requirements.]
Law Enforcement Agencies

**Questioning of Students**

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation. In other circumstances:

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.

**Students Taken Into Custody**

State law requires the district to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student’s identity, where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student’s physical health or safety.
- To comply with a properly issued directive from a juvenile court to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer’s identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official’s authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to
notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a student’s release to a law enforcement officer, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

**Notification of Law Violations**

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested, or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.

- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who is thought to have committed certain offenses or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

- All appropriate district personnel in regards to a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[For further information, see policy FL(LEGAL).]

**Leaving Campus**

Be advised that student attendance is crucial to learning. We ask that routine medical/dental/court appointments be scheduled outside of school hours as much as reasonably possible. Also note that picking up a child early on a regular basis results in missed opportunities for learning. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

During State testing, students will not be released from the testing environment until all students resume a regular schedule.

State rules require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day. The district has put the following procedures in place in order to document parental consent:

- For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once an identity is verified, a campus representative will then call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student’s return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.

- For students in high school, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once an identity is verified, a campus representative will then call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to
go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student’s return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.

- If a student’s parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office in advance of the absence, no later than two hours prior to the student’s need to leave campus. A phone call received from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes. Once the office has received information that the student’s parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student must sign out through the attendance office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student’s parent and document the parent’s wishes regarding release from school. Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, as permitted by the student’s parent, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a child in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied by a parent or adult authorized by the parent.

**During Lunch**
Dickinson High School is a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave campus at any time during the regular school day including lunch without administrative approval and parent permission. Students who drive a car to school and are found to be in violation of the closed campus policy will lose their driving and parking privileges. Fast-food deliveries to students are not allowed.

**At Any Other Time During the School Day**
Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the principal.

Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

**Lost and Found**
A “lost and found” collection box is located in the campus office. If your child has lost an item, please encourage him or her to check the lost and found box. The district discourages students from bringing to school personal items of high monetary value, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items at the end of each semester.
**Makeup Work**

*Makeup Work Because of Absence*

Please refer to the DISD Instructional Grading and Reporting Procedures found on the DISD website.

**DAEP Makeup Work**

**Grades 9–12**

A high school student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

**In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work**

Students assigned to ISS will be required to complete classwork assigned by the ISS monitor, the grade level assistant principal and/or the classroom teacher. The work assigned will correspond as closely as possible to the student’s current schedule. Failure to complete assigned work may result in an extended ISS assignment.

**Completion of Course Work**

While a student is in ISS or OSS, the district will provide the student with all course work for the student’s foundation curriculum classes that the student misses as a result of the suspension.

**Medicine at School**

Medication that must be administered to a student during school hours must be provided by the student’s parent. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse’s office and administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee, unless the student is authorized to possess his or her own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law.

The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student. District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, with the following exceptions:

Only authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:

- Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container.
- Nonprescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request. **Note:** Insect repellant is considered a nonprescription medication.
Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities. Students whose schedules provide for regular time spent outdoors, including for recess and physical education classes, should apply sunscreen before coming to school.

For students at the elementary level, the student’s teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to a student’s exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and requests assistance with the application of the sunscreen. Nothing prohibits a student at this level from applying his or her own sunscreen if the student is capable of doing so.

For students at the secondary level, a student may possess and apply sunscreen when necessary. If the student will need assistance with this application, please address the need for assistance with the school nurse.

Whether a student is at the elementary or secondary level, if sunscreen needs to be administered to treat any type of medical condition, this should be handled through communication with the school nurse so that the district is made aware of any safety and medical issues.

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to his or her physician or health-care provider and to the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

If the student has been prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication for use during the school day, the student and parents should discuss this with the school nurse or principal.

In accordance with a student’s individual health plan for management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity. See the school nurse or principal for information. [See policy FFAF(LEGAL).]

**Psychotropic Drugs**

A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly described as a mood- or behavior-altering substance.

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student’s academic progress or behavior with the student’s parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [For further information, see policy FFAC.]
Nondiscrimination Statement

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Dickinson ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law, in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following district representatives have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment or gender-based harassment: Robert Cobb, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, 2218 FM 517, Dickinson, TX 77539; 281-229-6024.

- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Laurie Goforth Rodriguez, Director of Special Programs, 2218 FM 517, Dickinson, TX 77539; 281-229-6020.

- All other concerns regarding discrimination: Carla Voelkel, Superintendent, 2218 FM 517, Dickinson, TX 77539; 281-229-6101.

[See policies FB, FFH, and GKD.]

Nontraditional Academic Programs

Parent and Family Engagement

Working Together

Both experience and research tell us that a child’s education succeeds best when there is good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. Your involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child’s school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.
- Monitoring your child’s academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See Academic Counseling.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at (281) 229-6400 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or
meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on.]

- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and Volunteers.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. [For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact the campus principal.]
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at School Health Advisory Council (SHAC).]
- Being aware of the school’s ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child’s emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

Physical Examinations/Health Screenings

**Athletics’ Participation**

A student who wishes to participate in, or continue participation in, the district’s athletics program governed by the UIL must submit certification from a health-care provider authorized under UIL rules that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the athletic program.

This examination is required to be submitted annually to the district.

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athlete is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to his or her required physical examination.

For more information, see the UIL’s explanation of sudden cardiac arrest.

**Spinal Screening Program**

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature and refer them for appropriate follow-up by their physician. Screening can detect scoliosis at an early stage, when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities.

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, see policy FFAA(LEGAL) or contact the superintendent.

Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted following the most recent, nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards for spinal screening.
Other Examinations and Screenings
Students are required to undergo a risk assessment for Type 2 diabetes at the same time the district screens students for hearing and vision issues, or for abnormal spinal curvatures.

[See policy FFAA.]

Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence
All students are expected to stand and follow classroom procedures during morning pledges, the minute of silence and announcements. Students and staff members in the hallway during the pledges are asked to stop until the pledges and the minute of silence is observed. Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags.]

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

[See policy EC for more information.]

Prayer
Each student has a right to pray individually, voluntarily, and silently to or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not encourage, require, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

Prohibited Items
The following items are prohibited.

Balloons and Flower Arrangements
- Balloons and/or flowers are not allowed in classrooms and will not be delivered to students during the school day.

Food Items Brought to School
- Students are not permitted to consume food in the classroom except during designated times such as CHOMP Time (Smart Lunch). Sack lunches will not be delivered to the classroom. Students will be notified that a sack lunch has been delivered to the front office where they may pick it up during their lunch period. Fast-food items are in direct competition with our Federally Funded Lunch program and will not be allowed in our eating areas during the regular school day. If a fast food lunch is brought to the school for a student, the student will be notified and will be required to consume the food in the conference room located in the front office. Students may
not sell food items at school unless the food item is included in a school organization fundraising activity. All fundraising food sales must be conducted after 2:50 PM.

Headcoverings

- For safety reasons, head coverings may not be worn at school. This includes hats, caps, scarves, bandanas, wave-caps, and hoods. Jackets with hoods may be worn, however students may not wear the hood on their head while on school property.

Laser Pointers

- Students are not allowed to possess a laser lighting device at school or school related activities on or off campus. Laser pointers and other related devices will be confiscated.

Musical Instruments

- Musical instruments other than those used for band will not be allowed on campus at any time. Exceptions may be made for school projects with prior approval from the teacher. Confiscated instruments will be returned to the student’s parent/guardian. A second offense will result in the prohibited item being held until the end of the semester.

Skateboards

- Skateboards present a safety hazard to students and are not allowed on campus. Skateboards brought to school will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian. Bicycles are not to ridden on school property and must be secured in the bicycle rack provided by the school.

**Promotion and Retention**

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student’s teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district.

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), if the student is enrolled in a public Texas school on any day between January 1 and the date of the first administration of the STAAR.

Certain students—some with disabilities and some classified as English language learners—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. **An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting will be convened if a student receiving special education services in grade 5 or 8 fails to meet satisfactory performance after the first STAAR administrations in reading or math.** For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

[See **Standardized Testing.**]

**High School Grade Levels**

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards and meet the 90% attendance requirements

A student in grades 9–12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See **Grade Level Classification.**]
Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See Graduation and Standardized Testing for more information about EOC assessments.]

**Release of Students from School**

[See Leaving Campus.]

**Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences**

Report cards with each student’s grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every 9 weeks. Progress reports are distributed to students every three weeks. Grades and attendance are available for parent/student access in SKYWARD.

[See Working Together for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student’s relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district’s grading policy. [See policy EIA(LOCAL) and Grading Guidelines.]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject.

**Retaliation**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.]

**Safety**

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and on district vehicles is a high priority of the district. Although the district has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensuring school safety. A student is expected to:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, campus behavior coordinator, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

Over the ear headphones are prohibited on school campus during the regular school day because they interfere with the student’s ability to remain alert and respond to school officials’ directives.
**Accident Insurance**

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child. The website with information for student insurance is [https://www.texaskidsfirst.com/Plans.aspx](https://www.texaskidsfirst.com/Plans.aspx).

**Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

If the board purchases accident, liability, or automobile insurance coverage for students or businesses involved in the district’s CTE programs, the district will notify the affected students and parents.

**Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies**

From time to time, students, teachers, and other district employees will participate in preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

**Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school may have to rely on previously provided written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

**Emergency School-Closing Information**

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that school is dismissed early or opening is delayed because of severe weather or another emergency, or if the campus must restrict access due to a security threat.

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. It is crucial to notify your child’s school when a phone number previously provided to the district has changed.

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways: district website at [www.dickinsonisd.org](http://www.dickinsonisd.org), Twitter, Facebook, or School Messenger.

[See Communications-Automated, Emergency for more information]

**SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests**

[See Standardized Testing.]

**Schedule Changes**

See Academic Handbook for Schedule Changes information.
School Facilities

Use by Students Before and After School

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

The following areas are open to students before school, beginning at 6:45 a.m.

- Vintage Gym
- Dining Hall
- Gator Mall

G/H Intersection Students will be allowed in other parts of the building provided they have the appropriate identification. Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing an activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

After dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless a student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult, or unless students are granted permission to remain on campus in accordance with policy FNAB, students must leave campus immediately.

Conduct Before and After School

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Use of Hallways During Class Time

Loitering or standing in the halls during class is not permitted. During class time, a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Cafeteria Services

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need or household situation. Information about a student’s participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student’s name and eligibility status, help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children’s health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student’s parent notifies the district that a student’s information should not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.
See http://disdfoodandnutrition.com/?page=main to apply for free or reduced price meal services.

Every parent will have the opportunity to apply for free or reduced meals. After the application is processed, notification will be sent to those who qualify. Free or reduced meals will begin after the application is processed. Students who received free or reduced meals in the previous year may eat the first 30 calendar days until the new application is processed. If a new application is not received after 30 days, students will be changed to paid status.

• Free & Reduced Meal Applications Online – will be available August 1 and the district request all to complete the very easy application using any computer, smartphone or any device with internet access. Public computers are available at all schools, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), and the Education Service Center. FNS staff will assist parents with applications at all schools and the main office at 4003 Video St. Paper applications can be requested.

• Lunch Money Now (LMN) – We encourage all parents to set up a LMN account to view your student’s meals and snacks eaten daily. It is a convenient way for parents to receive not only an email but also a text that your student’s balance is low or has reached a preset dollar amount. Parents with students on the Free and Reduced meal program can also utilize LMN. It allows parents to set up recurring payments to your student’s account and view account balances. Visa, MasterCard, and PayPal can be used to make deposits on the secure (SSL) site and are available on the student’s account within an hour of the transaction. There is a small $2.50 charge per transaction and multiple students can have money deposited in a single transaction. Parents and guardians who prefer to make their payment in person may do so daily in the cafeteria. This year there will be an option to donate to “Feed All Kids” on Lunch Money Now each time you make a deposit in your student meal account.

Meal Prices

Breakfast: FREE for all students for the 2019-20 school year

Lunch: All students will pay $1.50 (PK-4), $2.00 (5-6), $2.25 (7-8), or $2.50 (9-12)

There will be NO REDUCED prices for the 2019-20 school year.

District Meal Charge Policy:

The meal charge policy must be communicated in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school during the school year. This charge policy will be included in with the ‘letter to households’ about the free and reduced program.

Students at ALL SCHOOLS will be offered a Free Breakfast daily. All Students are Encouraged to eat Breakfast at School to enhance learning.

When account balance is negative an automated call and an email will occur 3X week and will continue until the account is brought to a positive balance and/or applied for Free/Reduced lunch. Parents will receive an Email weekly reminding you to use Lunch Money Now online to check balance, make deposit, or pay with cash or check to cashier before 2 p.m.
If FNS has not received payment and the Grace Period is exhausted and meal charges have not been paid then FNS will send a U.S. Postal letter to the parent to remind them we have been feeding your child in good faith, and that money is owed to the student’s account. Automated calls and emails will continue to the parent phone number on file with the district. If after being notified by mail and FNS has not received payment FNS managers will contact their school principal to make contact with the parent. A decision will be made by the Principal to either continue feeding the child in good faith or discontinue feeding lunch at school. The parent will be informed and expected to send a lunch to school so your child does not do without a lunch or parents will apply for the Free/Reduced meal program. Nonprofit School Food Service resources may not be used to cover costs related to Bad Debt arising from uncollected student meal accounts and Dickinson School District will be responsible for paying those delinquent accounts.

Dickinson ISD will collect on all unpaid meal charges. The parent/guardian is responsible to repay any charges that have accrued before the end of the school year and for charges made prior to application approval. All charges will be carried over to the students account the following year. We will stop taking checks 2 weeks before the end of school.

• In-Sufficient Checks: Checks returned for insufficient funds will not be accepted for future payments and will be charged a fee and assessed to the student account. Cash, money orders or using Lunch Money Now will be the only payment options.

If a student withdraws from the district with a positive meal balance and has not contacted the Food Nutrition Services department within 30 days requesting a refund, then the balance will be donated to “Feed All Kids”.

State and federal law, as well as board-adopted policies, define when, where, and by whom competitive foods, which are foods not sold as part of the regular meal program, can be served or sold on school premises during the school day. [For more information, see policies CO(LEGAL) and FFA(LOCAL).]

**Library**

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use during the following times Monday – Friday; 7:00 to 7:15 AM.

- Monday and Wednesday; 2:35 to 3:00 PM Days and times
- Tuesday and Thursday; 2:45 to 7:00 PM when LWOD is in session Days and times

**Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)**

Student-organized, student-led noncurriculum-related groups are permitted to meet during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements of policy FNAB(LOCAL).

A list of these groups is available in the principal’s office.
School-sponsored Field Trips

The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes. A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip. The district may ask the parent to provide information about a student’s medical provider and insurance coverage, and may also ask the parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip. The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need.

Searches

District Property

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

Students are responsible for any item—found in district property provided to the student—that is prohibited by law, district policy, or the Student Code of Conduct.

Searches in General

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, district officials may occasionally conduct searches.

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with law and district policy. Searches of students will be conducted without discrimination, based on, for example, reasonable suspicion, voluntary consent, or pursuant to district policy providing for suspicion-less security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on district property.

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student’s person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations.

Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. [See policy CQ for more information.]

Any searches of personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed.

[See policy FNF(LEGAL) and Electronic Devices and Technology Resources for more information.]


**Metal Detectors**

To maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the district reserves the right to subject students to metal detector searches when entering a district campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

**Trained Dogs**

The district will use trained dogs to screen for concealed, prohibited items, including drugs and alcohol. Screenings conducted by trained dogs will not be announced in advance. The dogs will not be used with students, but students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that is going to be screened, such as a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by district officials.

**Drug Testing**

See Steroids.]

**Sexual Harassment**

[See Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.]

**Special Programs**

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, students who are homeless, students in foster care, bilingual students, migrant students, English language learners, students diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact the campus principal or counselor.

A student who has or is at risk for dyslexia or a related reading difficulty is eligible to participate in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission’s Talking Book Program, which provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans with visual, physical, or reading disabilities.

**Standardized Testing**

**Secondary Grade Levels**

**SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)**

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; these exams are usually taken at the end of the junior year. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT, and more information can be obtained on these assessments from the school counselor.

**Note:** Participation in these assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on his or her transcript under the foundation graduation program and may qualify as a
substitute for an end-of-course testing requirement in certain circumstances. A student’s performance at a certain level on the SAT or ACT also makes the student eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public institution of higher education.

**TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment**

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The purpose of the TSI assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual credit course offered through the district as well. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment for college readiness may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

PSAT will be available by prior registration to all students in grades 9-11 and administered Fall of 2019.

**STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)**

**High School Courses—End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments are administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation, unless otherwise waived or substituted as allowed by state law and rules.

There are three testing windows during the year in which a student may take an EOC assessment, which will occur during the fall, spring, and summer months. If a student does not meet satisfactory performance, the student will have additional opportunities to retake the assessment.

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services who meet certain criteria established by the state as determined by the student’s ARD committee.

An ARD committee for a student receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student’s personal graduation plan.

[See Graduation for additional information.]

**Steroids**

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use.

Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.
Student Code of Conduct

Disciplinary Procedures not covered in the DISD Student Code of Conduct

Dickinson High School is implementing the research-based Safe and Civil Schools Initiative in 2019-2020. The Dickinson High School Student Behavior Management Plan will be distributed to all students during the first week of school and posted on the campus website for parent reference.

If an office referral is made by the teacher, the grade level assistant principal will determine the consequence(s) as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Dickinson High School Student Behavior Management Plan. The following behaviors may be assigned ISS if the student commits any of the following offenses on school property, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.

- Academic Dishonesty
- Displaying or distributing inappropriate pictures, photos, or drawings (including on cell phones)
- Using profanity, vulgar language, or inappropriate obscene gestures, pictures, photos, or drawings or innuendos.
- Physically aggressive behavior such as, but not limited to, pushing and scuffling which is not defined as a fight or assault.
- Stealing from students, staff, or the school.
- Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others. (Also may be required to make restitution). Depending on the seriousness of the damage, further consequences may be applied.
- Possession of prohibited items not covered under the Student Code of Conduct.
- Hazing as defined by Board Policy FNCC (LEGAL) and the Education Code, Section 37.151.
- Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements that school officials have reason to believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Insubordination
- Aggressive, disruptive action or group demonstration that school officials believe does or may substantially disrupt or materially interfere with the school program, school activities, or incites violence. (This may also result in involvement of the Liaison Officer.
- Falsification of records, passes, or other school-related documents including, but not limited to, computer hacking, theft of, or misuse of software.
- Smoking, use of, or possession of tobacco products including E-cigarettes.
- Repeated general misconduct violations. (Repeated is defined to be 2 or more infractions of the general misconduct violations. These may be different violations or repeated violations of the same offense.)
- Gambling on school property
- Truancy
- Written or verbal offensive or threatening remarks not covered under the Student Code of Conduct.
- Bullying, harassment, or making hit lists not covered under the Student Code of Conduct.
- Violating computer policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student’s parent, engaging in any conduct that compromises or attempts to compromise any media, internet, and/or computer software, equipment, communication, or engaging in any activity that causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
The minimum length of assignment to ISS shall be one day and the maximum ten days per offense, unless the student commits a violation of the ISS rules, the Student Code of Conduct, or the Student Handbook while assigned to ISS. Misconduct while in ISS could result in the assignment of additional up to ten days, suspension from school, or assignment to a disciplinary alternative education program depending upon the seriousness of the offense.

Please note that the above behaviors may result in the involvement of the Liaison Officer in addition to school consequences when the behavior has disrupted the educational process.

**In School Suspension Guidelines and Expectations**

- Students are required to surrender cell phones and all electronic devices when assigned to ISS.
- Students assigned to ISS will be required to follow an academic schedule.
- Students assigned to ISS must be in dress code. Failure to do so will result in an additional assignment to ISS.
- Students should arrive to ISS with all textbooks and needed materials.
- Students will be required to copy and turn in to the ISS instructor all ISS rules prior to beginning their class work.
- All rules in the student handbook and Student Code of Conduct will be observed. Students may not talk or communicate in any way, including writing notes. Students may not pass items to other students without teacher permission.
- Students may not sleep. Students should sit appropriately at all times facing forward.
- Students should raise their hand and wait to be called on by the teacher to ask a question.
- Students may not move from their desks without permission from the teacher.
- Students should remain on task at all times- working on school/teacher assignment.
- When a student has completed all assignments the ISS teacher should be notified.
- Students should bring an appropriate book to read to remain on task after assignment completion and/or waiting for assistance.
- Students may purchase a sack lunch from the school cafeteria.
- Students will have scheduled restroom breaks and lunch.
- Students may not have food or drink at any time other than during the lunch break.
- Students should take inventory of their desk and the back of the desk in front of them. Any markings not listed by you that are found will be assumed to have been made by you.
- Students may be required to participate in community service during the day.
- Students will be given the consequences guidelines the first day of arrival.
- Students who reach suspension level from ISS will return to ISS and complete any unfinished time.
- Students who are absent or leave school early should return to ISS and complete any time missed prior to being dismissed from ISS.
- Students should attend after school tutorials when extra assistance is needed to understand an assignment.
**Fighting**

1st Offense – suspension from school 1-3 days, possible DALC placement.

2nd and subsequent Offenses – suspension from school 2-3 days, possible DALC placement. An off campus DAEP assignment will be based on the elements of the offense. **The campus Liaison Officer** **may be involved in a disciplinary situation if a violation of law has occurred.** Any behavior of a criminal nature may result in the involvement of the campus Liaison Officer.

**Out of School Suspension Guidelines and Expectations**

Teachers will be notified of the suspension and school work missed may be made up at the discretion of the teacher. Parents are required to report to school with the student when he/she returns after a suspension and attend a conference with the assistant principal.

During the time of suspension (from parent pick-up to the morning of return) a student may not attend any school function or activity on or off campus. Suspended students may not come onto any DISD school property during the time of suspension and should adhere to city and/or county curfew laws. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in criminal trespass activity.

**Students in Foster Care**

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will assist any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care) with the enrollment and registration process, as well as other educational services throughout the student’s enrollment in the district.

Please contact Robert Cobb, who has been designated as the district’s foster care liaison, at (281) 229-6102 with any questions.

[See Students in the Conservatorship of the State for more information.]

**Students Who are Homeless (All Grade Levels)**

A parent is encouraged to inform the district if his or her child is experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources that may be able to assist families.

For more information on services for students who are homeless, contact the district’s homeless education liaison, JoEllen Allen, at 281-229-7421.

**Student Speakers**

[See policy FNA(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities and Graduation for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies.]

**Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention**

If you are worried that your child may be using or is in danger of experimenting, using, or abusing illegal drugs or other prohibited substances, please contact the school counselor. The school counselor can provide you with a list of community resources that may be of assistance to you. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) maintains information regarding children’s mental health.
and substance abuse intervention services on its website: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/transition/mhsa.aspx

Suicide Awareness and Mental Health Support

The district is committed to partnering with parents to support the healthy mental, emotional, and behavioral development of its students. If you are concerned about your child, please access Texas Suicide Prevention or contact the school counselor for more information related to suicide prevention services available in your area.

You may also contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Summer School

Information will be available in May 2020.

Tardy Policy

To ensure a safe and orderly learning environment for all students, the following procedures will be followed.

Definitions:

Tardy is defined as being in the hallway when the tardy bell rings.

Truancy is defined as being in an unauthorized area without written permission from a Dickinson High School administrator, teacher, or other staff member. An unauthorized area includes any area of the school to which the student is not assigned during the time in question. Areas may include any of the following: parking lot, field house, gym, locker rooms, dining hall, hallways, library, and classrooms.

Procedures:

Students are allowed five minutes of passing time between each period during which time they are expected to efficiently manage their time and attend to personal needs such as restroom visits, getting a drink at a water fountain, securing their belongings in a locker, etc.

Students arriving after 7:15 AM must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and signed-in by the parent in the Attendance Office.

- Students are expected to be in the classroom and in their seats ready to begin working when the tardy bell rings.
- Tardy Sweep stations will be strategically located in multiple areas of the building to document student tardies in the DHS student management system.
- Teachers/administrators will sweep the halls when the tardy bell rings moving students who are not in their classrooms to the tardy sweep stations. Students that are caught during a tardy sweep must report to the closest grade level office to receive a pass to class. In addition to receiving a pass, students will also be assigned in a 2-hour after school detention (ASD) on either Tuesday or Thursday in a designated location.
• Consistent tardies will be considered a Persistent Behavior Issue that will result in one or more of the following actions: Assignment to In School Suspension, Assignment to a long-term Alternative Educational Placement off Campus, Referral to Truancy Court.
• Students must report directly to the classroom once a Tardy Sweep pass is issued. Failure to do so will result in additional disciplinary action.
• Students will not be allowed out of class for any reason during the first and last fifteen minutes of each class period. This means that teachers will not write hall passes nor give permission for students to leave the classroom during this time. Students leaving class without permission will be considered insubordinate and truant and will be assigned an appropriate disciplinary action. Teachers will use their discretion regarding emergency medical and/or personal situations that would warrant an exception to this rule.
• Students with medical conditions that require additional restroom privileges and/or additional hallway time, must produce a note signed by a physician. The condition must be reported to the school nurse who will provide a medical permission note.
• Students in the hallways during class periods are expected to have a yellow hall pass signed and dated by a teacher or other DHS staff member. Students in the hallways during class without a hall pass will be considered truant and will be assigned an appropriate disciplinary action.

Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials

Textbooks and other district-approved instructional materials are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Electronic textbooks and technological equipment may also be provided to students, depending on the course and course objectives. A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return an item in acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day. Books deemed as unusable must be replaced at the expense of the student/parent.

Transfers

The counselor and assistant principal are authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

[See Safety Transfers/Assignments, Bullying, and Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services, for other transfer options.]

Transportation

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, a coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity may establish procedures related to making an exception to this requirement when a parent requests that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent. Attendance and discipline records will be reviewed in accordance to organizational constitution and/or
chapter by-laws by the director/coach/sponsor to determine eligibility to participate in all travel opportunities.

Buses and Other School Vehicles
The district makes school bus transportation available to all students. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually, and any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district’s website. For the safety of the operator of the vehicle and all passengers, students must board buses or other vehicles only at authorized stops, and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent’s residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact the Transportation Department at (281) 229-7300.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, including buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver’s directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver’s signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; the privilege to ride in a district vehicle, including a school bus, may be suspended or revoked.
Vandalism
The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and for years to come—littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Vehicles and Parking
Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. The school reserves the right to search any vehicle if reasonable cause exists. Students have full responsibility for the security of their vehicles and will make certain they are locked and that the keys are not given to others. Students will be held responsible for any prohibited objects or substances, such as alcohol, drugs, and weapons that are found in their cars and will be subject to disciplinary action. Searches of vehicles may be conducted at any time there is reasonable suspicion, with or without the permission of the student.

All motor vehicles parked on campus by persons enrolled or employed at Dickinson High School must be registered and must display a current parking decal. To obtain parking permits, students will be required to present a copy of their driver's license, license plate number of each car they wish to register, and a copy of their proof of insurance. The student’s name must appear on the vehicle insurance policy. A fee of $30.00 will be charged for each parking decal issued. Parking decals must be visibly displayed on the front windshield of the vehicle (lower corner on the passenger side). Motorcycles will have the parking decal affixed on the vehicle so that it is easily seen.

Parking permits may be purchased by senior, junior and sophomore students. Limited parking spaces are available and will be assigned based on grade level with seniors receiving first priority. Students shall park only in areas designated as student parking.

If the parking sticker is confiscated, the parking fee is non-refundable. Leaving campus without permission will result in the parking sticker being confiscated. The unsafe operation of a vehicle may result in a fine and/or suspension of parking privileges. Students may not go to the parking lot during school hours without written permission from an administrator.

The school reserves the right to tow and have impounded at the owner's expense any vehicle parked in violation of these regulations: abandoned motor vehicles, vehicles without license plates, vehicles parked in such a way as to create a serious hazard to traffic flow, vehicles parked in areas not designated for parking, or vehicles that do not display a Dickinson High School parking decal. Vehicles towed may be recovered at Taylor Towing, 4401 Nicolini, Dickinson TX (282)332-7477.

Violations of any of the preceding regulations can result in suspension of parking privileges. The administration reserves the right to revoke the parking permit and parking privileges for disciplinary and/or attendance issues.
Video Cameras

For safety purposes, video and audio recording equipment is used to monitor student behavior, including on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video and audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain self-contained special education classrooms. The district will provide notice to before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which your child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, speak with the principal or the Director of Special Programs, who the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See EHBAF(LOCAL).]

Visitors to the School

General Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. Even if the visit is approved prior to the visitor’s arrival, the individual must check in at the main office first.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and the person persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL).

[See also Student Code of Conduct.]
Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students
The district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

Business, Civic, and Youth Groups
The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

Volunteers
We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the campus office for more information and to complete an application.

Voter Registration
A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

Withdrawing from School
When a student under age 18 withdraws from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal, specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal’s office.

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

Please provide the school at least three days’ notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.
Glossary

**Accelerated instruction** is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level and/or as a result of a student not meeting the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

**ACT-Aspire** refers to an assessment that took the place of ACT-Plan and is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

**ACT** refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the American College Test. The test may be a requirement for admission to certain colleges or universities.

**ARD** is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and his or her parents are members of the committee.

**Attendance review committee** is responsible for reviewing a student’s absences when the student’s attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.

**CPS** stands for Child Protective Services.

**DAEP** stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

**DFPS** is the Texas Department of Family Protective Services.

**DPS** stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**EOC assessments** are end-of-course tests, which are state-mandated, and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments are required for graduation. These exams will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

**ESSA** is the Every Student Succeeds Act passed by the federal government in December 2015.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for directory information, unless a student’s parent or a student 18 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** is the written record of the individualized education program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts, such as a statement of the student’s present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student’s progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; accommodations for state or districtwide tests; whether successful completion of state-mandated assessments is required for graduation, etc.
IGC is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student’s eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

ISS refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the Student Code of Conduct. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

PGP stands for Personal Graduation Plan, which is required for high school students and for any student in middle school who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after he or she begins grade 9.

PSAT is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT.

SAT refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test may be a requirement for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

SHAC stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to assist the district in ensuring that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district’s health education instruction, along with providing assistance with other student and employee wellness issues.

Section 504 is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

STAAR is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state’s system of standardized academic achievement assessments.

STAAR Alternate 2 is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student’s ARD committee.

STAAR Spanish is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

State-mandated assessments are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and passing the STAAR EOC assessments is a condition of graduation. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests if necessary for promotion or graduation.

Student Code of Conduct is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP. It outlines conditions for out-of-
school suspension and for expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student’s violation of one of its provisions.

**TELPAS** stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that English language learners make in learning the English language, and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten–grade 12.

**TSI assessment** is the Texas Success Initiative assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

**TxVSN** is the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors, and courses are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

**UIL** refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.
2019–2020
Academic Calendar

First Semester
August 19 – December 20, 2019

Second Semester
January 8 – May 21, 2020

Student/Teacher Holidays
Labor Day - September 2, 2019
Thanksgiving - November 25-29, 2019
(No. 25-26 are Teacher Exchange Days/Student Holidays)
Christmas/Winter
December 23, 2019 - January 3, 2020
Martin Luther King Day - January 20, 2020
Spring Break - March 9-13, 2020
Easter - April 10, 2020
Memorial Day - May 25, 2020
(Staff/Teacher Holiday)

Mentor/Protege In-Service
August 5, 2019

New Teacher In-Service
August 6-8, 2019

Teacher In-Service/Student Holiday
August 9, 2019
August 12-16, 2019
January 6-7, 2020
February 17, 2020

Parent Conference Day/Student Holiday
November 1, 2019

Early Release All Campuses
(2 hours early)
December 20, 2019 May 21, 2020

Early Release All Campuses
(3 hours early)
September 6, 2019

Dickinson High School Graduation
Date will be determined in June 2019

Nine Weeks Grading Cycle
1st 9-weeks 44 days 19,180 minutes
(6/19-10/18)
2nd 9-weeks 39 days 17,040 minutes
(10/21-12/20)

First Semester 83 days 36,220 minutes

3rd 9-weeks 41 days 18,040 minutes
(1/8-3/6)
4th 9-weeks 48 days 21,000 minutes
(3/6-5/21)

Second Semester 89 days 39,040 minutes

Total Operational 172 days 75,260 minutes
SD Waiver Days 4 days 1,680 minutes
ER SD Waiver Minutes 180 minutes

Grand Total 176 days 77,120 minutes

2019-2020 School Hours
Elementary
(grades K-4)
8:35 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.
(AM Pre-K)
8:35-11:45 a.m.
(PM Pre-K)
12:45 p.m.–3:55 p.m.

Middle School/Junior High
(grades 5-8)
7:55 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

High School
(grades 9-12)
7:15 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

Board approved February 4, 2019.
Revisions approved May 6, 2019.
For information on:

- Call:
  - Board of Trustees: 281-229-6022
  - Bus Transportation: 281-229-7300
  - Gifted and Talented: 281-229-6014
  - Kindergarten/Pre-K: 281-229-6014
  - Meals/Free & Reduced Lunch: 281-229-6012
  - Severe Weather: 281-229-6000
  - To Substitute: 281-229-6016

Call the school your child is attending for information on:

- Age Requirements, Booster/PTO Clubs, Health Records/Immunizations, Meal Prices, Referrals to Special Education Programs, Report Cards, Special Events/ Times and Locations, Volunteer Programs

See Something, Say Something

DISD Crime Stoppers 281-229-7867

School Closing Information

In the event weather conditions such as icy roads prevent the opening of schools or cause early dismissal, an announcement will be released from the Office of the Superintendent to all major radio and television stations.

Find us online

Visit the Dickinson ISD Web Site: www.dickinsonisd.org

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/dickinonschools

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/DickinsonISD
2019-2020 DICKINSON ISD DRESS EXPECTATIONS

A student's appearance has much to do with the way the student feels about himself or herself. Appearance also affects the way in which other students respond to them and has a great deal to do with student success and the learning atmosphere of the school. The Dickinson ISD Dress Code is established to teach grooming, hygiene, instill discipline and modesty, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, teach respect for authority, and prepare our students for the future.

The student’s appearance (clothing, shoes, accessories and grooming) shall not reflect gang affiliation, cause a distraction, nor conceal contraband. ADMINISTRATORS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND RIGHT TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATENESS OF ATTIRE AND GROOMING FOR THE SCHOOL SETTING.

GRADES 7-12

PANTS, SLACKS, JEANS, SKIRTS, DRESSES, JUMPERS, (NO SHORTS OR SKORTS), SHIRTS, BLOUSES OR PULLOVERS:

- May be any color or design
- Shall be appropriately sized with no holes or tears, fitting at the waist, and cuffed/hemmed at or below mid-calf
- The length/slits of skirts, dresses, and jumpers must be clearly below, and remain below, the mid-thigh, including the front, back, and sides when standing, sitting, or walking.
- Shirts, blouses, or pullovers must have sleeves. Must be appropriately sized and buttoned.
- Shirts, blouses, or pullovers may not be sheer, lace, or any see-through material (even if worn with an undergarment/cami/ slip), backless, cut-out, off-the-shoulder, spaghetti strap, sundress, tank-style, sleeveless, low-cut, back exposed, or revealing in any way.
- No vinyl, leather, suede, fleece, spandex/stretch, oversized pockets, pajamas, overalls, sweatpants, or coveralls.
- No inappropriate pictures or messages allowed.
- Underclothes may not be worn as outer clothes including men’s T shirts.

OUTSIDE JACKETS AND COATS

- All jackets/coats that are ¾ lengths (or less) are acceptable.
- “Trench” coats or “Dusters” are not allowed.
- No inappropriate pictures or messages allowed.

SHOES

- Shoes must be safe and appropriate for school.
- No house slippers, slides, flip flops, or shoes with skates, wheels or cleats.

HAIR

- Hair (including facial hair) must be neat, clean, and well-groomed.
- No distracting/extreme styles or unnatural coloring (pink, green, blue, etc.).

BACKPACKS

- May be any fabric.
- No inappropriate pictures or messages allowed.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Glitter, writing or drawing on the face or skin
- Tattoos (temporary and permanent)
- Sunglasses
- Any type of head covering (no cap, hat, hair net, hair rollers, combs, or picks may be worn inside the building)
- Body piercing other than the ear
- Heavy chains, heavy chain necklaces, spike necklaces, or other inappropriate types of jewelry
- Inappropriate decorations or advertisements including, but not limited to, violence, drugs, alcohol, the occult, gang membership, sex, death, suicide, etc.
Dear Parents,

The Dickinson Independent School District provides bus transportation to and from school as a courtesy service for students residing in the District. The state of Texas prescribes the conditions governing school bus operations and partially funds the service by allotting the District a given amount for eligible students and hazardous students transported.

*Eligible* students are defined by the State statute as those residing in the District at least two miles from the school they should attend, as measured by the nearest practical route. The nearest practical route is the nearest traveled public road which may or may not be the road used by the school bus.

*Hazardous* students are defined by the State statute as those residing in the District under two miles from the school they should attend, as measured by the nearest practical route and who have to cross a major highway, bridge, railroad tracks or lack of sidewalks.

In order to meet the conditions outlined by the State and provide safe, prompt movement of all students, the school district has adopted standard regulations and procedures and has provided restrictive measures for violations of procedures and rules. They are herein outlined for your information and for the guidance of your child.

The District is pleased to provide transportation for all of its students and solicits your assistance in helping create a safe, healthy operation. You may do so by reading the attached material and discussing the safety rules with your children. We ask your cooperation in developing proper behavior patterns for students who ride buses. Please remind your child(ren) the school bus is an extension of the classroom.

If you need to contact the Transportation Office, please call 281-229-7300.

Thank you,

Brian J. Cmaidalka
Brian J. Cmaidalka
Director of Transportation

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**BUS RIDER’S SAFETY MANUAL**

**PARENTS AND BUS RIDERS**

The goal of this Safety Manual is to help provide a safe and enjoyable experience for children and adults who ride school buses. Parents should take time to read and discuss the materials in this manual with their children. Riding a school bus is a privilege provided by the school district and should be treated as such.

**GENERAL SAFETY RULES**

1. Obey the instructions of the bus driver. At no time should a student be disrespectful or refuse to cooperate with the driver.
2. Board and leave the bus at designated stops only.
3. All students must ride their assigned bus.
4. Do not ask to ride home on another bus with a friend.
5. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation to school if a child misses the bus.

**PROCEDURES FOR WAITING FOR THE BUS**

1. Be at your bus stop five minutes before scheduled pickup time. The driver will not wait or honk, nor will he/she stop for late students or students running to the bus.
2. Students should be no closer than 10 feet from the bus, which is called the “Danger Zone”. Be in **plain sight** of the approaching bus driver and other traffic. Be watchful and don’t play around.
3. **Before** the bus approaches, form a line and be prepared to load immediately.
4. Stand still and clear of the bus. Move toward the bus **ONLY** after door opens and/or driver signals you to load.
5. If you miss the bus, go home immediately.
6. Parents should instruct their children on what procedures to follow if they miss the bus.

**LOADING THE BUS**

1. Do not push or shove.
2. Stay out of the bus “Danger Zone.” Wait until the door opens or driver gives signal before approaching the bus.
3. Use the handrail and steps.
4. Go directly to your assigned seat. The bus will not move until all students are seated. Delays affect traffic and schedules.
5. Seating arrangement will be assigned.

**Conduct on the Bus**

Classroom dress code and conduct rules shall be followed. Students wearing gym clothes will not be allowed to ride the bus. Shoes must be worn while riding the bus.

1. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
2. Do not change seats.
3. A student shall not refuse to sit in an assigned seat or deny another student a place to sit.
4. Normal conversation is permitted; avoid loud noises that may distract the driver and create an unsafe condition.
5. Scuffling, fighting and the use of obscene, vulgar or profane language and gestures are forbidden.
6. Do not throw objects inside or out of the bus.
7. Do not litter, mark, cut or scratch any part of the bus.
8. The emergency door and exit controls should be used by pupils only during supervised drills or actual extreme emergency.
9. Students shall never attempt to operate the passenger door or other controls except in case of extreme emergency.
10. Students shall face forward for the duration of the trip, and shall keep their feet in front of them and out of the aisle.
11. All outerwear such as coats, jackets, and sweaters must be worn at all times or placed in a secure location such as a bag or backpack. In addition, no hoods from jackets, beanies, caps, etc. may be worn at any time while on the bus.

**GETTING OFF THE BUS**
1. Stay seated until the bus is completely stopped, brakes have been set and the door has been opened.
2. Use the handrail and take one-step at a time when leaving the bus.
3. Wait for your turn to leave the bus. Pushing and crowding will only slow exiting and may cause an accident.
4. Stay clear of the bus when the engine is started. Do not chase or hang onto the bus at any time. Stay out of the bus "Danger Zone."
5. If an article drops or rolls near or under the bus, do not go after it! After the driver acknowledges and signals to you, only then should you go to the bus door and ask the driver for help.

**Dropping Off Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Students**
Parents or a designee must be at the bus stop to receive PK and K students.

**AM Pre-K:** If no one is there to receive the student, the student will be returned to campus. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that students who are returned to campus are picked up.

**PM Pre-K & K:** If no one is there to receive the student, the student will be taken to Gator Academy. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that students who are taken to Gator Academy are picked up.

Any student returned three times a semester will have their riding privileges suspended until a conference with the parents, transportation representative is held, and an agreement is made. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make an appointment with the Transportation Office. If riding privileges are reinstated and the student is returned for the fourth time a 3-day suspension from the bus may be issued after a conference is held. If riding privileges are reinstated and the student is returned for the fifth time a 5-day suspension from the bus may be issued after a conference is held. If riding privileges are reinstated and the student is returned for the sixth time a 1 month suspension or suspension for the remainder of the semester may be issued after a conference is held.

Name(s) of persons eligible to receive student must be registered with the campus.

**Daycare Facilities**
An employee representative should be waiting at the designated bus to receive students. If no one is there to receive the student(s), they will be returned to the campus. Any student(s) returned 3 times a semester will have their riding privileges suspended until a conference with the parents or daycare representative is held and an agreement is made. If riding privileges are reinstated and the student is returned for the fourth time a 3-day suspension from the bus may be issued after a conference is held. If riding privileges are reinstated and the student is returned for the fifth time a 5-day suspension from the bus may be issued after a conference is held. If riding privileges are reinstated and the student is returned for the sixth time a 1 month suspension or suspension for the remainder of the semester/year may be issued after a conference is held.

**Designated Stop/Changes**
Students will be picked up and dropped off at the designated bus stop. Only one location for pick-up and one location for drop-off will be allowed. Any request for change must be made and approved by the Campus at which the student is enrolled. All requests must be made 2 days prior to needed change and must be for a minimum of 5 days. Changes to Student pick-up and drop-off locations can be made a maximum of two times per semester.

**Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices**
Students will be allowed to possess cellular phones/electronic devices (i.e. iPods) while on the bus. These devices must not be heard. Phone conversations, taking pictures or videos are not permissible. If a cell phone/electronic device creates, a distraction or disturbance to the driver the request may be made to put the device away in a secure location or may be confiscated. Confiscated cellular phones/electronic devices will be returned to the student’s parent or guardian only. A $15.00 administrative fee may be charged for this return. Unclaimed cellular phone or electronic devices will be disposed of after 30 days. Lost or stolen phones/electronic devices are not the responsibility of Dickinson ISD, and no administrative effort will be spent in investigating lost or stolen phones/electronic devices.

**Crossing the Street or Highway**
1. All students living on the left side of the roadway shall exit the bus and move to a point 10 to 15 feet in front of the right bumper and wait for the driver to signal that is safe to cross. Be alert for the danger signal (Driver will honk horn) if the situation changes, and the driver detects a danger, look to the driver for instructions.
2. Check in both directions and walk directly across the road.
3. Never cross the road **behind** the bus.
4. **CAUTION!** Be alert for vehicles that do not stop when the bus is loading or unloading students.
5. Obey all traffic signals and signs on your way to and from the bus stop.

**Prohibited Items**

1. Tobacco.
2. Live animals or insects.
4. Alcoholic beverages, harmful drugs or chemicals.
5. Weapons and explosive devices.
6. Any object (i.e. musical instrument, shop project) too large to be carried by the student. All other items must be kept on the student’s lap or within the seating compartment and may not deny another student a seat.
7. Balls or Balloons
8. Skateboards
9. Matches and cigarette lighters.
10. Food or drinks (no eating or drinking on the bus is permitted).
11. Radios, tape players, headphones, CD players or any other electronic device that is too large to fit in a pocket or backpack.
12. Chewing gum.
13. Lasers or mirrors used to reflect light.

*The above list of prohibited items may not include all prohibited items. At the discretion of the Transportation Department, an item may be determined to be inappropriate or prohibited from the bus.*

**Accidents or Emergencies**

1. Follow the driver’s instructions.
2. If you must leave the bus, stay in a group. Move to a safe place.
3. The following procedures will be used for evacuation in an emergency:
   a. The driver will make the decision on which exit to use during the evacuation.
   b. Follow the driver’s instructions completely.

**School-sponsored Trips**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception if the parent makes a written request that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent.

**Field Trips**

Educational field trips shall be provided when planned with a definite purpose and objective. Only school buses and principal-approved staff-driven SUV-type automobiles may be used for transportation. A signed permission from the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each student participating is required for each field trip. (Forms are available in each school office.) The school must have on file a signed Emergency Medical Information Form. Please complete this form yearly and keep information up-to-date. All chaperones must complete a Criminal History Check form at least two (2) weeks prior to the field trip. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Extracurricular Trips**

1. Bus riders’ rules apply to all school-sponsored events.
2. Discipline will be the responsibility of the building principal, the sponsor and the driver.
3. The bus must return clean when returning from the trip.

**Discipline**

The school bus is an extension of the classroom and the Director or designee will administer discipline with assistance from the principal and the bus driver. All school board policies that apply to student conduct and other student-related activities apply to the school bus.

The following procedures shall be followed when discipline concern arises on a bus serving a regular route or an extracurricular activity:

1. The driver shall attempt to correct the misbehavior of the passenger(s)
2. If the passenger refuses to comply with a reasonable request, the driver will report the incident to the Director or designee upon returning to the Transportation Department. The notification shall be made in writing on the School Bus Safety Report and parent contact will be attempted.
3. The Director or designee shall investigate the incident and notify the driver of the action taken.
4. The student will be given a copy of the report to take home for the parent’s signature and return one copy to the driver.
5. A conference involving the Director or designee, the student(s), the driver and parent(s) may be necessary.
6. The Director or designee may suspend the student’s bus-riding privileges. If such a suspension occurs, the parent(s) or guardian and principal will be notified prior to the effective time of the suspension so that the parent/guardian can make other transportation arrangements.
7. In the case of serious misconduct that endangers the safety of other passengers or the driver, any school official will remove the student from the bus or law enforcement assistance; the principal and parent(s) shall be notified of the situation as soon as possible.
8. Students in grades 5-12 who are involved in a fight and/or cited for a category IV offense(s) will be turned over to a campus administrator for discipline action as outlined in the Student Handbook for the respective campus.
SUSPENSIONS AND HEARING PROCEDURES

Notice to Parents and Appeal Process may be found in the Campus Discipline Management Plan.

Immediate appropriate legal action and/or suspension from the bus will be enforced against any person participating in the following infringements:

1. Possession of firearms, a knife, or other dangerous devices will not be permitted and may result in immediate loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.
2. Using abusive, profane language on or near a bus in which students are being transported or directing such language toward the students or the driver.
3. Hindering in any manner the operation of a school bus or obstructing, unnecessarily, any roadway on which a school bus travels.
4. Making threats against or engaging in physical contact with a school bus driver.

Discipline Procedure:
When students receive their 3rd bus safety reports they may receive a 3 day suspension from transportation; 4 reports may = 5 day suspension; 5 reports may = 1 month suspension; and 6 reports may = suspension for the remainder of the school year.

*At the discretion of the Transportation Department, bus-riding privileges may be suspended and/or the length of the suspension may be changed from the above discipline procedure due to the nature of the infraction.

DETECTION
Individual school buses may be equipped with video cameras that will record the conduct of students and any verbal communication between students and driver. This recording may be used for disciplinary purposes.

Pursuant to Texas Education Code §26.009(b), schools can videotape students without parent permission for purposes of maintaining discipline. However, under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the parent may only view the video if their child is the only student in the video. If the video reveals other students then that video cannot be viewed by any parent. The Texas Attorney General has addressed this issue and determined that videotapes made on school buses, on which the driver addresses some students by name and which “show the faces, bodies, and behavior of students of the district” are education records under FERPA and are exempted from disclosure. Texas Attorney General or 95-821 (1975)

Dickinson Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals with disabilities, or in any aspect of their operations. The Dickinson Independent School District also does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA and Section 504 may be forwarded to the designated ADA and Section 504 Compliance coordinators:

Personnel Issues: Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations, 281-229-6010
Executive Director of Human Resources, 281-229-6016

Dickinson Education Support Center
2218 FM 517 East
Dickinson, Texas 77539
(281) 229-6000
Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyber-bullying.

For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

Bullying Prohibited
The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

Examples
Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

Retaliation
The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

Examples
Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

False Claim
A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Timely Reporting
Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District’s ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

Reporting Procedures
To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.

Employee Report
Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.
**Report Format**

A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.

**Notice of Report**

When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.

**Prohibited Conduct**

The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

**Investigation of Report**

The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

**Concluding the Investigation**

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

**Notice to Parents**

If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

**District Action**

**Bullying**

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District’s Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct. The District may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.

**Discipline**

A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.
The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

**Corrective Action**
Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine whether any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District’s policy against bullying.

**Transfers**
The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

**Counseling**
The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.

**Improper Conduct**
If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.

**Confidentiality**
To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

**Appeal**
A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

**Records Retention**
Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).

**Access to Policy and Procedures**
This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District’s website, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District’s administrative offices.
Dickinson Independent School District
Dickinson High School
Title I Parent Involvement and Engagement Policy
2019-2020

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The DISD Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the administration and staff of Dickinson High School, continue to focus on the importance of family engagement and community engagement. Dickinson High School strives to create and maintain a welcome atmosphere for parent and community engagement on all district sites. Dickinson High School encourages meaningful collaboration with all stakeholders so that communication between home, school and the community is continuous and open. In order to ensure greater opportunities for student success, Dickinson High School supports:

- Strong parent engagement activities for all campuses,
- A positive working relationship between educators and families of all student groups and
- Diverse communication channels between school and families.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Annually parents and school staff will work to revise and improve the District and Campus Parent Engagement Policies. The format and language of this policy is designed to be easily read and understood. Copies will available on the district’s website and are available to parents and other members of the community upon request.

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING/EVALUATION

Dickinson ISD uses Title I funds to provide school wide services for students on 13 campuses. Dickinson High School is one of those 13 campuses. The Dickinson High School Campus Improvement Committee will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I, Part A parent engagement guidelines and services offered through the district. The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location. Notice of the meeting will be provided through invitation to parents and public notices. Copies of the Dickinson High School Parent Engagement Policy will be distributed and discussed at the meeting. Parents, administration, staff, and community members will be encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary and parent volunteers will be recruited for various district committee appointments.

SCHOOL COMPACT

In accordance with Title I regulations, each Title I school and their parent representatives will evaluate Dickinson High School Compact annually and revise if needed. This compact will identify ways the school, parents and students can share the responsibility for student performance and success. A copy of the Dickinson High School Compact detailing these responsibilities will be made available on our campus website and be distributed to parents through flyers, parent-teacher conferences and upon request. Parent/student signatures will not be required; however, parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their child.
PARENT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dickinson High School will support many varied ways of parental engagement as they strive to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents and community members may contribute through volunteering at school and by creating a supportive environment. Parent and community member suggestions for improving Dickinson High School are encouraged and welcomed. Successful school, parent and community communication will strengthen and reinforce everyone’s desire for continued achievement for every child in the district. The following activities, programs and/or services are provided by Dickinson High School to strengthen the partnership between school, home, and community:

**School/Parent Communication**
- SKYWARD Parent Access
- NAVIANC Parent/Student Access
- District Website
- Campus Website
- Teacher Websites
- Principal’s Corner
- Fall Open House
- Spring Parent University
- Teacher/Parent Conferences
- School Messenger Call-Out System
- Teacher Syllabi
- Title I Parent Informational Meeting
- Dual Credit Parent Meetings
- Booster Club Organization Meetings
- Parent Surveys
- Campus Improvement Committee
- Parent Engagement Committee
- Student Awards Night
- SHAC Committee
- Counselor Newsletter Email Blasts
- GATOR Bytes
- GATOR Vision
- Dickinson High School PTO
- Project Graduation Parent Committee
- Student Prom Committee
- Parent Support Meetings for Special Needs Students
- AVID Parent Night—FAFSA
- Advanced Placement Parent Meeting
- 8th Grade Parent Night

**School Activities**
- District Health Fair
- Campus College and Career Fair
- Fundraisers
- Homecoming Week Festivities
- Family Thanksgiving Dinner
- Lighted Windows/Open Doors
- Red Ribbon Week
- School Musical
- Veterans’ Day Concert
- Athletic and Fine Arts Events
- Empty Stocking Community Project
- Stuff the Bus Community Project
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Galveston County Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Project Graduation
- Dickinson Railroad Museum Art Show
- VASE Art Show
- Artist Boat Murals
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- Advanced Placement Art Show at Dickinson Public Library
- School Homecoming and Valentines Dances
- Top 20 Banquet
- Ascending Seniors Banquet
- Athletic/Fine Arts Banquets
- AVID Senior Banquet
- Relay for Life
- Greater Gulf Coast Blood Drives
- March Madness
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Author Visits
- DISD Product Fair
- College and Career Center
- Military Recruitment
- School Store
- Special Olympics

**Community Organizations**
- Communities in Schools
- Business Partnerships
- DISD Education Foundation
- Dickinson Rotary
- Dickinson ISD Alumni Association
- Dickinson Chamber of Commerce
STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. Additionally, our website and other internet and electronic sources will be kept up-to-date in an effort to inform families. All Dickinson High School staff members will make every effort to communicate positively and work effectively with parents and community members.

FUNDING /COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

A minimum of one percent of the Title I, Part A funds will be set aside by Dickinson ISD for purposes of parental engagement activities. The District distributes a large portion of these funds proportionally to the Title I campuses. Dickinson High School will spend Title I funds according to identified, comprehensive needs and Title I guidelines. Coordination, technical assistance and other support will also be provided by the district to assist campuses and families in planning and implementing parental engagement activities. This coordination will also include other programs in order to maximize district, state, and federal monies.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Dickinson High School is committed to the success of students. We will work together with parents, community members and Dickinson High School staff to monitor the effectiveness of our Parental Engagement and Title I Programs in order to provide excellence in education. This policy will be promoted by the administrators, principals, and other Dickinson High School staff as we seek active participation by our parents.
Dickinson High School students participate in activities, services, and programs that are funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA). Our Dickinson High School staff, parents and students agree that we share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. We will work together to ensure that all Dickinson High School students acquire the knowledge and skills that prepare them for success at the next grade level, in the workplace, in college and/or in the military. Our focus will be on post high school readiness and on the development of our students’ social awareness and their social responsibilities so that they become productive, contributing members of our community. We will work together to build a partnership that involves all stakeholders so that Dickinson High School meets the academic, social and emotional needs of our students and staff. This school-parent compact is in effect during the school year for 2018-2019.

School Responsibilities
We, the faculty and staff of Dickinson High School, will:

- Provide effective, interesting, high quality and rigorous teaching and learning that results in student mastery for successful college entry and completion.
- Provide effective, industry-level standards for teaching and learning that results in industry certifications and successful career readiness and advancement.
- Create an inclusive environment that is physically and emotionally safe for all students, parents, teachers, staff and community members.
- Create an environment that invites, encourages and supports innovation, curiosity and creativity.
- Provide support systems, services, infrastructures and facilities that support and enhance the Dickinson High School goals and objectives for student learning.
- Promote effective parental and community involvement through communication, education, participation and partnerships in accomplishing the district’s and the campus’ goals.

Parent Responsibilities
We, the Dickinson High School parents/guardians, will support our students’ learning by:

- Actively monitoring school attendance and ensure that my student arrives each morning by 7:15 AM.
- Actively monitoring my student’s grades, homework and participation in school activities.
- Regularly communicating with teachers, counselors, and administrators and actively participating in decisions regarding my student’s school progress.
- Encouraging my student’s participation in extracurricular activities and school clubs/organizations.
- Staying informed by checking the school and the district website, by accepting school electronic call-outs, by checking emails from school officials, and by keeping my contact information current.
- Getting involved by serving on parent committees, attending school functions and/or volunteering my time, talents and services.
- Encouraging the development of respectful and productive relationships with all stakeholders.

Student Responsibilities
We, the Dickinson High School students, assume the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and to strive for excellence by:

- Being in class each day well prepared to fully participate and actively engage in the learning activities.
- Reporting to school and to each class on time.
- Completing all assignments with quality and excellence in mind.
- Showing respect for ourselves, our peers, the faculty and staff and the school facility.
- Respecting the rights of other students to learn without disruption.
- Providing our parents/guardians with important information from school.
- Engaging in activities during the school day, after school, on the weekends and during holidays that contribute to a safe, productive and healthy lifestyle.
Dickinson ISD
Parent & Family Engagement Policy
2019-20

Thirteen schools in Dickinson ISD receive funding under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The funding is for resources to help schools with high concentrations of students from low-income families provide a high-quality education that will enable all children to meet the state's student performance standards. ESEA is built on accountability for results, engagement of parents, and an emphasis on doing what works to improve academic achievement based on scientific research.

EXTENSIVE PLANNING: Each Title I Schoolwide campus must engage in detailed planning on how funds will be used to improve student academic achievement. This planning includes:

1. Comprehensive Needs Assessment: created by the school administrators, staff, parents and community members to identify the needs for all students to meet Texas’ achievement standards.
2. Campus Improvement Plan: the action plans that will be implemented to meet the needs identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
3. Budget Plan: detail of accounts and amounts that will be used to implement the action plans identified in the Campus Improvement Plan. This can include funding for parent education programs, additional instructional staff, instructional materials, and tutoring programs.
4. Annual Evaluation: each campus must evaluate the activities used to address needs over the past year. Activities that did not have a high-impact on student achievement must be improved upon or eliminated.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS: Title I Schoolwide campuses are responsible for providing parents with:

1. Annual Title I Meeting that explains the Title I program at the campus.
2. Academic Information that details the curriculum in use at the school, forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and an explanation of the State's academic content and achievement standards.
3. Timely Information in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand.

PARENTS INVOLVED IN CAMPUS DECISION-MAKING: The school must involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the:

1. Schoolwide Plan (Campus Improvement Plan), including the Title I funds.
2. Parent & Family Engagement Policy, including details of how parents will be informed of their rights under Title I, provided a description of the curriculum in use at the school, AND afforded opportunities for regular meetings and participation in campus decision-making and decisions regarding the education of their child.
3. School-Parent Compact, detailing, at least, the basic expectations between parents, students, and the school staff.

PARENT EDUCATION: Each school should use the majority of Parent Engagement funding to provide training and skills to parents to assist them in being a partner in educating their child. Examples of this type of training could include (1) strategies in math, science, reading, writing, and social studies, (2) literacy training, (3) using technology, and (4) parenting skills.

The DISD Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the administration and staff of DISD, continue to focus on the importance of family engagement with an emphasis on:

- Creating and maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for parent and community engagement on all district sites.
- Developing meaningful collaboration with stakeholders so that communication between home, school, and the community is continuous and open.

To ensure greater opportunities for student success, DISD will support these Parent and Community Engagement objectives and strive to establish:

- Strong parent engagement activities for all campuses,
- A positive working relationship between educators and families of all student groups,
- Diverse communication channels between school and families.

Updated 4/29/19 EIC
During attendance at our athletic events, spectator safety is the district’s primary concern. To promote the safety and well-being of all stadium guests, Dickinson ISD has established the following rules and procedures for all stadium activities. These policies were approved by the Board of Trustees and will be enforced at all times to keep our fans safe and our students well supervised.

* Students (Pre Kinder through 8th grade) must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian, or they will not be admitted into the stadium.

* Parents or adult guardians are responsible for PK – 8th grade students’ behavior and are responsible for their supervision during the event.

* Balls, bags, backpacks, noisemakers, baby strollers, coolers, drinks, food, etc. shall not be brought into the stadium.

* No loitering is permitted. All students/spectators must sit in the stands and keep off the rails. Aisles should be kept clear at all times. Congregating under the bleachers during the game will not be permitted.

* For your safety and the safety of others, there is no running in the stands.

* High school students will remain in the designated student section.

* Students/spectators who throw food, drink, or other items will be escorted from the stadium, will not be allowed re-admittance, and may be banned from the stadium for the remainder of the school year.

* Students/Spectators who refuse to comply with stadium officials’ directions may be removed from the stadium.

* Students/spectators who leave the stadium are not allowed to return to the event (unless they purchase another ticket) and must leave the high school grounds.

* No one will be allowed on the field or track during or after games unless authorized by the Stadium Manager.

* The Student Handbook and Code of Conduct will be in effect for all DISD students attending stadium events. This means students may face additional disciplinary consequences at school.

* State laws and school district policies will be in effect concerning alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, and tobacco (including e-cigarettes and like devices).

* Students/spectators who violate these policies will be escorted from the stadium, will not be allowed re-admittance, and may be banned from the stadium for the remainder of the school year.

* No pets/animals allowed in the stadium.
STUDENT SAFETY
A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fire, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by students, teachers, staff and administration.

SRP
Our school is expanding the safety program to include the Standard Response Protocol - Extended (SRPx). The SRPx is based on these five actions. Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate, Shelter and Hold. In the event of an emergency, the action and appropriate direction will be called on the PA.

LOCKOUT - “Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors”
LOCKDOWN - “Locks, Lights, Out of Sight”
EVACUATE - “To the Announced Location”
SHELTER - “For a Hazard Using a Safety Strategy”

TRAINING
Please take a moment to review these actions. Students and staff will be trained and the school will drill these actions over the course of the school year. More information can be found at http://iloveuguys.org

LOCKOUT
GET INSIDE. LOCK OUTSIDE DOORS
Lockout is called when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building.

STUDENTS:
• Return to inside of building
• Do business as usual

TEACHERS:
• Recover students and staff from outside building
• Increased situational awareness
• Do business as usual
• Take roll, account for students

EVACUATE
TO A LOCATION
Evacuate is called to move students and staff from one location to another.

STUDENTS:
• Bring your phone
• Leave your stuff behind
• Form a single file line
• Show your hands
• Be prepared for alternatives during response.

TEACHERS:
• Grab roll sheet if possible
• Lead students to Evacuation Location
• Take roll, account for students

SHELTER
FOR A HAZARD USING SAFETY STRATEGY
Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary.

SAMPLE HAZARDS:
• Tornado
• Hazmat

SAMPLE SAFETY STRATEGIES:
• Evacuate to shelter area
• Seal the room

STUDENTS:
• Appropriate hazards and safety strategies

TEACHERS:
• Appropriate hazards and safety strategies
• Take roll, account for students

HOLD
IN YOUR CLASSROOM
Hold is called when the hallways need to be kept clear, even during class changes.

STUDENTS:
• Remain in your classroom
• Do business as usual.

TEACHERS:
• Recover students and staff from hallways
• Close and lock classroom door
• Take roll, account for students