

CAYUGA SCHOOL



Excellence and Integrity - The Wildcat Way!

Secondary Parent & Student Handbook

2026-2027

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the district at 903-928-2101

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of or to electronically access at www.cayugaisd.com the Cayuga Independent School District Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for the 2025-2026 school year.

I accept responsibility for accessing the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct by visiting the web address listed above.

I understand that if I wish to receive a paper copy of the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, I must request a copy from Cayuga High School or Middle School office.

I understand that the Student Handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. I also understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook or Code of Conduct, I will direct those questions to the principal at 903-928-2102.

Student's name: *(print)*

Student's signature:

Parent's or guardian's signature:

Date:

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

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Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

FOREWORD

This student handbook contains essential information regarding school policies and administrative regulations that govern the high school students. This information has been prepared to help you understand some of our school policies. We have attempted to include the policies and information most helpful and beneficial to the Cayuga High School and Middle School students.

While this handbook does not include all the policies of our school and may be revised as the Texas Education Agency changes the rules and laws, it will serve as a guide to both students and parents.

This handbook has parental rights and responsibilities 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. Please be aware that the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

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

After reading through the entire handbook with your child, keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact a teacher, counselor, or principal. Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following required forms (included in this handbook or provided in the forms packet accompanying this handbook): (1) Parental Acknowledgment Form; (2) Student Directory and Release of Student Information Form; (3) Release of Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education Form; and (4) Consent/Opt-Out Form.

We welcome your questions concerning this handbook. It is our desire that this will enable us to have better communication with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe E. Satterwhite, Superintendent

CAYUGA SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cayuga High School is to prepare its students to become citizens who are able to make informed and intelligent choices between alternatives they will encounter during their lifetime. In collaboration with parents and community, Cayuga High School will provide a safe environment and help students develop a desire for excellence, while learning the skills to become contributing members of society.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President – Tim West
Secretary – David Link
Trustee – Clint Satterwhite
Trustee - Daniel Sims
Trustee – Adam Krumnow
Trustee – Josh Hinshaw
Trustee – John Paul Kelley

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Joe E. Satterwhite
CAYUGA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

STAFF 2026-27

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Joe E. (Jes) Satterwhite	Superintendent	903-928-2102
Dr. Rick Webb	Assistant Superintendent	903-928-2102
Zach Williams	CHS Principal	903-928-2294
Amy Kelley	CMS Principal	903-928-2699
Tracie Campbell	CES Principal	903-928-2295

DIRECTORS

Leslie Glenn	Cafeteria	903-928-2959
Becky Thompson	Special Programs/Counseling	903-928-2965
Jacob Magee	Athletics	903-928-2294 or 903-928-2521
Joey Fitzgerald	Maintenance / Operations	903-928-2903
Joey Fitzgerald	Transportation	903-928-2903
Kristin Mills	Nurse	903-928-2786
Katie Abbott	ACSEC Director	903-876-3685
Laurie Jordan	Technology/District Librarian	903-928-2102
Jennifer Joslin	Band Director	903-928-2294
Jenni Scheppeler	Curriculum Director	903-928-2102

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Kenyetta Jenkins	Secondary Counselor	903-928-2965
Lisa Krumnow	CES Secretary	903-928-2295
Amanda Bennett	CMS Secretary	903-928-2699
Leticia Bird	CHS Secretary	903-928-2294
Jennifer Brown	PEIMS, Counselor Secretary	903-928-2965
Megan Humphreys	Superintendent's Secretary	903-928-2102
Kellie Gatewood	Business Director	903-928-2102
Jessica Gonzales	Human Resource	903-928-2102
Ashley Magee	Operations Coordinator	903-928-2102

HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

<i>*Corey Brown</i>	<i>Shawnta Knox</i>
<i>Tammi Conrad</i>	<i>Kayleigh Bryant</i>
<i>*Brianna Graham</i>	<i>Cody Smith</i>
<i>Christine Drinkard</i>	<i>Ricky Brooks</i>
<i>Megan Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Lynn Wicker</i>
<i>Erika Goolsby</i>	<i>*Emily Wilburn</i>
<i>David Moreno</i>	<i>Kyle Wilkins</i>
<i>*Shakeal Jenkins</i>	<i>Kristopher Bryant</i>
<i>Tony Humphreys</i>	<i>*Rodricka Bryant</i>
<i>*Jennifer Joslin</i>	<i>Craig Brown</i>

Danielle Boxie
Taylor Beall
Amber Fox
Jillian Cooper

*shared faculty between MS & HS

MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY

Kristen Hargrave
Kimberly Hillhouse
Christi Lee
Jill Hamil
Lori Higgins
Katie Holmes
Jade Gillespie
Sarah Walker
Jodi Walthall
****Nicklaus Powell***
Terri Singletary

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SUPPORT STAFF

Paraprofessional

Grace Gotcher
Jeannette Shead
Tanya Kennerk
Chelsey Henderson
Samantha Castillo
Jamie Ward

Maintenance/Custodial

Janet Turner
Sheri Christian
Ciara Hardy
Joseph Branson
Jason Henry
Terri Washington
Robert Stalvey
Dalton Gaines
Rusty Spears

Cafeteria

Paulina Aguinaga

Dixie Drinkard
Kim Kincaid
Racheal Stalvey
LaTrisha Taylor
Maria Vidal-Ortega

CMS Sponsors

6th Grade - Hargrave, Hamil, Lee
7th Grade - Gillespie, Higgins, Walthall
8th Grade - Holmes, Hillhouse, Walker, Singletary
MS Cheerleading – Ashley Magee
Robotics - Lori Higgins
Student Council – Laurie Jordan
U.I.L. Coordinator – Kimberly Hillhouse

HS Class Sponsors

Freshman: Jennifer Joslin, Nick Powell, Corey Brown, Tony Humphreys, Craig Brown, Jamie Ward
Sophomore: Shawnta Knox, Christine Drinkard, Taylor Beall, Tammi Conrad, Lynn Wicker, Cody Smith
Junior: Amber Fox, Kristen Mills, Jeannette Shead, David Moreno, Brianna Graham, Kyle Wilkins
Senior: Erika Goolsby, Megan Fitzgerald, Kayleigh Bryant, Kris Bryant, Emily Wilburn, Ricky Brooks
*****Bold** - represents lead sponsor***

Clubs and Sponsors

National Honor Society	Wicker
FCCLA	E. Goolsby
FFA	B. Graham / C. Brown
FCA	K. Bryant
Yearbook Staff	M. Fitzgerald
Cheerleaders	K. Bryant
Interact Club	L. Wicker
Student Council	L. Wicker
Bass Fishing	E. Goolsby
UIL	Drinkard, Wicker, Bryant

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

CAYUGA HIGH SCHOOL
OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL
P. O. Box 427
Cayuga, TX 75832

Dear Parents:

Supervision of students before and after school is a genuine concern to us. The buildings are not open, and there is no supervision provided before school opens. Therefore, we cannot assume responsibility for the safety and welfare of your son/daughter **before 7:30 a.m.** or **after 4:00 p.m.**

We are asking that you make a special effort to see that your child does not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. and is picked up by 4:00 p.m., unless he/she is transported by CISD buses. A thirty-minute curfew is in effect following the conclusion of any ball game or other event held at Cayuga High School. All students should be picked up on or off campus no later than thirty minutes after the event ends.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Zach Williams, Principal
Cayuga High School

Amy Kelley, Principal
Cayuga Middle School

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

<u>Regular Bell Schedule</u>		<u>Pep-Rally Bell Schedule</u>	
Tutorials/Breakfast	7:30 - 7:44	Tutorials/Breakfast	7:30 - 7:44
Release to Class	7:44	Release to Class	7:44
1st	7:49 - 8:38	1st	7:49 - 8:35
<u>MS Break</u>	8:38 - 8:48	<u>MS Break</u>	8:35 - 8:45
<u>MS 2nd</u>	8:52 - 9:41	<u>MS 2nd</u>	8:49 - 9:35
2nd	8:42 - 9:31	2nd	8:39 - 9:25
<u>Break</u>	9:31 - 9:41	<u>Break</u>	9:25 - 9:35
3rd	9:45 - 10:34	3rd	9:39 - 10:25
4th	10:38 - 11:27	4th	10:29 - 11:15
5th	11:31 - 12:20	5th	11:19 - 12:05
6th	12:24 - 1:13	6th	12:09 - 12:55
<u>Lunch</u>	1:13 - 1:44	<u>Lunch</u>	12:55 - 1:25
7th	1:48 - 2:37	7th	1:29 - 2:15
8th	2:41 - 3:30	8th	2:19 - 3:05
<u>Tutorials</u>	3:30 - 4:00	<u>Pep - Rally</u>	3:09 - 3:30

<u>Early Release / HS Semester Exam Schedule</u>	
Tutorials/Breakfast	7:30 - 7:44
Release to Class	7:44
1st /5th	7:49 - 8:49
2nd/6th	8:53 - 9:53
3rd/7th	9:57 - 10:57
4th/8th	11:01 - 12:01
<u>Lunch/Early Release</u>	12:01
Buses	12:15
No Break between 2nd/3rd	

School opens: 7:30 a.m.

Class begins: 7:49 a.m.

Eight period day: 49 minute classes with 4 minute passing periods

Class ends: 3:30 p.m.

School closes: 4:00 p.m. unless under teacher direction and supervision

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2026 – 2027 Report Card Dates

September 23, 2026

November 4, 2026

January 7, 2027

February 17, 2027

April 7, 2027

May 26, 2027

2026-2027 STAAR Testing Calendar

December EOC Retest (of 2026 Assessments)

Testing Window Opens December 2 through 12

Spring 2027 STAAR & EOC Testing

April 5 – 16 Testing Window: Grades 3-8 RLA, English I, and English II

April 12 – 23 Testing Window: Science Grades 5 and 8, Social Studies Grade 8, Biology, and U.S. History

April 19 – May 30 Testing Window: Mathematics Grades 3-8 and Algebra I

2027 EOC Retests

Week of June 14 - 25

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SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Scholarship information is periodically sent to the CHS senior counselor by various colleges, universities, and vocational training schools. Most university scholarships require a top 10 standing; however, other scholarships are also available. All scholarship information is announced in Senior English classes and a high school newsletter, upon receipt by the counselor, except those that are extended through committee selection. Deadlines for each scholarship vary. The student is responsible for contacting the counselor if he/she is interested in applying for a scholarship.

A few of the scholarships/awards available are:

UIL State Participants	US Army Scholar – Athlete
Supporters of Higher Learning	Area Go-Texan Scholarship
Memorial Scholarship	Henderson County Livestock Show
Army ROTC Scholarship	Navy/Marine ROTC Scholarship
Trinity Valley C. C. Music Scholarship	Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas
University of Texas Achievement Award	Cayuga I.S.D. Scholarship
Tyler Jr. College Music Scholarship	Texas A&M Former Student Assn. Scholarship
Anderson County Legal Secretaries' Assn.	Texas Army National Guard
Wiley College Grant-in-Aid	Palestine Evening Lions Club
Veterans of Foreign Wars – Post 3907	Southern Methodist University Alumni Award
Voice of Democracy Scholarship	Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship
Naval Reserve Officer Training Corp.	

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

Preface Parents and Students:

Welcome to the new school year!

Education is a team effort. Students, parents, teachers, and other staff members working together will make this a successful year.

The Cayuga School Student Handbook is a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

Section One: Parental Rights describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students is organized alphabetically by topic. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, the term “parent” refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Student Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Student Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the Cayuga School Student Code of Conduct. To review the Code of Conduct, visit the district’s website at www.cayugaisd.com. State law requires that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student Handbook is updated annually; however, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

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

A hard copy of either the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook can be requested at *Cayuga High School*.

Note: References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. The hard copy of the district’s official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at www.cayugaisd.com.

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The policy manual includes:

- Legally referenced (LEGAL) policies that contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts.
- Board-adopted (LOCAL) policies that articulate the board's choices and values regarding district practices.

For questions about the material in this handbook, please contact: Zach Williams, High School Principal, P.O. Box 427 Cayuga, TX. 75832, zwilliams@cayugaisd.com 903.928.2294 or Amy Kelley, Middle School Principal, P.O. Box 427 Cayuga, TX. 75832, akelley@cayugaisd.com 903.928.2294

Complete and return to the student's campus the following forms (provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment):

- Acknowledgment Form **OR** Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook],
- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information,
- 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
- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys.

[See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 18 and **Consent Required before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey** on page 20 for more information.]

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing this handbook because of a disability, please contact Zach Williams, High School Principal, P.O. Box 427 Cayuga, TX. 75832, zwilliams@cayugaisd.com 903.928.2294 or Amy Kelley, Middle School Principal, P.O. Box 427 Cayuga, TX. 75832, akelley@cayugaisd.com 903.928.2294

Cayuga ISD Secondary Student Handbook

Section One: Parental Rights

This section describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent.

Note: An evaluation may be legally required under special education rules or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the parent must give written consent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials.
- Remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 53 and FNG(LOCAL).

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

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice 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, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity.
- Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- 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.

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[See Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking on page 16.]

Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking

Before a student receives instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence and sex trafficking, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Students receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in the public domain used in this instruction will be posted on the district's website at the location indicated above.
- Remove his or her child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 53 and policy FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 15; **Dating Violence** on page 58; and **Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 43]

Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service

The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student or conduct a medical screening of a student as part of the district's intervention procedures except as permitted by law.

The district has established procedures for recommending to a parent an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns, substance abuse, or suicide risk. The district's mental health liaison will notify the student's parent within a reasonable amount of time after the liaison learns that a student has displayed early warning signs and provide information about available counseling options.

The district has also established procedures for staff to notify the mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention.

The mental health liaison can be reached at: Kenyetta Jenkins, Counselor, P. O. Box 427 Cayuga, Texas 75832, kjenkins@cayugaisd.com, 903.928.2102 and can provide further information regarding these procedures as well as educational materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on- and off-campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

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The mental health liaison can provide further information regarding these procedures as well as curriculum materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on and off campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

[See **Mental Health Support** on page 84.]

Consent to Display a Student's Original Works and Personal Information

Teachers may display a student's work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement without seeking prior parental consent. These displays may include personally identifiable student information. Student work includes:

- Artwork
- Special projects
- Photographs
- Original videos or voice recordings
- Other original works

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying a student's work on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district (such as a campus or classroom website), or in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if a Student is Under Age 14

A student under age 14 must have parental permission to participate in the district's [Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum>). This program was developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE) to be incorporated into health education classes.

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when the recording is to be used for:

- School Safety,
- Classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity,
- Media coverage of the school
- Promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

In other circumstances, the district will seek written parental consent before making a video or voice recording of a student.

Please note that parents and visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in person, may not record video or audio or take photographs or other still images without permission from the teacher or other school official.

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Opting Out of Advanced Mathematics in Grades 6-8

The district will automatically enroll a student in grade 6 in an advanced mathematics course if the student performed in the top 60 percent on the grade 5 mathematics STAAR or in the top 40 percent on a local measure that demonstrates proficiency in the student's grade 5 mathematics course work.

Enrollment in an advanced mathematics course in grade 6 will enable students to enroll in Algebra I in grade 8 and advanced mathematics in grades 9-12.

The student's parent may opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics course.

Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees

The district permits teachers and other approved employees to use electronic communications with students within the scope of professional responsibilities, as described by district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for his or her class to relay information regarding class work, homework, and tests. A parent is welcome to access such a page.

However, text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity must communicate with a student participating in that activity.

The employee is required to send a copy of the text message to the employee's district email address.

A parent who does not want his or her child to receive one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee should 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 student's education records without written consent.

"Directory information" is information that, if released, is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Examples include:

- A student's photograph (for publication in the school yearbook)
- A student's name and grade level (for communicating class and teacher assignments)
- The name, weight, and height of an athlete (for publication in a school athletic program)
- A list of student birthdays (for generating schoolwide or classroom recognition)
- A student's name and photograph (posted on a district-approved and -managed social media platform)
- 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.

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However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of this information. Any objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the student's first day of instruction for this school year. [See **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 release of directory information so that the district does not release any information that might reveal the location of such a shelter.

The district has identified the following as directory information:

- A student's photograph (for publication in the school yearbook);
- A student's name and grade level (for communicating class and teacher assignments);
- The name, weight, and height of an athlete (for publication in a school athletic program);
- A list of student birthdays (for generating schoolwide 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.)

If a parent objects to the release of the student's information included on the directory information response form, this objection also applies to the use of that information for school-sponsored purposes, such as:

- Honor roll
- School newspaper
- Yearbook
- Recognition activities
- News releases
- Athletic programs

Note: Also see **Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records** on page 23.

[Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education \(Secondary Grade Levels Only\)](#)

Unless a parent has advised the district not to release his or her student's information, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the district to comply with requests from military recruiters or institutions of higher education to provide the following information about students:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone listing

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Military recruiters may also have access to a student's district-provided email address, unless a parent has advised the district not to release this information.

[See **Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education**, included in the forms packet.]

Participation in Third-Party Surveys

CONSENT REQUIRED BEFORE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN A FEDERALLY FUNDED SURVEY

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents certain rights regarding participation in surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

A parent has the right to consent before a student is required to submit to a survey funded by the U.S. Department of Education that concerns any of the following protected areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family
- Sex behavior or attitudes
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, and ministers
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility for a program

A parent may inspect the survey or other instrument and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey. [See policy EF(LEGAL) for more information.]

"OPTING OUT" OF PARTICIPATION IN OTHER TYPES OF SURVEYS OR SCREENINGS AND THE DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The PPRA gives parents the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from the child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information to others.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student.

Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA for more information.]

A parent may inspect:

- Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

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The ED provides extensive information about the [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance>), including a [PPRA Complaint Form](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>).

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

See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 15 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16 for information on a parent's right to remove a student from such instruction.

Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3-12

State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes to provide the following:

- Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution
- A specific recitation from the Declaration of Independence for students in grades 3-12.

Per state law, a student may be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence if any of the following apply:

- A parent provides a written statement requesting that his or her child be excused.
- The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation.
- A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity.

[See policy EHBK(LEGAL) for more information.]

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

A parent may request that his or her 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 made in writing.

State law, however, requires that all students participate in one minute of silence following recitation of the pledges.

[See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 95 and policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

Religious or Moral Beliefs

A parent may remove his or her child temporarily from the classroom if a scheduled instructional activity conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs.

The removal may not be used to avoid a test and may not extend for an entire semester. The student must also satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

Tutoring or Test Preparation

A teacher may determine that a student needs additional targeted assistance for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills based on:

- Informal observations

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- Evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests
- Results from diagnostic assessments

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, districts must obtain parental permission before removing a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the days the class is offered.

If a district offers tutorial services to students, state law requires a student with a grade below 70 for a reporting period to attend.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs, contact the student's teacher and see policies EC and EHBC. See **Standardized Testing** on page 108 for information regarding required accelerated instruction after a student fails to perform satisfactorily on certain state-mandated tests.]

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

Parent Review of Instructional Materials and Plan

A parent has the 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, whether instruction is delivered in-person, virtually, or remotely.

The district will make instructional materials available for parent review no later than 30 days before the school year begins and for at least 30 days after the school year ends. However, tests that have not yet been administered will not be made available for parent examination.

The district will provide login credentials to each student's parent for any learning management system or online learning portal used in instruction to facilitate parent access and review.

A parent is also entitled to request that the school allow the student to take home instructional materials the student uses. The school may ask the student to return the materials at the beginning of the next school day.

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.

Teachers are required to provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class to the parent of each student enrolled in that class before the beginning of each semester. A parent may obtain additional copies of plan or syllabus by request.

[For information about parental access to any online library catalog and library materials, including records of their child's checked out library materials, see **Library (All Grade Levels)**.]

District Review of Instructional Materials

A parent may request that the district conduct an instructional material review in a math, English Language Arts, science, or social studies class in which the parent's student is enrolled to determine alignment with state standards and the level of rigor for the grade level.

The district is not required to conduct an instructional material review for a specific subject area or grade level at a specific campus more than once per school year.

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For more information about requesting an instructional material review, contact the campus principal.

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 the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LEGAL) for more information.]

Participation in Federally Required, State-Mandated, and District Assessments

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to his or her child's participation in required assessments.

Student Records

ACCESSING STUDENT RECORDS

A parent may review his or her child's 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 the child, as the term "intervention strategy" is defined by law
- Records relating to school library materials the child obtains from a school library [See **Library (All Grade Levels) for more information.**]
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child
- Teaching materials and tests used in the child's classroom

AUTHORIZED INSPECTION AND USE OF STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding student education records.

For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is anyone age 18 or older or who attends a postsecondary educational institution. These rights, as discussed here and at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 18, are the right to:

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- Inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
- Request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA.
- 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.
- [File a complaint](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>) with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements.

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 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 restricted to an eligible student or a student's parent unless the school receives a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records. A parent's rights regarding access to student records are not affected by the parent's marital status.

Federal law requires that control of the records goes to the student as soon as the student meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Reaches the age of 18;
- Is emancipated by a court
- Enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution.

However, the parent may continue to have access to the records 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 when school officials have what federal law refers to as a "legitimate educational interest" in a student's records.

Legitimate educational interest may include:

- 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
- Investigating or evaluating programs

School officials may include:

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- Board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals
- Teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or medical staff)
- A person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a specific 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 team to support the district's safe and supportive school program
- A parent or student serving on a school committee
- A parent or student assisting a school official perform of his or her duties

FERPA also permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information without written consent:

- 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, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or, in certain cases, other child welfare representatives.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, district/system, or postsecondary educational institution to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which the student already is enrolled.
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school 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 directory information-designated details. [See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 18 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 superintendent 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 wants to inspect the student's records should submit a written request to the custodian of records identifying the records he or she wants to inspect.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will be available to explain the record and to answer questions.

A parent or eligible student who submits a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours

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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 the records.

You may contact the custodian of records for currently enrolled students at: Dr. Joe E Satterwhite, Superintendent Cayuga School, PO Box 427, Cayuga, Tx. 75832.
jsatterwhite@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

You may contact the custodian of records for students who have withdrawn or graduated at: Dr. Joe E Satterwhite, Superintendent Cayuga School, PO Box 427, Cayuga, Tx. 75832.
jsatterwhite@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

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 custodian of records. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information 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 after the hearing the records are not amended, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to place a statement 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 complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a teacher can be changed only if the board of trustees determines that the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading guidelines.

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 97, **Complaints and Concerns** on page 53, and Finality of Grades at policy FNG(LEGAL).]

The district's student records policy is found at policy FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) and is available at the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at www.cayugaisd.com.

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

Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications

A parent may request information regarding the professional qualifications of his or her child's teachers, including whether the teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and
- Is currently teaching in the field or discipline of his or her certification.

The parent also has the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to the child.

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A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances

Children of Military Families

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

(<https://www.dodea.edu/partnership/interstatecompact.cfm>) entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Enrollment in the virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school
- Graduation requirements

The district will excuse absences related to a student visiting a parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who is:

- Called to active duty
- On leave
- Returning from a deployment of at least four months

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](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources) (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources>).

Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments

MULTIPLE-BIRTH SIBLINGS

State law permits a parent of multiple-birth siblings (for example, twins, triplets) assigned to the same grade and campus to request in writing that the children be placed in either the same classroom or separate classrooms.

Written requests must be submitted by the 14th day after the students' enrollment. [See policy FDB(LEGAL) for more information.]

SAFETY TRANSFERS/ASSIGNMENTS

The board or its designee will honor a parent's request to transfer his or her child to another classroom or campus if the district has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832.

The board may transfer a student who has engaged in bullying to another classroom.

[See **Bullying** on page 38, and policies FDB and FFI for more information.]

The district will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her child to a safe public school in the district if the child attends a school identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

[See policy FDE for more information.]

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The board will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her child to a neighboring district if the child has been the victim of 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 the assault. In accordance with policy FDE, if the victim does not wish to transfer, the board will transfer the assailant.

Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a written request 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.

A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment, to 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).

A student in the conservatorship (custody) of the state who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year.

The district will assess the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district.

The district will award partial course credit when the student only passes one half of a two-half course. [For provisions on partial course credit for students who are not in the conservatorship of the state, see EI(LOCAL).]

A student in the conservatorship of the state who is moved outside the district's or school's attendance boundaries — or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and moved outside the district's or school's boundaries — is entitled to remain at the school the student was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at that particular school.

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 a diploma from the previous district if the student meets its graduation criteria.

For a student in the conservatorship of the state who is eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under state law and likely to be in care on the day preceding the student's 18th birthday, the district will:

- Assist the student with the completion of applications for admission or financial aid.
- Arrange and accompany the student on campus visits.
- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships.
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a military academy.
- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including (subject to the availability of funds) arranging for the payment of examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

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- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students formerly in the conservatorship of the state.

If you have questions, please contact the district's foster care liaison: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, P.O Box 427 Cayuga, Texas 75832. bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2294.

[See **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 57 and **Course Credit** on page 56.]

A Student Who Is Homeless

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.

A student who is 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 at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules
- Assessment of the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one half of a two-half course
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities
- Graduation requirements

Federal law allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in 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.

For more information on services for students who are homeless, contact the district's homeless education liaison: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, P.O Box 427 Cayuga, Texas 75832. bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2294.

[See **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 57 and **Course Credit** on page 56.]

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A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs 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 through the district's multi-tier system of academic and behavioral supports (MTSS). The provision of these intervention and support services, which might include (RTI) process, can have an impact on the ability of district to meet the needs of all 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](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications) (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications). If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Note: 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](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications) (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications).

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CONTACT PERSON FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRALS

The designated contact person regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, P.O Box 427 Cayuga, Texas 75832. bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2294.

For questions regarding post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district's transition and employment designee: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, P.O Box 427 Cayuga, Texas 75832. bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2294.

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
- 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: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, P.O Box 427 Cayuga, Texas 75832. bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2294.

[See **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 32.]

Visit these websites for information regarding students with disabilities and the family:

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal?destination=/) (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal?destination=/)
- [Partner Resource Network](http://prntexas.org/) (<http://prntexas.org/>)
- [SPEDTEX: Special Education Information Center](https://www.spedtex.org/) (<https://www.spedtex.org/>)
- [Texas First Project](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/) (<http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>)
- [TEA Special Education Parent and Family Resources](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/sped-family-resources-0) (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/sped-family-resources-0>)

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS OF INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PROVIDED TO STUDENTS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

In accordance with state law, the district will annually notify parents if their child receives assistance for learning difficulties. Details of such assistance can include intervention strategies. This notice is not intended for those students already enrolled in a special education program.

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A Student Who Receives 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, state law permits the parent or guardian to request that other students residing in the household be transferred to the same campus — if the grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus.

The student receiving special education services would be entitled to transportation; however, the district is not required to provide transportation to other children in the household.

The parent or guardian should contact the school principal regarding transportation needs prior to requesting a transfer for other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

A Student Who Speaks 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 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.

[See **Emergent Bilingual Students** on page 65 and **Special Programs** on page 107.]

A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504

A student with 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 whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined in federal law.

Texas Driving with Disability Program

In accordance with state law, the district will provide notification of the Texas Driving with Disability Program to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and receive special education or are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This notification will be provided annually to an eligible student aged 16 years or older until the student's graduation or 21st birthday and to the student's parents.

The Texas Driving with Disability Program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities that have unique communication needs.

[See **A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services** on page 30 and policy FB for more information.]

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Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students

This section contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements.

It is organized alphabetically to serve as a quick-reference guide. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Parents and children should take a moment together to become familiar with the issues addressed in this section. For guidance on a particular topic, please contact the principal

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws are discussed below — one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit.

Compulsory Attendance

AGES 6-18

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall 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 a student in kindergarten-grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on an applicable subject area state assessment.

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 the student incurs 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 for more information.]

Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions

ALL GRADE LEVELS

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements, as long as the student makes up all work, for the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Appearing at a governmental office to obtain U.S. citizenship
- Taking part in a US naturalization oath ceremony

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- Serving as an election clerk
- Health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services and mental health appointments
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician on the district's form
- Absences for attendance in a released time course in religious instruction
- For students in the conservatorship of the state:
 - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
 - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.

For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments. [See **Children of Military Families** on page 27.]

Note that documented health-care appointments may include telehealth appointments. Students who are physically on campus will not be allowed to participate in telehealth or other online appointments without specific authorization from an appropriate administrator. Students should not use district-issued technology, including Wi-Fi or internet, for telehealth appointments because use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and may be monitored by the district. For more information, see **Telecommunication and Other Electronic Devices** on page 60.

SECONDARY GRADE LEVELS

The district will allow a student who is 15 years of age or older to be absent for one day to obtain a learner license and one day to obtain a driver's license, provided that the board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL). The student will be required to provide documentation of his or her visit to the driver's license office for each absence and must make up any work missed.

[See **Driver License Attendance Verification** on page 37.]

The district will allow junior and senior students to be absent for up to two days per year to visit a college or university if the following conditions are met:

- The board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL).
- The principal has approved the student's absence.
- The student follows campus procedures to verify the visit and makes up any work missed.

The district will allow a student 17 years old or older to be absent for up to four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school to pursue enlistment in the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year for a career investigation day to visit a professional at that individual's workplace to determine the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days per school year to serve as:

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- 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; or
- An election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

The district will allow a student in grades 6-12 to be absent for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran.

Compulsory Attendance — Failure to Comply

ALL GRADE LEVELS

School employees must investigate and report violations of the compulsory attendance law.

A student who is absent without permission from school, any class, any required special program, or any required tutorial 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 or Section 504 committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a reevaluation, and/or modifications to the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

AGES 6-18

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall 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.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer of the student does not meet the passing standards on an applicable subject area state assessment.

When a student age 6-18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period, the law requires the school to send notice to the parent.

The notice will:

- Remind the parent of his or her duty to monitor the student's attendance and require the student to attend school.
- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent.
- Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or other social services, or other appropriate measures.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is: Zach Williams, High School Principal, zwilliams@cayugaisd.com, P.O. Box 427, Cayuga, TX. 75832. 903-928-2102 or Amy Kelley, Middle School Principal, akelley@cayugaisd.com, PO Box 427, Cayuga, TX. 75832.

For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

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A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

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

[See policies FEA(LEGAL) and FED(LEGAL) for more information.]

AGE 19 AND OLDER

After a student age 19 or older incurs a third unexcused absence, the district is required by law to send the student a letter 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.

Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)

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

If a student attends fewer than 75 percent of the class days or does not complete the principal-approved plan, then the attendance review committee will determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade. [See policy FEC for more information.]

Except for absences due to serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment, all absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student's attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, the principal or attendance committee will consider:

- Whether the student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- Whether the student has completed makeup work satisfactorily. If the student completes makeup work, absences listed under **Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions** on page 34 and absences for extracurricular activities will be considered extenuating circumstances.
- Whether the student or the student's parent had any control over the absences.
- Any information presented by the student or parent to the committee about the absences.

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

Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)

The district will take official attendance every day at 10:00 a.m...

A student absent for any portion of the day, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

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Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)

A parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent. The campus may accept a phone call from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note.

A note signed by the student will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Note: The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

Doctor's Note after an Absence for Illness (All Grade Levels)

Within *three (3)* days of returning to school, a student who is absent for more than five (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 absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and 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 absence to determine whether an absence will be excused or unexcused.

CERTIFICATION OF ABSENCE DUE TO SEVERE ILLNESS OR TREATMENT

If a student is absent because of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, a parent must provide certification from a physician licensed to practice in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of absence related to the illness or treatment on the district's form. A parent may access the required form by visiting the school website at cayugaisd.com or by requesting it from the student's campus office.

Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A currently enrolled student seeking a driver's license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus central office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The [VOE form](https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf) (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf>) is available online.

Further information may be found on the [Texas Department of Public Safety website](https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen) (<https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-apply-texas-driver-license-teen>).

See **Compulsory Attendance — Exemptions for Secondary Grade Levels** on page 33 for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver's license.

Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)

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

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- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), based on academic factors and ratings
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district, compiled by TEA
- The district's financial management report, which includes the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA
- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law

Accountability information can be found on the district's website at www.cayugaisd.com. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at [TEA Performance Reporting Division](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting) (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting>).

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10-12)

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.

The test shall be offered in the fall and will be in the High School Gym.

Contact the principal for information about this opportunity.

Awards and Honors (All Grade Levels)

During the Annual Sports Banquet, awards will be announced for each varsity sport. Rules and procedures for selecting the player awards will be determined by the head coach of each sport. These rules and procedures must be approved by the athletic director and high school principal. In order to be eligible for an award, an athlete must have attended Cayuga ISD for the duration of the sport season they are being considered for the award.

Letter jackets will be awarded based upon successful completion of two varsity level activities within the same year, or two years of varsity level participation in the same activity. Activities include UIL academics, band, athletics, powerlifting, cheerleading, or competitive fishing. These guidelines are written and each sponsor, director, coach, etc. shall approve students who receive letter jackets. Wearing a letter jacket should be considered an extension of school spirit and should be worn with respect and pride.

Bullying (All Grade Levels)

The district strives to prevent bullying, in accordance with the district's policies, by promoting a positive school culture; building healthy relationships between students and staff; encouraging reporting of bullying incidents, including anonymous reporting; and investigating and addressing reported bullying incidents.

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:

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- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or 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 or 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
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done using any electronic communication device, including:

- A cellular or other type of telephone
- A computer
- A camera
- Electronic mail
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- A social media application
- An internet website
- Any other internet-based communication tool

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
- Ostracism

The district will integrate into instruction research-based content designed to reduce bullying that is appropriate for students' age groups.

Students in secondary grades will participate in:

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- Instruction on the brain's ability to change and grow so the student recognizes bullying behavior can come from a developmental need to acquire more social skills, can change when the brain matures and learns better ways of coping, and is not an unchangeable trait
- Discussions that portray bullying as undesirable behavior and a means for attaining or maintaining social status at school, and that discourage students from using bullying as a tool for social status
- Instruction designed so that students recognize the role that reporting bullying behaviors plays in promoting a safe school community

The district will use an age-appropriate survey regarding school culture that includes relevant questions on bullying to identify and address student concerns.

Each campus has a committee that addresses bullying by focusing on prevention efforts and health and wellness initiatives. The committee will include parents and secondary students. For more information on this committee, including interest in serving on the committee, contact the campus principal.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or witnesses the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Any district employee aware of a report of a bullying incident will relay the report to an appropriate administrator. Procedures for reporting allegations of bullying may be found on the district's website.

A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by clicking [Bullying Report](#).

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and 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.

If an investigation determines that bullying occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may, in certain circumstances, notify law enforcement. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct meet the definition of bullying.

The district will provide research-based interventions, which may include counseling options, for students who engage in bullying behaviors, students who are targeted by bullying behaviors, and any student who witnessed bullying behaviors.

Any action taken in response to bullying will comply with state and federal law regarding students with disabilities.

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

Upon recommendation of the administration, the board may transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the board may transfer the student to another campus in the district.

The parent of a student who has been determined to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 27.]

A copy of the district's bullying 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 as an appendix.

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

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 27, **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 58, **Hazing** on page 79, 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.]

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Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas:

- Nursing Science.
- Law Enforcement
- Animal Science
- Applied Agriculture Engineering
- Teaching and Training (Education)
- Family and Community Services
- Welding

Admission to these programs is based on differing criteria for each pathway. See your counselor for details.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups 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.

District policy also prohibits discrimination 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.

The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and the ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

[See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 93 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator.]

Celebrations (All Grade Levels)

Although a parent or grandparent may provide food to share for a school-designated function or for a student's birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Discuss any classroom allergies with the teacher before bringing food to share.

Occasionally, the school or a class may host functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers to provide food.

[See **Food Allergies** on page 86.]

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Child Abuse, Neglect, School Staff Misconduct, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, neglect, school staff misconduct, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, which may be initiated by contacting the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)/Child Protective Services (CPS). The plan is available at [District Improvement Plan](#). Abuse includes physical abuse, including sexual abuse, and mental and emotional abuse. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

Duty to Report

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS). See below information about how to report and respond to allegations or child abuse or neglect

Possible Warning Signs of Child Abuse, Neglect, School Staff Misconduct, Trafficking and Other maltreatment of Children

Physical Abuse

Possible warning signs of physical abuse include:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations.
- Frequent complaints of pain without apparent injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns or any part of the body
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Extreme fear or going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Sexual Abuse

Possible warning signs of sexual abuse include:

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
- Sexual comments, behaviors, or play beyond what is considered age-appropriate behavior
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age

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- Sexual victimization of other children

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) and Consent to Instruction on Prevention of child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking]

Emotional Abuse

Possible warning signs of emotional abuse include:

- Over-compliance or low self-esteem caused by scapegoating or verbal abuse by caregivers
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Lag in physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Indicators of a caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child's problems
- Significant changes to behavior, such as withdrawal or over-aggression
- Significant changes to weight, such as substantial weight gain or weight loss.

Neglect

Possible warning signs of neglect include:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Consistent lack of personal hygiene that poses a health risk
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Unaddressed need for dental care or other medical attention

School Staff Misconduct

Possible warning signs of school staff misconduct include:

- In appropriate boundaries or communications with a student, including inappropriate relationships
- Violating school or district communication policies, such as improper use of messaging apps or social media
- Show favoritism toward certain students in a way that compromises fairness or student well being
- Creating, using, or sharing inappropriate AI-generated images involving students or staff
- Neglecting, abusing, or physically harming a student
- Providing alcohol or drugs to a student

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- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while on school property or during school activities
- Possessing a weapon on school property or during school activities
- Committing a felony
- Engaging in fraudulent or deceptive practices involving the school system or State Board of Education Certification (SBEC)

Description and Warning Signs of Trafficking

Child 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. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services.

Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches. Some traffickers contact 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, friends, and community
- Older romantic partners

Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

- Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit
- Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students
- Owning a large debt and being unable to pay it off
- Not being allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours
- Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss
- Not being in control of his or her own money
- Living with an employer or having an employer listed as a student's caregiver

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- A desire to quit a job but not being allowed to do so

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16.]

Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

A child who has experienced any type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a parent or trusted adult. Children may be more reluctant to disclose abuse and may only disclose sexual abuse indirectly. As a parent or trusted adult, 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.

If your child is a victim of abuse, neglect, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see [Family Support Services Program Locator \(https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp\)](https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp)

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at 1-800-252-5400 or on the web at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website \(www.txabusehotline.org\)](http://www.txabusehotline.org).

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

The following websites include resources to help increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- [Child Welfare Information Gateway \(https://www.childwelfare.gov/\)](https://www.childwelfare.gov/)
- [KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse \(https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html\)](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html)
- [Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team \(https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking\)](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking)
- [Human Trafficking of School-aged Children \(https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children\)](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children)
- [Child Sexual Abuse: A Parental Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault \(https://taasa.org/product/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide/\)](https://taasa.org/product/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide/)
- [National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Human Trafficking in America's Schools \(https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/documents/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-americas-schools.pdf\)](https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/documents/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-americas-schools.pdf)

Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The District shall apply the same rules for class rank calculation and local graduation honors to all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student entered grade 9 or the graduation program under which the student completes requirements for graduation.

CALCULATION

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12, unless excluded below.

EXCLUSIONS

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The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by an assigned remediation or tutoring course; a local credit course; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; and credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

In addition, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned through distance learning, unless the grade is earned in a distance learning course either assigned to the student by the District or offered as a course option along with traditional District courses.

WEIGHTED GRADE SYSTEM

The District shall categorize and weigh eligible courses as Honors and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy. Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit courses, or other courses locally designated as Honors courses in the student handbook shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses.

All other eligible courses shall be designated as Regular courses.

The District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following scale:

Honors Course: plus ten Regular Course: plus zero

The District shall record weighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

TRANSFERRED GRADES

When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar or equivalent courses are offered to the same class of students in the District.

LOCAL GRADUATION HONORS

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose. GPA shall include second semester weighted dual credit scores. [See EIC (LOCAL)]

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class ranking as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognition and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC (LEGAL)]

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must attend Cayuga High School for at least two years of the student's career and all of the student's senior year must be at Cayuga High School. The honors shall be based upon grade points earned from freshman year through the fifth six weeks of the senior year, plus any dual credit college scores.

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To determine GPA, class ranking, and recipients of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards, school personnel will use numeric grades earned for all courses taken during their Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior year. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the two years preceding graduation and must have completed the Recommended Program, Distinguished Achievement Program, or the Foundation Program with the Distinguished Level of Achievement for graduation and must be graduating in exactly eight semesters. To be ranked in the top 10% of a graduating class, students must be on the recommended or distinguished graduation program.

Grades will be recorded on the report card and transcript. Any AP, honors course or dual credit class points will be added and averaged behind the scene. The points will not appear on the transcript or report card.

HIGHEST RANKING GRADUATE

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the scholarship certificate from the state of Texas.

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages after calculation to a sufficient number of decimal places, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

HONOR GRADUATES

The District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has completed a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90 and completed at least four academic courses each semester for the two school years preceding graduation.

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 during the 2014–15 school year, the District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement with a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90 and completed at least four academic courses each semester for the two school years preceding graduation.

GRADE POINT AVERAGES

Total grade points divided by number of semesters attempted (include courses failed)

1. Grade points will be issued according to subjects taken and the semester grades earned in the same subjects. PE equivalent credits include 1st semester marching band, tennis, baseball, or any activity course.

2. A fall (1st) semester of band will apply to the PE waiver (credit). A spring (2nd) semester of band will be considered as Fine Arts or an elective credit and will be included in the GPA.

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3. Classes taken prior to high school enrollment that are included as high school credit will not be included in the GPA. Example: When a student takes Algebra I in the 8th grade, he/she will be given credit, but it will not be reflected in his/her GPA.

4. Senior GPA's and ranks are checked after the end of the 5th six weeks and foreign exchange students will not be ranked.

5. If a student drops a weighted course or is removed from a weighted course during the semester, the grade of any prior six weeks remains as recorded. [See policy EIC for more information.]

Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

All students are expected to attend school for the entire school day and maintain a full class schedule. Exceptions may be made occasionally by the campus principal for students in grades 9-12 who meet specific criteria and receive parental consent to enroll in less than a full-day schedule.

[See **Schedule Changes** on page 102 for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)

For two school years following graduation, a district student who graduates as valedictorian or in the top ten 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 [see **Foundation Graduation Program** on page 73]; or
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.
- Beginning in the fall of 2028, achieves a score set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on a college entrance examination designated by coordinating board rules.

The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the admission requirements of the university or college, including timely submission of a completed application.

If a college or university adopts 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.

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of automatically admitted students to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. From the summer/fall 2026 term through the spring 2027 term, the University will admit the top five percent of a high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

As required by law, the district will provide written notice concerning the following:

- Automatic college admission
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid

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- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program, which requires a student to provide an official copy of assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required for early graduation under the program
- The Texas First Scholarship Program
- The Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program

Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment 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** on page 46 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** on page 72 for information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)** on page 28 for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Students in grades 9-12 may earn college credit through the following opportunities:

- 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 AP or dual credit courses through the virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC), which may be offered on or off campus
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities

Under the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, a student may be eligible to enroll at no cost to the student in dual credit courses at a participating institution of higher education. The FAST program allows students who are or have been educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four years preceding the student's enrollment in a dual credit course to enroll at no cost to the student. The district will determine eligibility upon the student's enrollment in the dual credit course. See the high school counselor for more information.

A student may be eligible for subsidies based on financial need for AP or IB exam fees. See **Fees (All Grade Levels)** on page 67 for more information.

A student may also earn college credit for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. See **Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)** on page 42 for information on CTE and other work-based programs.

For dual credit purposes, all 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.

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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.

Dual Credit Classes

A dual credit class is a designated college class for credit that may be taken in place of the regular high school course. Please be advised that all high school students who are planning to enroll in dual-credit or college classes for Distinguished purposes at TVCC are responsible for completing and passing with an 80 or better in the enrolled course(s). Otherwise, a student will receive the grade they make plus 10 additional points on their transcript. If the student withdraws from the class, or fails the class, no credit will be given. If a student enrolls for dual-credit purposes and receives a failing grade, that grade, plus the 10 weighted points, will be placed on their transcript and averaged into their GPA. If a student withdraws from any dual credit course, the grade plus 10 points, at the withdrawal date will transfer to their equivalent enrolled high school class. This has important implications for graduating seniors, as some dual credit classes replace required high school courses which must be passed in order to graduate.

The students will have several options to obtain dual credit:

- Option 1 – Students will enroll in on-line classes only and be assigned a class period designated as college class time at Cayuga High School.
- Option 2 - Students will enroll in a dual credit college class and attend after school hours and or non-school days.
- Option 3 – Students will take dual credit class at Cayuga High School taught by a TVCC instructor.

Students who enroll in dual credit classes receive a dual credit exemption per semester hour for a three-hour course. Cayuga I.S.D. will pay a portion of the out-of-district fees of students who reside within Cayuga I.S.D. The amount paid by the district may vary from year to year based on the fees established by TVCC. Students residing within the TVCC tax-paying district will be responsible for their tuition and fees.

Students who fail and/or withdraw from a course whose out-of-district fees have been paid by Cayuga ISD, will be required to pay the entire amount of tuition and fees the next semester in which they enroll. In addition, a student who fails a college class will be required to meet before a TVCC dual credit committee to be reinstated.

Students classified as sophomore, juniors and or seniors may be granted credit for college courses taken at Trinity Valley Community college to fulfill credit for high under the following provisions:

1. Must have passed or be TSI exempt.
2. Must have approval from the principal.
3. Provide an affirmation in writing from the parents or guardian to the principal or counselor that the student has parental permission to take college courses.
4. Must have a passing grade of 80 or better in all subjects at Cayuga I.S.D or individual approval by the counselor and principal.
5. The grade must be a minimum of "C" to qualify for high school credit.
6. Ten points will be added to the grade that they receive in the class.

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7. Qualifying courses for dual credit are listed by graduation cohort.
8. Dual credit courses taken outside of Core Complete, Associate Degree and/or to satisfy endorsement requirements will not be weighted in the student's GPA.

Core Complete (44 hrs)

TVCC Course	TVCC COURSE DESCRIPTION	CAYUGA HS COURSE/EQUIVALENT
MATH 1314*	COLLEGE ALGEBRA	PRE-CAL A
MATH 1342*	STATISTICS	PRE-CAL B
MATH 1324	BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCE	5 TH HS MATH (STEM ENDORSEMENT)
MATH 1325	BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCE	5 TH HS MATH (STEM ENDORSEMENT)
ENGL 1301	ENGLISH COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC	ENGLISH 3 A
ENGL 1302	ENGLISH COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE	ENGLISH 3 B
ENGL 2322*	SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I	ENGLISH 4 A OR 4 B
ENGL 2323*	SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE II	ENGLISH 4 A OR 4 B
ENGL 2332	SURVEY OF WORLD LITERATURE I	ENGLISH 4 A OR 4 B
ENGL 2333	SURVEY OF WORLD LITERATURE II	ENGLISH 4 A OR 4 B
HIST 1301	US HISTORY TO 1877	US HISTORY A
HIST 1302	US HISTORY FROM 1877	US HISTORY B
GOVT 2305	US GOVT AND CONSTITUTIONS	GOVERNMENT (1/2 CREDIT)
GOVT 2306	TEXAS GOVT AND CONSTITUTIONS	GOVERNMENT (HS ELECTIVE ½ CREDIT)
ECON 2301	PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS	ECONOMICS
SPCH 1315	PUBLIC SPEAKING	SPEECH ½ CREDIT
ART 1303*	ART HISTORY	FINE ART
ART 1304*	ART HISTORY	FINE ART
BIO 1406	SCIENCE MAJOR	HS SCIENCE (4 TH or 5 TH) STEM ENDOR.
BIO 1407	SCIENCE MAJOR	HS SCIENCE (4 TH or 5 TH) STEM ENDOR.
BIO 1408	NON-SCIENCE MAJOR	HS SCIENCE (4 TH or 5 TH) STEM ENDOR.
BIO 1409	NON-SCIENCE MAJOR	HS SCIENCE (4 TH or 5 TH) STEM ENDOR.

(*To complete HS requirement)

Students may take additional dual credit electives to complete their **Associate Degree**: See Counselor for specific course list and requirements.

Non-weighted Dual Credit Classes

TVCC Dual Arc Welding Certificate Program (3 year program)

WLDG 1323	Welding, Safety tools, & Equipment	10TH GRADE FALL
WLDG 1317	Introduction to Layout & Fabrication	10TH GRADE SPRING
WLDG 1353	Intermediate Layout & Fabrication	11 th Grade Fall
WLDG 1428	Introduction to Shielded Metal Arc Welding	11 th Grade Fall
WLDG 1407	Introduction to Welding Using Multiple Processes	11 th Grade Spring
WLDG 1457	Intermediate Shielded Metal Arc Welding	11 th Grade Spring
WLDG 1202	Fundamentals of Gas Metal Arc Welding	12 th Grade Fall
WLDG 1430	Introduction to Gas Metal Arc Welding	12 th Grade Fall
WLDG 1206	Fundamentals of Gas Tungsten Arc Welding	12 th Grade Spring
WLDG 2443	Advanced Shielded Metal Arc Welding	12 th Grade Spring

TVCC Health Science Certificate Program

Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)

Certified Medical Assistant (CCMA)

HPRS 1105	Essentials of Medical Law/Ethics for Health Professionals	11 th Grade Fall
NURA 1307	Body Systems	11 th Grade Fall
MDCA 1317	Procedures in a Clinical Setting	11 th Grade Spring
MDCA 1452	Medical Assistant Laboratory Procedures	11 th Grade Spring
MDCA 1348	Pharmacology & Administration of Medication	12 th Grade Fall
MDCA 1313	Medical Terminology	10 th /12 th Grade Fall

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MDCA 1160
MDCA 1254

Clinical Medical/Clinical Assistant
Medical Assistant Credential Exam Review (Capstone Course) 12th Grade Spring

12th Grade Spring

Communications (All Grade Levels)

Parent Contact Information

A parent is legally required to provide in writing the parent's contact information, including address, phone number, and email address.

A parent must provide the contact information to the district upon enrollment and again within two weeks after the beginning of each following school year while the student is enrolled in the district.

If the parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must update the information in writing no more than two weeks after the date the information changes.

A parent may update contact information by visiting the campus office of your student.

Automated Emergency Communications

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 situation may include early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to the campus due to severe weather, another emergency, or a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes.

[See **Safety** on page 94 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

Automated Nonemergency Communications

Your child's school periodically sends information by automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or email communications that are closely related to the school's mission and specific to your child, your child's school, or the district.

Standard messaging rates of your wireless phone carrier may apply.

If you do not wish to receive such communications, please contact your child's principal. [See **Safety** on page 98 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency.]

Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)

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 informally, the board has adopted a Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances policy at FNG(LOCAL) in accordance with Education Code Chapter 26A. This policy describing the grievance process in detail is available can be viewed in the district's online policy manual, available online at www.cayugaisd.com and is attached to this handbook as an appendix. A parent may file a grievance by submitting the district grievance form to the campus principal. The district's grievance forms are available on the district's website at cayugaisd.com and at the principal's or superintendent's office. A parent may also submit a grievance electronically by emailing the relevant campus administrator's email.

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In general, the written grievance form should be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.

If the concern is not resolved, a parent or student may appeal to the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

If the concern is still unresolved, the district provides a process for parents and students to appeal to the board of trustees.

Hearings at each level will be conducted in accordance with the timelines established by law described in the district's policy at FNG(LOCAL).

Conduct (All Grade Levels)

Applicability of School Rules

The board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that defines standards of acceptable behavior — on and off campus, during remote and in-person instruction, and on district vehicles — and outlines 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 summer instruction, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school 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

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 contact information for each campus behavior coordinator is available on the district's website at www.cayugaisd.com and the coordinator for this campus is listed below: Zach Williams, High School Principal, P.O. Box 427 Cayuga, TX. 75832, zwilliams@cayugaisd.com 903.928.2294 or Amy Kelley, Middle School Principal, P.O. Box 427 Cayuga, TX. 75832, akelley@cayugaisd.com 903.928.2294

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.

Disruption of School Operations

Disruption of school operations is not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by state law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.
- 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.

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- 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 or within 500 feet of district property includes:

- Making loud noises
- Trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity
- 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 is also considered a disruption.

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 and will not be readmitted.

A parent interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events should contact the campus principal.

Counseling

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

- A guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives
- A responsive services component to intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk
- An individual planning system to guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development
- Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students

The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available to parents to review during school hours.

Academic Counseling

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADE LEVELS

The school counselor will provide information to students and parents about college and university admissions and the importance of planning for postsecondary education, including appropriate coursework and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction on how best to prepare for high school, college, and a career.

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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, how to make the most of academic and career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, and the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counselor will also provide information each year a student is enrolled in high school regarding:

- The importance of postsecondary education
- The advantages of earning an endorsement and completing the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement
- The disadvantages of pursuing a high school equivalency exam (GED) as opposed to earning a high school diploma
- Financial aid eligibility and how to apply for financial aid
- Automatic admission to state-funded Texas colleges and universities
- Eligibility requirements for the TEXAS Grant
- Availability of district programs that allow students to earn college credit
- Availability of tuition and fee assistance for postsecondary education for students in foster care
- Availability of college credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military service members for military experience, education, and training

Additionally, the school counselor can provide information about workforce opportunities after graduation or technical and trade school opportunities, including opportunities to earn industry-recognized certificates and licenses.

[See **Scholarships and Grants** on page 79 for more information.]

Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and family concerns, including emotional or mental health issues and substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should reach out and make an appointment. 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 **Mental Health Support** on page 75, and **Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, School Staff Misconduct, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 43 and **Dating Violence** on page 584.]

Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-part (two-semester, 1-credit course), the student's

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grades from both halves (semesters) will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. If the student's combined average is less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

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 examination approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a non-accredited school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

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

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

[See the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

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

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level.

The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees. Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district's website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window.

The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.

If a student plans to take an examination, the student or parent must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [See policy EHDC for more information.]

Students in Grades 6-12

A student in grade 6 or above is eligible to earn course credit meets one of the following requirements:

- A passing score of at least 80 on an examination approved by the board; or
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program
- (CLEP); or

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- A score of 3 or higher on an AP examination, as applicable.

A student may take an examination 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.

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)

Students learn best, and their welfare is best served, in a school environment that is free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Students are expected to treat peers and district employees with courtesy and respect, avoid offensive behaviors, and stop those behaviors as directed. District employees are likewise expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly address inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, 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 [See policy FFH for more information.]

Dating Violence

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence, see **Reporting Procedures**, on page 60.

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 or any of the person's past or subsequent partners. This type of conduct is considered harassment if it is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a 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 die by suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship
- Threats to harm a student's past or current dating partner
- Attempts to isolate the student from friends and family
- Stalking
- Encouraging others to engage in these behaviors

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In accordance with law, when the district receives a report of dating violence, a district official will immediately notify the parent of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator.

The counselor's office has information about the dangers of dating violence and resources for seeking help.

For more information on dating violence, see:

- Texas Attorney General's office [recognizing and responding to dating violence flier](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf>)
- The CDC's [Preventing Teen Dating Violence](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html>)

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16.]

Discrimination

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, 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 a 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
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property

Sexual Harassment and Sex-Based Harassment

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

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature
- Sexual advances
- Jokes or conversations of a sexual nature
- Other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact

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

Pregnancy or Related Conditions

The district does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy or a related condition.

Please contact Kenyetta Jenkins, secondary counselor, for pregnancy-related accommodations

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited.

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 and FFH(EXHIBIT) for other appropriate district officials to whom to make a report.]

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by FFH. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and policy FFI. If the alleged prohibited conduct also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See **Bullying** on page 38]

The district will promptly notify the parent 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 parent 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

Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

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 comply with law.

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 its investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

During 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 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).

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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** on page 58.]

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.

[See **Remote Instruction** on page 97.]

Virtual and Hybrid Instruction

A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in virtual or hybrid instruction through virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or by another district or school to earn course credit for graduation.

Depending on the virtual or hybrid course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [See **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 65.] In addition, a student who enrolls in a virtual or hybrid course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

A parent may ask questions or request that their child be enrolled in a virtual or hybrid course offered by the district by contacting the school counselor.

A copy of policy EHDE addressing distance learning 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 school counselor.

Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels)

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, newspapers, yearbooks, brochures, flyers, and the like.

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

Non-school Materials

FROM STUDENTS

Students must obtain prior approval from the principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than 10 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. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

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

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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.

[See policy FNG(LOCAL) for student complaint procedures.]

FROM OTHERS

No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, 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 principal for prior review. The 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 DGBA or GF for more information.]

The principal has designated the high school 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 non-curriculum related student group meeting held in accordance with policy 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 (All Grade Levels)

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the dress code guidelines established in the Student Code of Conduct.

If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school and return to the classroom. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the principal will work with the student and parent to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time.

Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

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Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Safe Use of Technology

The district is committed to ensuring that students use technology safely and will follow all federal and state requirements to protect students from excessive data collection or materials that are considered harmful to minors. The district considers parents as partners in cybersecurity and online safety

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

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

If you want to know more about partnering with the district regarding cybersecurity and online safety, or if you have complaints or concern about student use of electronic devices, please contact Mr. Jay Thompson, HS principal, or Mr. Zach Williams, MS principal.

[See Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels).]

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the use of a personal communication device (such as cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches) while on school property during the school day. For more information about permitted use in certain circumstances and disciplinary measures that apply to this prohibition, see the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNCE(LOCAL).

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

Students are strongly encouraged to leave personal communication devices at home. If a student chooses to bring a device to school, it must be turned off and securely stored in the student's assigned locker for the duration of the school day. Students who drive to school may choose to leave their device in their vehicle. Devices may not be carried on the student's person, in backpacks, or accessed at any time during school hours without administrative approval.

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If a student uses a personal communications device without authorization during the school day, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

The parent/guardian may pick up the confiscated communications device from the principal's office

Confiscated communications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parent will be stored in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policy FNCE for more information.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal communications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 106 and policy FNF for more information.]

The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen communications devices.

Instructional Use of Personal Electronic Devices

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal electronic devices allowed by law for instructional purposes while on campus. The district may not permit use of a prohibited personal communication device except as required by law. [See Possession and Use of Personal Communications Devices, Including Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices] Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook).

All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. 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 may be issued to individual students for instructional purposes. Use of the district's network systems and equipment is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content — commonly referred to as "sexting" — will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student. We encourage parents to review with their child the ["Before You Text" Sexting Prevention Course](https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/) (<https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/>), a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

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In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the installation or use of TikTok or any successor application or service on a district device, along with any other social media application or service determined by the governor.

Any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. In some cases, the consequence may be expulsion.

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

[See **Graduation** on page 72 and **Standardized Testing** on page 108.]

Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)

A student who is an emergent bilingual student is entitled to receive specialized services from the district. A Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), consisting of both district personnel and at least one parent representative, will determine whether the student qualifies for services. The student's parent must consent to any services recommended by the LPAC. 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.

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 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** on page 108, may be administered to an emergent bilingual 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 emergent bilingual students who qualify for services.

If a student is considered an emergent bilingual student 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 (All Grade Levels)

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships.

State law requires the district to obtain written parental consent before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. A parent may obtain consent forms for student clubs on the school website.

Some extracurricular activities may include off-campus events. Students are required to use transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [See **Transportation** on page 109.]

Eligibility for 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

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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 and parents can access the [UIL Parent Information Manual](https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/manuals) (<https://www.uiltexas.org/athletics/manuals>) online. A hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request.

To report 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](https://www.uiltexas.org/) (<https://www.uiltexas.org/>) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. Parents 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 a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period 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), honors, or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or languages other than English, the student remains eligible for participation in all extracurricular activities.

If a student is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of an essential knowledge and skills in public performance and the student receives a grade below 70 in any course at the end of the grading period, the student may participate in a performance so long as the general public is invited.

If a student is enrolled in a state-approved music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation, and the student receives a grade below 70 in any course at the end of a grading period, the student may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance but is ineligible for other extracurricular activities for at least three weeks.

In addition, the following applies 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.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will be considered an unexcused absence.

[Extra/Co-Curricular Attendance \(All Grade Levels\)](#)

The policy outlined emphasizes the prioritization of academics over extracurricular events. By requiring school attendance on game days, UIL event days, and extracurricular activities unless approved by the athletic director/sponsor and principal, it ensures that students understand the importance of their educational commitments.

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Moreover, the requirement for athletes, UIL participants, and extracurricular participants to attend school the day after a game or event to maintain eligibility for subsequent events underscores the significance of consistent academic engagement.

This policy effectively communicates the school's values regarding the balance between academics and extracurricular involvement, reinforcing the notion that academic responsibilities should take precedence. It sets clear expectations for students while still allowing for flexibility in certain circumstances with approval from relevant school authorities.

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.

Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups may hold elections for student officers. These groups include, but are not limited to: Cheerleaders, FCA, FCCLA, FFA, Interact Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, and class officers.

Per the individual group's bylaws, and if an election is the only requirement for obtaining an officer position, a candidate must receive a majority of votes to be elected.

1. Clubs, classes, or organizations may choose to use secret ballots or a show of hands to elect their officers or representatives.
2. Some groups may also have additional eligibility requirements or selection criteria that candidates must meet in order to serve as an officer.
3. **School-wide elections** (grades 9–12) **may** be conducted as follows:
 - a. Students **may** vote by secret ballot (electronically).
 - b. The election **may** involve the entire student body.
 - c. The election **may** be conducted, supervised, and counted by teachers selected by the principal and student council members designated for this purpose.

Fees (All Grade Levels)

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide his or her own supplies, such as pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. A student may also be required to pay certain other costs, fees, or deposits, including:

- Materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations.
- Admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.

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- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, and the like.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and 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.
- 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** on page 110.]
- A maximum fee of \$50 for 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 for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirements. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a virtual or hybrid course taken

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 principal. [See policy FP for more information.]

Fundraising (All Grade Levels)

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

Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9-12 Only)

After grade 9, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

Credits Earned	Classification
7	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
14	Grade 11 (Junior)

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21	Grade 12 (Senior)
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Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels)

Approved grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines establish:

- The minimum number of assignments, projects, and examinations required for each grading period
- How the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (for example, letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, and the like)
- Circumstances under which a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination the student originally failed
- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence
- Grading consequences for academic dishonesty, including cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism (including the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination.

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.

A. Grade Requirements

Teachers follow grading guidelines approved by the principal that have been designed to reflect each student's academic achievement 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 (Policy EIA). According to the Cayuga High School Parent/Student Handbook the following procedures are in place:

1. A District may not grant social promotions. Students are promoted on the basis of academic achievement.
2. A student who has not maintained a grade average for a course equivalent to at least 70 on a scale of 100 may not be given credit for the course. The use of a grade of 70 on a scale of 100 determining whether students may be advanced from one level to the next or receive credit in a course applies to grades 6-12.
3. Courses that have been modified by the student's ARD committee as to the required content of the Texas essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) and reflected in the student's IEP shall not earn the same number of grade points as regular classes.
4. Opportunities for students to redo assignments or retake tests for which they originally made a failing grade will be offered in accordance with the instructional modifications provided for students who are served in the district's Special Education and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 programs. In addition, teachers will reserve the right to reteach assignments where TEKS mastery was not

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met by the majority of the students in class. Students that received a failing grade on such material will be allowed to correct or do a comparable paper for a grade no higher than a 70. All such assignments must be completed within one week. (See Retest/Reteach)

B. General Procedures

1. Reports cards which follow the grading system listed below will be issued every six weeks:
A – 90 – 100
B – 80 – 89
C – 70 – 79
F – Below 70 – Failing
2. At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, the school district shall provide notice of grades to the parent or guardian.
3. Grades on returned papers will be justified through indication of errors or a statement of explanation.
4. Grades will be validated by labeling the grade books, homework, tests, daily work, and special projects.
5. The academic grade will not be lowered because of poor conduct. Conduct and academic achievement will be kept separate on the report cards.

C. Grading/Evaluation

The assigning of a grade should reflect a student's mastery of the skills and content of the course. Six weeks grades shall be assigned according to the policy as set out by each teacher and approved by the building principal. For transfer students, in the event a numerical value cannot be obtained for a letter grade, the high school principal shall make the following conversion:

1. Grades recorded as A-, A, or A+, or their equivalents, shall be assigned the value of 92, 95, or 98 respectively.
2. Grades recorded as B-, B, or B+, or their equivalents, shall be assigned the value of 82, 85, or 88 respectively.
3. Grades recorded as C-, C, or C+, or their equivalents, shall be assigned the value of 75, 77, or 79 respectively.
4. Grades recorded as D-, D, or D+, or their equivalents, shall be assigned the value of 70, 72, or 74 respectively.
5. Grades translated to have a value below the numerical value of 70 shall be considered failing and shall be assigned a value of 65.

Formative (On-going) Evaluation

The purpose of formative (on-going) evaluations is to determine the student's mastery of instructional objectives as they are taught or shortly afterwards.

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Summative (Six Weeks)

The purpose of summative evaluations is to determine, in a more formal way, the mastery and retention of instructional objectives. While all objectives are tested by on-going evaluations, only the important ones, especially those basic to the future success of the student, should be included in the summative evaluations.

Throughout the six weeks period, the teacher should prepare students for major exams; indeed, on-going checks and tests are preludes to the major or final exam.

- D. Semester Exams – The semester exam shall count as 1/7 of the semester grade. All semester exams shall be comprehensive in nature. The exam must measure the mastery of the skills or content of the course. Portions of final exams may be given prior to exam days; however, at least some portion of the final must be given at the scheduled exam period.
- E. Conduct Grade – High school students will be issued a conduct grade on their report card every six weeks. It is separate from their academic grade. The criteria for the conduct grade will be determined by each teacher. A conduct grade will include: S – Satisfactory, N – Needs Improvement, U – Unsatisfactory
- F. Minimum grades – As a general rule, teachers must have a minimum of 10 daily grades as well as 2 test grades per six weeks unless specified in the grading policy for a particular class (ie. Athletics, Band, etc.).
- G. Ascender - Parent portal access will be provided. Parents will have the ability to access their child's grades through the Ascender grading program. Teachers will be required to post grades weekly (by Monday at noon of the following week) for all grades earned. Please only add the assignments for which grades are currently pending into Ascender. Every listed assignment should have a grade assigned by noon the following Monday.
- H. Incomplete Grades - A student receiving an incomplete grade in a course for a six-week grading period is considered ineligible for extracurricular activities, until the incomplete is cleared. If the incomplete grade is not rectified within ten days, the incomplete will be replaced with a grade of 50.
- I. Exemption Policy

Ninth through twelfth grade students who have a semester average of 90 or above and have not failed a six weeks in that class and who have no more than three absences may be exempt from semester exams.

Ninth through twelfth grade students who have a semester average of 80 or above and have not failed a six weeks in that class and who have no more than two absences may be exempt from semester exams.

Ninth through twelfth grade students who have a semester average of 70 or above and have not failed a six weeks in that class and who have no absences may be exempt from semester exams.

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The absences are monitored by class period according to teachers' attendance records.
[Also, see **Tardy Policy**]

Students who have been placed in ISS, AEP, or suspended from school will not be exempted from semester exams.

Students who qualify for exemption from a test but who wish to take an exam may do so at no risk to their average. The exam can only help their average, not hurt it.

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 97 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Requirements for a Diploma

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

- Achieve passing scores on certain end-of-course (EOC) assessments or approved substitute assessments, unless specifically waived as permitted by state law
- 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
- Demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district, in the specific communication skills required by the State Board of Education (SBOE)
- Complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA)

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
- U.S. History

A student who does not achieve a sufficient score will have opportunities to retake an assessment.

State law allows a student to meet EOC requirements by substituting satisfactory performance on approved national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities. [See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.]

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If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation in the applicable content area. This may require the student's participation outside normal school operating times.

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on up to two 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** on page 108.]

FOUNDATION GRADUATION PROGRAM

Every Texas public school student will graduate under the foundation graduation program. The foundation graduation program features endorsements, which are paths of interest that include:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Service
- Arts and Humanities
- Multidisciplinary Studies

Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript.

A student can complete the foundation graduation program with a "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, as described on page 76.

State law generally prohibits a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement. However, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parent may request that the student graduate without an endorsement. The district will advise the student and the student's parent of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement. The student and the student's parent must then submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement.

A student who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university.

A student graduating under the foundation graduation program can also earn performance acknowledgments on his or her transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, or for earning a license or certificate recognized at the state, national, or international level. The school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

A student is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student's parent of this fact. However, not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public

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universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

A school district will permit a student to satisfy the curriculum requirements for graduation under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement, including an endorsement, by successfully completing courses in the core curriculum of a public Texas institution of higher education. Please see your counselor for more information.

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CREDITS REQUIRED

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

Course Area	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Science	3	4
Social studies, including Economics	3	4
Physical education	1	1
Language other than English	2	2
Fine arts	1	1
Human Growth & Dev. (Health)	1	1
Electives	7	7
Total	26 credits	28 credits

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

- **Mathematics:** To obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the 4 mathematics credits. A student's completion of the distinguished level of achievement is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university and will be included on a student's transcript.
- **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.
- **Languages 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 2 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.

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FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REQUIREMENT

Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit an application for financial aid for post-secondary education. Students must complete and submit either a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:

- The student's parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out;
- A student who is 18 years of age or older or a legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out; or
- A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause.

Please contact the school counselor for more information.

To confirm that a student has completed and submitted a TASFA, the student must submit one of the following:

- A screenshot that includes the processed date field of the FAFSA ApplyTexas Counselor Suite
- Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA
- A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page
- A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form)
- An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE)
- A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE

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 is a requirement for 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 promotes college and workforce readiness, promotes career placement and advancement, and facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

The student's personal graduation plan will outline an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please review [TEA's Graduation Toolkit \(https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures\)](https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures).

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

Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs

Each spring, the district will update students on the courses required or offered in each curriculum area so students can enroll 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.

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 a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or career and technical education (CTE), the district will offer the course 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 not 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

Admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committees will make instructional and assessment decisions for students with disabilities who receive special education services in accordance with state law.

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

A student who receives special education services may earn the distinguished level of achievement or 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 to earn the distinguished level of achievement or endorsement. The ARD committee must also determine whether the student must perform satisfactorily on any end-of-course assessment to earn an endorsement.

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. The student may then remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma but will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See policy FMH(LEGAL) for more information.]

Graduation Activities

Cayuga High School, as other public schools in Texas, operates under an annual promotion policy and, therefore, holds annual commencement exercises. The following procedures shall be applicable:

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- A. No student shall participate in the graduation exercises until all state and local requirements for Graduation have been successfully completed.
- B. Residency requirements: a senior must be enrolled twelve (12) weeks prior to graduation. In order for a student to attend and participate in the graduation exercises, he/she must attend all mandatory rehearsals. Failure to attend all rehearsals precludes participation in the graduation ceremony, unless excused prior to rehearsal by the principal.
- C. Participation in the graduation or commencement exercises is strictly a voluntary activity. Because of this, high expectations of behavior are required. Students will be expected to also dress accordingly and will not be allowed to decorate or add any unnecessary items to their graduation attire. If a student wears anything not designated as appropriate for the ceremony, they will be asked to change or remove the item(s).
- D. To receive a high school diploma from the District, a student must successfully complete the required number of credits and pass all EOC examinations.
- E. A parent is entitled to request, with the expectation that the request will not be unreasonably denied, that the parent's child be permitted to graduate from high school earlier than the child would normally graduate, if the child completes each course required for graduation.

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.

Students who are eligible to graduate but are assigned to a disciplinary alternative education program at the end of the school year will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities.

Graduation Speakers

Certain graduating students will be given an opportunity to speak 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 the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNA(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See **Student Speakers** on page 108 for student speakers at other school events.]

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses 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** on page 67.]

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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, Teach for Texas Grant Program, and Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for scholarships and grants toward tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. Certain students who graduate early may also be eligible for the Texas First Scholarship Program.

See **College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)** on page 49 for more information.

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

Hall Passes and Hall Manners

Students are not allowed to roam through the building or to remain in rooms of the building in which they are not scheduled. A student wishing to leave a room for any purpose during a period is **required** to secure a **written** permit from the teacher. A student is not permitted to disrupt another class to see another student or a teacher on duty. Students may enter the halls in the morning to go to their lockers or the band hall. On bad weather days, the gym will be available until 7:50 a.m.

Hall manner rules are as follows:

1. Passes are required to pass in the hall during the school day other than the passing period.
2. Passes will be required to use the library during lunch period.
3. Running in the halls is not permitted.
4. PDA (Public Display of Affection) is not permitted at Cayuga High School.
5. Students out of class and in the halls must get to their destination quickly and not linger in the halls.
6. Excessive noise in the halls will not be tolerated.
7. All students must not delay clearing the building while on their lunch period. This includes work-study students and all students leaving the building.
8. STUDENTS ARE TO COOPERATE TOTALLY WITH ANY FACULTY OR STAFF MEMBER WHO QUESTIONS A STUDENT'S DESTINATION.

Harassment

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 58.]

Hazing (All Grade Levels)

Hazing is defined 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

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- 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 spaces, 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
- 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

The district will not tolerate hazing. Disciplinary consequences for hazing will be 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, superintendent, or law enforcement official.

[See **Bullying** on page 38 and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

Health — Physical and Mental

Illness (All Grade Levels)

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she will not be attending that day.

State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, if a child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea-suppressing medications for 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 and the school nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

The district is required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from DSHS on these notifiable conditions.

The school nurse is available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

Immunization (All Grade Levels)

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. You may access the [DSHS exemption form \(https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions\)](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization/texas-immunization-exemptions) online or by writing to this address:

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Texas Department of State Health Services
Immunization Section, Mail Code 1946
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

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
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A

The school nurse can provide information on immunization requirements. 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.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see **Bacterial Meningitis** on page 86 .

[See the DSHS's [Texas School & Child Care Facility Immunization Requirements](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization) (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunization-unit/texas-school-child-care-facility-immunization>) and policy FFAB(LEGAL) for more information.]

Lice (All Grade Levels)

Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, head lice spread through head-to-head contact during play, sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

The district does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent lice from returning.

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The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school) (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school>) and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website [Head Lice Information for Parents](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html>).

[See policy FFAA for more information.]

Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)

If a student must take medication during school hours, the student's parent must provide the medication. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's office and be administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee. A student may be 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.

In accordance with policy FFAC, authorized employees 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 provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Nonprescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request. **Note:** Insect repellent 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.

An elementary or secondary student may possess and self-apply sunscreen to avoid overexposure to the sun. An elementary student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to the student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and asks for help applying it. If a secondary student needs assistance with sunscreen application, please address the need 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.

Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may 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 health-care provider and the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

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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.

See also **Food Allergies** on page 86.

Unassigned Epinephrine Delivery Systems

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized *school personnel and/or school volunteers* who have been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine delivery system to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

An “unassigned epinephrine delivery system” is an epinephrine delivery system, including an auto-injector or nasal spray prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the school issued with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of an epinephrine delivery system.

Epinephrine delivery systems include brand-name devices such as EpiPens® and and Neffy®..

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an epinephrine delivery system at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The district will ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of *school personnel and/or school volunteers* are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during regular school hours and whenever school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an unassigned epinephrine delivery system to a person experiencing anaphylaxis *at an off-campus school event or while in transit to or from a school event* when an unassigned epinephrine delivery system is available.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

Unassigned Medication for Respiratory Distress

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained *school personnel and/or school volunteers* to administer a medication for respiratory distress on a school campus or at a school-related activity to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress. .

The district will provide at each campus *school personnel and/or school volunteers* who are trained to administer prescription medication for respiratory distress during regular school hours.

“Unassigned medication for respiratory distress” means albuterol, levalbuterol, or another medication designated by the executive commission of the Health and Human Services Commission for treatment of respiratory distress, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the district with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of a medication for respiratory distress, and issued by an authorized health-care provider.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

Unassigned Opioid Antagonists

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained *school personnel and/or school volunteers* at each

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campus to administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan or Naloxone, to an individual who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

One or more authorized and trained individuals will be present on each campus subject to this policy during regular school hours.

Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

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.

Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)

The district has implemented programs to address the following mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse concerns:

- Mental health promotion and early intervention
- Building skills to manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and engage in responsible decision-making
- Substance abuse prevention and intervention
- Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (interventions after a suicide in a community)
- Grief, trauma, and trauma-informed care
- Positive behavior interventions and supports
- Positive youth development
- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates

If a student has been hospitalized or placed in residential treatment for a mental health condition or substance abuse, the district has procedures to support the student's return to school. Please contact the district's mental health liaison for further information.

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 psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication that is intended to alter perception, emotion, mood, or behavior.

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. [See policy FFEB for more information.]

For related information, see:

- **Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation** on page 15 and **Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service** on page 16 for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information;
- **Counseling** on page 55 for the district's comprehensive school counseling program;

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- **Physical and Mental Health Resources** on page 87 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and
- **Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health** on page 88 for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health.

Physical Activity Requirements

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The district will ensure that students in full-day prekindergarten-grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

For additional information on the district's elementary school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the principal.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The district will ensure that students in middle school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

For additional information on the district's middle school student physical activity programs and requirements, please see the principal.

TEMPORARY RESTRICTION FROM PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students who are temporarily restricted from participation in physical education will not actively participate in skill demonstration but will remain in class to learn the concepts of the lessons.

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 obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year by contacting: Jacob Magee, Athletic Director, PO Box 427, Cayuga, TX. 75832.

jmagee@cayugaisd.com. 903-928-2102

Physical Health Screenings/Examinations

ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION (SECONDARY GRADE LEVELS ONLY)

For certain extracurricular activities, a student must submit certification from an authorized health-care provider. The certification must state that the student has been examined and is physically able to participate in the relevant program, including:

- A district athletics program
- District marching band
- Any district extracurricular program identified by the superintendent

This examination is required in the first year of middle school competition and the first and third years of high school competition. During the alternate years, the student must complete a medical appraisal form, and the results of this appraisal may prompt the district to require a physical examination.

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request

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an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to his or her required physical examination.

See the UIL's explanation of [sudden cardiac arrest](https://www.uil texas.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death) (<https://www.uil texas.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death>) for more information.

SPINAL SCREENING PROGRAM

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards.

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. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician.

For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy FFAA(LEGAL).

OTHER EXAMINATIONS AND SCREENINGS (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

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 for more information.]

Special Health Concerns (All Grade Levels)

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

Please see the district's website <https://www.cayugaisd.com/health-news> for information regarding meningitis.

Note: 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** on page 80.]

DIABETES

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) for more information.]

FOOD ALLERGIES (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

Parents should notify the district when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially an allergy that could result in dangerous or life-threatening reactions either by breathing, eating, or touching 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* found on the DSHS [Allergies and Anaphylaxis](#) website

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(<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/resource-library/asthma-allergies-and-anaphylaxis>)

When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, an individual care plan will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at <https://www.cayugaisd.com/health-news>.

[See **Celebrations** on page 42 and policy FFAF for more 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, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder. A parent who submits a plan must use the Seizure management and Treatment Plan form developed by the Texas Education Agency.

(<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf>)

[See **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 32 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Nicotine Products Prohibited (All Grade Levels)

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. With limited exceptions for medication, [see Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)] students are also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

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 FNCD and GKA for more information.]

Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures

Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels)

Parents and students in need of assistance with physical and mental health concerns may contact the following campus and community resources:

- The district full time nurse, Kirsten Mills at 903 928-2102.
- The secondary school, full time counselor, Kenyetta Jenkins, at 903 928-2102.
- The local public health authority, the Anderson County Sheriff's Department, which may be contacted at 903 729-6068
- The local mental health authority, Palestine Regional Medical Center, which may be contacted at 903 731-1000.

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Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels)

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. Local policies on the topics below can be found in the district's policy manual, available at the central administration office and online at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=117>

- Food and nutrition management: CO, COA, COB
- Wellness and Health Services: FFA
- Physical Examinations: FFAA
- Immunizations: FFAB
- Medical Treatment: FFAC
- Communicable Diseases: FFAD
- School-Based Health Centers: FFAE
- Care Plans: FFAF
- Crisis Intervention: FFB
- Trauma-informed Care: FFBA
- Student Support Services: FFC
- Student Safety: FFF
- Child Abuse and Neglect: FFG
- Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: the FFH series of policies
- Freedom from Bullying: FFI

In addition, the District Improvement Plan details the district's strategies to improve student performance through evidence-based practices that address physical and mental health.

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

For further information regarding these procedures and access to the District Improvement Plan, please contact: Dr. Joe Satterwhite, Superintendent, jsatterwhite@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) held three meetings. Additional information regarding the district's SHAC is available from the school nurse.

Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings will be posted at each campus administrative office at least 72 hours before the meeting. Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings, meeting minutes, and a recording of each meeting will be posted on the district website at:

<https://www.cayugaisd.com/health-news>

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 15, **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 16, and policies BDF and EHAA. For more information.]

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Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)

To encourage healthy habits in our students, the district has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement it. For questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan, please contact: Kristen Mills, Nurse, PO Box 427, Cayuga, TX. 75832. kmills@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102.

Homework (All Grade Levels)

Home study assignments are necessary for a student to develop independently the ability to plan or organize, to give practice in study skills, and to provide for drill, preparation, and recall.

Home study assignments have a purpose and students understand this purpose.

A wholesome relationship between home and school should be one of the important goals achieved in the assignment of homework.

A reasonable amount of homework is an important part of a student's education. This is not to mean that advanced students will be penalized by being given an excessive amount of homework.

The term "homework" also includes home study assignments in which no written work is to be turned in.

Homework assignments may be of many types: weekly assignments, projects, drill, absence make-up, study or review, preparation for regularly scheduled tests.

As students' progress into the secondary and upper secondary levels, it is strongly recommended homework for the content subjects be primarily of the weekly, long-range, and study type, rather than day-to-day assignments (with the exception of math).

Homework will always be recognized as completed by means of a check, initial, or other means as determined by the teacher. Homework will be evaluated and feedback will be provided by the teacher.

Honor Roll

One of the most important objectives of high school is the development of scholarship. In order to encourage students to put forth their best efforts, an honor roll has been developed distinguishing academic excellence.

The six weeks honor roll is recognized and made public at the end of each six weeks by the principal. Cayuga High School will recognize two types of honor rolls:

1. Distinguished Honor Roll is limited to students who have all A's or a 4.0 GPA or higher in every subject for the six weeks.
2. Honor Roll is reserved for students who have A's and B's or not made less than a 3.0 GPA or equivalent in any class for the six weeks.

Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels)

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, including

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without parental consent, if necessary, if it 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 the student at school.
- Ordinarily make reasonable efforts to notify the parents, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- Ordinarily be present for the questioning or interview, 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 (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), 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 legally authorized person, the principal will verify the person's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the person's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will attempt to notify the parent, unless the legally 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 legally authorized person, 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.

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- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors that occur in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. These personnel will also be notified if the principal has reasonable grounds to believe the student has engaged in certain conduct.
- All appropriate district personnel regarding a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

[See policy GRAA(LEGAL) for more information.]

Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)

Student attendance is crucial. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. Except for extenuating circumstances, students will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

Parental consent is required before any student leaves campus for any part of the school day.

For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or authorized adult must come to the office and show identification to sign the student out. A campus representative will ask the student to report to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow any unescorted adult to go to the classroom or other area 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.

The same process applies to students in high school if a parent picks the student up from campus. If the student's parent authorizes the student to leave campus unaccompanied, the parent must submit a note the main office at least two hours before the student needs to leave campus. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note for documentation purposes. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return if the student returns the same day.

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 the parent directs district personnel to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures listed above. If a student is permitted by his or her parent to leave campus unaccompanied, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a student in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied.

If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may sign him- or herself out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

During Lunch

Students are not permitted to leave campus during the lunch period. Visitors coming to eat lunch with students will be limited to immediate family and grandparents only. Any exceptions require principal approval. Principals retain the right not to allow lunch visitations and at any other time during the school day.

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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 (All Grade Levels)

A lost and found collection box is located in the campus office. A student who loses an item should check the lost and found box. The district discourages bringing personal items of high monetary value to school, 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 (All Grade Levels)

A teacher may assign makeup work to a student who misses class based on instructional objectives and the needs of the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or meeting subject or course requirements.

The student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

The student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any makeup work. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school. With limited exceptions, all absences count for the 90 percent threshold set in state law regarding attendance for credit or final grade. [See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** on page 36.]

A student involved in an extracurricular activity must notify his or her teachers ahead of time about any absences.

A student will be permitted to make up tests and turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with timelines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

DAEP Makeup Work

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADE LEVELS

GRADES 9-12

If a high school student is enrolled in a foundation curriculum course at the time of removal to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), he or she will have an opportunity to complete the course before the beginning of the next school year. 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) for more information.]

In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO RECEIVE COURSEWORK

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.

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OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE COURSES

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, 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 FO(LEGAL) for more information.]

National Honor Society

Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. He/she must be taking a minimum of four courses (either high school or college). He/she shall have a minimum numeric average of 90 in each class (out of a scale of 100) for one semester. The student must maintain A's and B's in all classes to remain in the chapter. The student's eligibility shall then be considered based on his/her service, leadership, and character. The final selection of members shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)

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

In accordance with Title IX, the district does not and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.

The district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures are in FFH in the district's policy manual, available at

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=117&code=FFH#legalTabContent>

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or sex-based harassment: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon the district receiving notice or an allegation of sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly respond in accordance with the process described in policy FFH.

The following district representatives have been designated to address concerns or inquiries about other kinds of discrimination:

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For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

- For all other concerns regarding discrimination, see the superintendent: Dr. Joe Satterwhite, Superintendent, jsatterwhite@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

[See policies at FB, FFH, and GKD for more information.]

Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)

Parental Rights and Options

State law provides that a parent has the right to direct the moral and religious training of the parent's child, make decisions concerning the child's education, and consent to medical, psychiatric, and psychological treatment of the child without obstruction or interference from a governmental entity of Texas, including a school district.

In addition to referring to the rights of parents, including the right to withhold consent for or exempt the parent's child from certain activities and instruction specified throughout this handbook, parents may access additional information regarding parental rights at the district's website at: cayugaisd.com

Working Together

Experience and research tell us that a child succeeds in education with good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. A parent's involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child every day 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 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** on page 55.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. The district will provide at least two opportunities for in-person conferences during each school year for each parent of a child enrolled in the district with the child's teachers. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 903-928-2102 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 page 97.]

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- Becoming a school volunteer. [See **Volunteers** on page 114 and policy GKG for more information.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees that develop educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For more information, see policies BQA and BQB and contact:
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and assisting the district in aligning local community values with health education instruction, human sexuality instruction, instruction on prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, and other wellness issues. [See **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)** on page 87 and policies BDF, EHAA, FFA for more information.]
- 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. Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p. m. at Cayuga High School. An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 3 business days before each meeting at the bulletin board located at the entrance to the school and online at www.cayugaisd.com. [See policies BE and BED for more information.]

Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student must present a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to be eligible for a parking permit.

Students must request a parking permit to park in a school parking lot. So long as space is available, parking permits may be issued throughout the year.

Students will not be permitted to:

- Speed
- Double-park
- Park across a white or yellow line
- Park in a fire lane
- Sit in parked cars during school hours

Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these rules. The district may tow cars that are parked in violation of these rules.

Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)

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** on page 21.]

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.

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In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day.

[See policy EC for more information.]

Prayer (All Grade Levels)

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

Private Spaces

In accordance with law, the district shall designate each multiple-occupancy private space in a building the district owns, operates, or controls for use only by individuals of one sex.

Multiple-occupancy private spaces means a facility designed or designated for simultaneous use by more than one individual and in which an individual may be in a state of undress in the presence of another individual, regardless of whether the facility provides curtains or partial walls for privacy. The term includes a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room.

Promotion and Retention

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or proficiency. In making promotion decisions, the district will consider the following:

- Teacher recommendation
- Grades
- Scores on criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessments
- Any other necessary academic information as determined by the district

Middle/Junior High Grade Levels

In grades 6-8, promotion is based on successfully attaining a grade of 70 or above in all courses taken and an average of 70 or above in at least three of the following subjects: Reading Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

Repeating— Grade-8 at Parent Request

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat kindergarten, or any grade in grade 1-8. Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

High School Grade Levels

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level standards.

A student in grades 9-12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See **Grade-Level Classification** on page 68.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 72 and **Standardized Testing** on page 108.]

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Repeating a High-School Credit Course

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat a high-school credit course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year unless the district determines that the student has met all requirements for graduation.

Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

Only the student's first passing grade will be included in the calculation of class ranking.

Release of Students from School

[See **Leaving Campus** on page 91.]

Remote Instruction

The district may offer remote instruction in accordance with TEA guidelines.

All district policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, and other expectations of student behavior will be enforced as applicable in a remote or virtual learning environment.

Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)

Report cards with each student's performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every six (6) weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject area is near or below 70 or is below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be asked to schedule a conference with the teacher. [See **Working Together** on page 94 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment. 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 **Grading Guidelines** on page 69 and policy EIA(LOCAL) for more information.]

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.

The district may communicate academic information about a student electronically, including for progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature will be accepted by the district, but parents are entitled to request a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.

Retaliation

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 58.]

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Retest / Reteach

Anyone who scores below 70 on a TEKS based test may take a retest or a makeup test.

This retest/makeup test is to be given at the instructor's convenience. This need not be during the student's regular class time.

The student must arrange for this test in advance.

The student MUST take the retest/makeup within 5 class days of their failure or return to school.

A retest will have a ceiling of 70. There is no ceiling on a makeup test given after a legitimate absence. If a student fails to keep the retest appointment, the teacher is under no further obligation and the original failing grade will stand.

Re-teaching addresses the lack of mastery for TEKS based information. Teachers in their planning and assessment decide when re-teaching will occur.

Required State Assessments

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) for Grades 3-8

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels are required to take the state assessment, called STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3-8
- Reading, annually in grades 3-8
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Standardized Testing for a Student Enrolled Above Grade Level

If a student in grades 3-8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his or her current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state-mandated assessment only for the course in which he or she is enrolled, unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

A student in grades 3-8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science prior to high school.

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 is required for graduation, unless waived or substituted as allowed by state law and rules.

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

Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Format (All Grade Levels)

STAAR and EOC assessments are administered electronically.

A parent or teacher may request that a STAAR or EOC be administered to a student in paper format. The district may grant this request for any single administration for up to three percent of the number of students enrolled in the district. Requests will be granted in the order in which they are received.

Requests for paper format for a fall administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than September 15 each school year.

Requests for paper format for a spring administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than December 1 each school year.

Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs

Certain students — some with disabilities and some classified as emergent bilingual students — may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

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 admission, review, and dismissal (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 (PGP). [See **Graduation** on page 72.]

STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director

Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on a STAAR or EOC Assessment

If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in any subject, the district will provide accelerated instruction for the student in the next school year through one of the following:

- Assigning the student to a teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher if one is available in the grade and subject matter of the state assessment on which the student did not perform satisfactorily, or
- Providing supplemental instruction.

A student may be required to attend any assigned supplemental instruction program before or after school or during the summer.

When a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in the same subject area for two or more years, the district shall develop an accelerated education plan. Parents are encouraged to participate in developing this plan.

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Personal Graduation Plans — Middle School Students

For a middle-school student who does not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated examination, a school official will prepare a personal graduation plan (PGP).

School officials will also develop a PGP for a middle-school student who is determined by the district to be unlikely to earn a high school diploma within five years of high school enrollment. The plan will, among other items:

- Identify the student's educational goals.
- Address the parent's educational expectations for the student.
- Outline an intensive instruction program for the student.

[See the school counselor and policy EIF(LEGAL) for more information.]

For a student receiving special education services, the student's IEP may serve as the student's PGP and would therefore be developed by the student's ARD committee.

[See **Personal Graduation Plans** on page 76 for information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students.]

Safe Storage of Firearms

A firearm should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere.

It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under the Penal Code, a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:

- Failed to secure the firearm; or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a \$500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a \$4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two).

Safety (All Grade Levels)

Student safety on campus, at school-related events, and in district vehicles is a high priority of the district. 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 all behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct or set by district employees.
- Help secure the campus by keeping all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless the door is actively monitored by a district employee.
- Follow instructions from teachers and other district employees regarding classroom doors.

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- Remain alert to any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member, and promptly report any incidents to a district employee. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns by Crisis Go app.
- 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.

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.

Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

The district may purchase accident, liability, or automobile insurance coverage for students and businesses involved in the district's CTE programs.

Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies

Periodically, the school will conduct 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.

Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed

The district will offer instruction in CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) at least once to students enrolled in grades 7-12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR or AED certification.

The district will annually offer students in grades 7-12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see:

- [Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed](https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed) (<https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed>)
- [Stop the Bleed Texas](https://stopthebleedtexas.org/) (<https://stopthebleedtexas.org/>)

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

All parents are asked each year to complete a medical care authorization form, providing written parental consent to obtain emergency treatment and information about allergies to medications or drugs. Parents should contact the school nurse to update emergency care information (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, and the like).

The district may consent to medical treatment, including dental treatment, if necessary, for a student if all of the following requirements are met:

- The district has received written authorization from a person having the right to consent;
- That person cannot be contacted; and
- That person has not given the district actual notice to the contrary.

The emergency care authorization form will be used by the district when a student's parent or authorized designee cannot be contacted. A student may provide consent if authorized by law or court order.

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Regardless of parental authorization for the district to consent to medical treatment, district employees will contact emergency medical services to provide emergency care when required by law or when deemed necessary, such as to avoid a life-threatening situation.

Emergency School Closing Information

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information if the district needs to notify parents of early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to a campus because of severe weather, a security threat, or another emergency cause.

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 changes. State law requires parents to update contact information within two weeks after the date the information changes.

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 callout system, local radio and television stations, school website, and district social media.

[See **Parent Contact Information** on page 53 and **Automated Emergency Communications** on page 53.]

SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 108.]

Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

A student may not choose another course after four (4) class days of a semester, unless a recommendation comes from a teacher or counselor and is related to the student's ability level in that particular course.

School Facilities

Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

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 central administrative office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact the district's designated asbestos coordinator: Frank Robinson, Maintenance Director, maintenance@cayugaisd.com.

Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels)

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.

Some students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student's name and eligibility status to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent requests the student's information not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

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To apply for free or reduced-price meal services, contact: Leslie Glenn, Cafeteria Director, lglennc@cayugaids.com. [See policy CO for more information.]

Parents should continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is exhausted or insufficient, the district will notify the parent. The student may continue to purchase meals according to the grace period set by the school board. The district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance and an application for free or reduced meals. [See policy CO for more information.]

If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student's parent on replenishment of the meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive a meal. The district will make every effort to avoid bringing attention to the student.

The following information is published as required by the USDA for participation in the National School Lunch Program:

"In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

"Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

"To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. Fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. Email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

The responsible state agency that administers the program is the [Texas Department of Agriculture](https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us) (<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us>), which can be reached at (800) TELL-TDA (835-5832) or (800) 735-2989 (TTY).

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The local agency that administers the program is the district. See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 93 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator, ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and superintendent for other concerns about discrimination.

[See policy COB for more information.]

VENDING MACHINES (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

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

Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

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 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 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 the district's IPM coordinator: Maintenance Director, maintenance@cayugaisd.com.

Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities. Whether a school activity is on or off district premises, students must follow the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day. Misbehavior 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.

Library (All Grade Levels)

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 with a teacher permit: 7:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. daily. Students must have a pass signed and dated by a teacher to come to the library. General regulations are:

- All general reference books (encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.) are used only in the library.
- Reserved books may be used for only one period at a time.
- Reserved books may be checked out for overnight use immediately after school, but must be returned before the first period on the following day.
- Books may be renewed once, after a two-week check out.
- Lost or damaged books must be paid for or replaced.
- Students with overdue books will not be permitted to check out other books until those overdue books are turned into the library.
- A fine of five cents a day is charged on all late books, but may be paid by an absence permit if the lateness is due to an absence from school. All fines must be paid before a student will be allowed to check out another book.

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- Current issues of magazines or newspapers are to be used only in the library. Previous issues will be checked out through the librarian.

The district provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. The district follows the Texas State Library and Archive Commission's standards for school library collection development.

Parents are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. The district encourages parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the district librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student. A parent may submit to the district a list of library materials that their child may not be allowed to check out or otherwise access for use outside of the school library by submitting the list to the district librarian.

A parent may access to the school's library or any available online catalog should submit a request to the principal.

The district welcomes student and parent feedback on the library materials and services. Parents may contact the district librarian with questions or comments about their child's campus library. A district employee, parent, or person residing in the district may submit a written challenge to the inclusion of any library material in the catalog of the school library by submitting the form available on the district's website

Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)

During class times, loitering or standing in the halls is not permitted, and 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.

Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

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 7:30 a.m.

- Gym
- Cafeteria

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.

Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Student-organized, student-led non-curriculum-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).

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A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

Parental consent is required before a student may participate in a student club that is authorized or sponsored by the district. [See Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)]

School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)

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 that is not required as part of a basic educational program or course to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need. See **Fees (All Grade Levels)** on page 67 for more information.

The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

Searches and Investigations

Searches in General (All Grade Levels)

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches and investigations.

District officials may conduct investigations in accordance with law and district policy and may question students regarding a student's own conduct or the conduct of others. [For questioning of students by law enforcement officials, see Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels).]

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

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

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

District Property (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)

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

Personal Communications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)

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

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

[See **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources** on page 63 and policy FNF(LEGAL) for more information.]

Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)

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

Drug Testing (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

CISD has implemented a student drug testing program. Participation will be required of all students who are involved in competitive extracurricular activities and those who park a vehicle on school property. To qualify for these benefits, it will be necessary for students in grades seven through twelve to agree to be subject to the rules and procedures of the drug testing program. Students who do not comply with the program's guidelines will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on the school campus.

[See **Steroids** on page 84.]

Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district will contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the district may turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

Sexual Harassment

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 58.]

Special Programs (All Grade Levels)

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, students who are homeless, students in foster care, bilingual students, migrant students, emergent bilingual students, 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: Becky Thompson, Director of Special Programs, bthompson@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

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The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's [Talking Book Program](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp) (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp>) provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans, including students with visual, physical, or reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

Standardized Testing

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. These assessments are usually taken at the end of the junior year. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to learn about these assessments and determine the appropriate examination to take. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and Pre-ACT are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT.

Note: These assessments may qualify a student to receive a performance acknowledgment on the student's 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 TSI assesses the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that first-year students need to perform effectively as undergraduates in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may also be required before a student enrolls in a dual credit course offered through the district. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events: announcements, greetings for the school day, organizational banquets, and campus award ceremonies. If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above, the student should submit his or her name in accordance with policy FNA(LOCAL).

[See **Graduation** on page 72 for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies and policy FNA(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities.]

Summer School (All Grade Levels)

Summer school for students enrolled at Cayuga High School is specifically for remediation or credit recovery. Students may take a class during the summer to make-up a high school credit they have failed. All classes taken must be approved prior to enrollment in the class (board policy) by the principal or counselor. During any periods of instruction during the summer months, the student handbook and 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.

Tardies (All Grade Levels)

A student who is more than 20 minutes tardy to class may be assigned to detention or given another appropriate consequence. Students are allowed 4 tardies in a semester before

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consequences are assigned. All tardies above the allowed 4 will result in Saturday School assignment. Each tardy above the 4 will be 2 hours of Saturday School. If a student misses the assigned Saturday School, detention time will double and other discipline techniques may be used.

4 tardies per class equal 1 absence for exemption purposes.

Tardiness seriously interferes with the work of the student and of the school. In order to secure punctual and regular attendance, the cooperation of both student and parent is requested. It may be necessary for the principal to confer with the student and his/her parents if tardiness is excessive. If a teacher detains a student, it is the student's responsibility to secure a written note from the detaining teacher. Late buses will be announced; therefore, students should go directly to class upon arrival.

Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)

Instructional materials are any resources used in classroom instruction as part of the required curriculum, such as textbooks, workbooks, computer software, or online services.

The district selects instructional materials in accordance with state law and policy EFA.

The district provides approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat instructional materials with care, as directed by the teacher.

If a student needs a graphing calculator for a course and the district does not provide one, the student may use a calculator application with graphing capabilities on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student who does not return an item or returns an item in an unacceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage is 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.

For information on library books and other resources students may access voluntarily, see **Library (All Grade Levels)** on page 104.

Transfers (All Grade Levels)

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 27, **Bullying** on page 38, and **A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services** on page 30, for other transfer options.]

Transportation (All Grade Levels)

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use school-provided transportation to and from the event. However, in accordance with campus procedures, a parent may provide written consent for his or her child to ride with or be released after the event to the

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parent or another adult designated by the parent. [See **School-Sponsored Field Trips** on page 106.]

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school and to any eligible students who are experiencing homelessness. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually. Any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district's website. For the safety of the driver and all passengers, students must board district 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 director at 903-928-2102.

[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. Students who refuse to obey the Bus Rider Rules will be dealt with as follows:

1st Violation: A verbal warning by the bus driver and a Bus Conduct Report sent to the principal.

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2nd Violation: Bus Conduct Report sent to the principal for corrective action to include discussion of the offense and the corrective behavior needed. Parent conference will be required.

3rd Violation: Bus Conduct Report sent to the principal. Students may be suspended for one to three days from the school bus. Principal verbally, and with Bus Report, notifies parents of the suspension.

4th Violation: Bus Conduct Report sent to the principal. Students may be suspended for ten days from the bus. Principal verbally, and with Bus Report, notifies parents of suspension.

5th Violation: Bus Conduct Report sent to the principal. Students will receive automatic suspension for up to one semester from the bus. Should violation occur within ten days of the end of the first semester, suspension will be extended through the second week of the second semester.

A student may automatically be suspended from the bus for a period of up to one semester for the following offenses:

1. Having in his/her possession alcoholic beverages, drugs, and any type of weapon.
2. Using tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.
3. Using offensive language or hand gestures to the driver.
4. Threatening or touching the bus driver in any way with the intention to do bodily harm.

Vandalism (All Grade Levels)

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 on Campus

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search vehicles parked on school property if there is reasonable suspicion to believe they contain articles or materials prohibited by district policy. Students shall be responsible for any prohibited items found in their vehicles parked on school property.

If the vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district shall contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the district may contact local law enforcement officials and turn the matter over to them. The student may be denied permission to park a car on school property.

All students must obtain a parking permit before the 10th day of school to be allowed to park their car on school property. This permit can be obtained from the high school office. There is no fee for the first student-parking permit. If a parking tag is lost or stolen, another may be purchased for \$15. The permit will be the type that is displayed from a car's rear view mirror and is transferable to multiple family vehicles. Students will be required to provide a valid Texas driver's license. Driving to school is a privilege and not a proprietary right of students. Therefore, be aware that as such those privileges may be suspended for various driving or parking violations. CISD is not responsible for loss, theft, or vandalism in the parking lots at any time.

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1. Students must possess current liability insurance in order to drive on any part of the campus.
2. Students must exit the vehicle immediately after appropriately parking at school.
3. All vehicles must be properly parked in designated areas in the student parking lot after arriving at school. Parking problems concerning limited space available may be directed to the principal to be resolved. Only the principal or designee may designate alternative parking areas.
4. Students will park their cars in designated student parking areas and not return to the car or move it until leaving campus for the day without permission from administration.
5. Students are not to be in the parking lot for any reason during the day without permission from an administrator.
6. Only faculty will park in the area designated for faculty parking.
7. No burning out of tires, playing of extremely loud music, or any other disturbance from vehicles will be allowed on school grounds.
8. Students must drive slowly (5mph) while on school property.
9. Students may not leave campus once they arrive on campus.
10. No drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, firearms, weapons, or any other items deemed inappropriate will be allowed in vehicles on campus.
11. Inappropriate, obscene, or suggestive writing on vehicles is prohibited.
12. Decals, flags, stickers, or writing that solicits racial discord or suggests sexually oriented content is prohibited.
13. No parking in grassy areas unless instructed to do so by administration.

Students who violate parking rules and regulations are subject to disciplinary actions which may include monetary fines or revoking driving privileges for extended lengths of time.

Video Cameras (All Grade Levels)

For safety purposes, the district uses video and audio recording equipment 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 as needed 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 special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which a child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, contact the principal that the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See policy EHBAF(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on page 17 for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

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Visitors to the School (All Grade Levels)

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:

- Request entry to the school at the primary entrance unless otherwise directed by a district employee.
- Report to the main office.
- Be prepared to show identification.
- Exit the school at the primary entrance and leave all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless actively monitored by a district employee.
- Comply with all applicable district policies and procedures.

If requested by a district employee, a visitor must provide identification such as a driver's license, other picture identification issued by a government entity, or employee or student identification issued by the district. A person who refuses to provide identification and who reasonably appears to have no legitimate reason to be on district property may be ejected from district property.

Individuals may visit classrooms or observe virtual instruction during instructional time only with approval of the principal and teacher. Visitors may not interfere with instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior or violations of student privacy will not be permitted.

[See **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on page 17 for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

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 to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and either of the following applies:

- 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 persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

A verbal warning and persistent inappropriate behavior are not required for a person serving as a referee, judge, or other official of an extracurricular athletic activity or competition sponsored or sanctioned by the school district or UIL to eject a spectator.

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

[See the Student Code of Conduct.]

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Visitors Participating in Special Programs for 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.

CAREER DAY

On Career Day, the district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

Volunteers (All Grade Levels)

The district invites and appreciates the efforts of volunteers who are willing to serve our district and students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Samatha Douglas, Human Resource Dept. sdouglas@cayugaisd.com, 903-928-2102

Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, the district requires a state criminal history background check for each volunteer, including parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district. The volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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 (All Grade Levels)

To withdraw a student under age 18 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.

Work Study Program

The work study program (Career Preparation I and II) may be added to a student's schedule with administrative approval. Students will be required to show proof of employment (15 hours or more a week) and will have fifteen (15) days from the first day of school to obtain employment. If no employment is found, the student will be placed in another course within the CISD curriculum.

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Glossary

Accelerated instruction, including supplemental instruction, is an intensive educational program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment. Accelerated instruction may be provided by assigning a student to a classroom teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or by providing supplemental instruction in addition to regular instruction.

ACT, or the American College Test, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admission to certain colleges or universities.

Pre-ACT is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

ARD stands for admission, review, and dismissal. The ARD committee convenes 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 stands for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

DPS stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

DSHS stands for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

ED stands for the U.S. Department of Education.

Emergent bilingual student refers to a student of limited English proficiency. Other related terms include English learner, English language learner, and limited English proficient student.

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

ESSA is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

FERPA refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which 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 years of age or older directs the school not to release directory information.

IEP stands for individualized education program and is the written record prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services.

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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. It also serves as the basis for the awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

Safe and Supportive School Team is a team established at each campus that is responsible for conducting a threat assessment regarding individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior and determining appropriate intervention, and providing guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual.

SAT refers to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required 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 help ensure that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, as well as assist 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. Except under limited circumstances, students must pass the STAAR EOC assessments to graduate. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests, if necessary, for 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; sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP; and 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.

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TAC stands for the Texas Administrative Code.

TEA stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

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

TSI stands for the Texas Success Initiative, an 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.

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide, voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

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Appendix: Freedom from Bullying Policy

Cayuga ISD
001902

STUDENT WELFARE
FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI
(LOCAL)

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.
Student Report	
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.

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UPDATE 109
FFI(LOCAL)-A

1 of 3

Note: School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit FFI(LOCAL). Below is the text of Cayuga ISD's policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date this handbook was finalized for this school year.

Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying

Policy FFI(LOCAL) adopted on October 11, 2021. [Freedom from Bullying](#)

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Appendix 2

Mandatory Drug Testing Program

The District requires drug testing of any student in grades 7–12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities or requests a permit to park a vehicle on school property.

School-sponsored extracurricular activities for which testing is required include University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities and other extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, cheerleading, academic competitions, musical performances, dramatic productions, student government, and any other activity or group that participates in contests or competitions on behalf of or as a representative of the District.

A student participating in these activities or requesting a parking permit shall be tested for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol prior to joining an extracurricular program at any time during the school year.

In addition, students shall be randomly tested throughout the school year.

The purposes of the drug-testing program are to help enforce a drug-free educational environment, to protect the health and safety of all students, to provide students a credible means to resist peer pressure as it relates to the use of illegal drugs, and to offer a resource for support and assistance to students who may be using illegal drugs.

The District shall provide each parent and student a copy of the drug-testing policy and consent form prior to the student's participation in an affected activity or receipt of a parking permit.

Before a student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit, the student shall be required annually to sign a consent form agreeing to be subject to the rules and procedures of the drug-testing program. If the student is under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian shall also sign a consent form. If appropriate consent is not given, the student shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or to receive a parking permit. Consent forms shall be valid for one school year only and shall be annually renewed in order for students to continue participation in school-sponsored competitive extracurricular activities and/or to continue parking on campus.

Drug test results shall be used only to determine eligibility for a parking permit and participation in extracurricular activities. Positive drug test results shall not be used to impose disciplinary sanctions or academic penalties.

Nevertheless, nothing in this policy shall limit or affect the application of state law, local policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. A student who commits a disciplinary offense shall be subject to consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Drug test results shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only to the student, the student's parents, and designated District officials who need the information in order to administer the drug-testing program. Drug test results shall not be maintained with a student's academic record. Results shall not be otherwise disclosed except as required by law.

The Board shall contract with a certified drug-testing laboratory to conduct testing of students' urine samples.

Testing laboratories shall not release statistics regarding the rate of positive drug tests to any person or organization without consent of the District.

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The District shall make available to students and parents a list of the exact substances for which tests will be conducted.

The District reserves the right to test for any and all illegal or controlled substances at the discretion of the District.

Personnel from the drug-testing laboratory shall collect urine samples under conditions that are no more intrusive than the conditions experienced in a public restroom. When selected for testing, a student shall be escorted to the school's testing site by a District employee and shall remain under employee supervision until the student provides a sample. A student shall produce a sample within a closed restroom stall. A District employee of the same gender as the student shall be present when any samples are collected.

Random tests shall be conducted on random test dates throughout the school year. The drug-testing laboratory shall use a random selection method to identify students chosen for random testing. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.

If a student is absent on the day of the random test, a sample shall be collected on the next random testing date.

A student who refuses to be tested when selected or who is determined to have tampered with a sample shall be deemed to have a positive test result and shall be subject to the appropriate consequences depending on previous positive test results, if any.

Upon receiving results of a positive drug test, the District shall schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent if the student is under the age of 18, the athletic director, or the sponsor of the extracurricular activity, as applicable, to review the test results and discuss consequences.

The student or parent shall have five school days following the meeting to provide a medical explanation for a positive result.

If the student wishes to return to participation in extracurricular activities or have a parking permit reinstated after any applicable consequences, the student must be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a negative test result; following that, the student shall be retested on all random test dates for one calendar year so long as the student wishes to participate in extracurricular activities or park a vehicle on school property.

The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the student's enrollment in the District.

Upon a **first offense** of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, from on-campus parking privileges, and from off-campus privileges during the instructional day (not including academic requirements) for **30** calendar days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.

During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices but shall not be allowed to attend any school-sponsored activities or performances.

Prior to reinstatement of extracurricular and/or parking privileges, the student shall complete, at the expense of the student or parent/guardian, a drug education program approved by the District. Proof of

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enrollment and completion of the program must be provided to the principal prior to the student's reinstatement.

Upon a **second offense** of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, from on-campus parking privileges, and from off-campus privileges during the instructional day (not including academic requirements) for **90** calendar days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices or attend any school-sponsored activities.

Upon a **third offense** of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity, from on-campus parking privileges, and from off-campus privileges during the instructional day (not including academic requirements) for **365** calendar days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices or attend any school-sponsored activities.

Prior to reinstatement of extracurricular and/or parking privileges, the student shall be required to provide proof of enrollment and completion of a certified drug-abuse program, including private counseling, approved by the District. Any cost for such external services shall be the responsibility of the student and his or her parent/guardian.

Upon a fourth offense of receiving a confirmed positive drug test, a student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity, from on-campus parking privileges, and from off-campus privileges during the instructional day (not including academic requirements) for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District. During the suspension, a student shall not be allowed to attend any school-sponsored activities.

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under this policy in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities or reinstatement of parking privileges while the appeal is pending.

Any parent or guardian whose minor student in grades 7–12 is not subject to the District's mandatory drug-testing program for extracurricular activities and parking privileges may request that his or her child be tested under the District's drug-testing program. The cost of the testing shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

To register for this program, the parent or guardian shall submit to the Superintendent or designee a written request and signed consent form. The District shall include such a student in the random testing pool in the same manner as other students in the program and shall apply the same testing procedures.

A student subject to this voluntary testing program shall remain in the random testing pool for the remainder of the school year or until the student withdraws.

If a student who is subject to the drug-testing program by parent or guardian request refuses to be tested when selected, the District shall report the refusal to the parent or guardian.