



PIONEER TECHNOLOGY & ARTS ACADEMY

Student/Parent Handbook

2026-2027 School Year

A Family Guide to Expectations, Rights, Services, Safety Procedures, Academics, and Student Conduct
Empowering students to lead through creativity, collaboration, innovation, and purpose.

Central Office: 15720 Hillcrest Drive, Dallas, TX 75248 | (469) 405-8967 | info@ptaaschool.org | www.ptaa.org

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2026-2027 Handbook Highlights

Student Devices Updated personal communication device and electronics expectations.	Parent Rights Annual notices and health-related services consent/opt-out information.
Library Access Parent access to library and instructional materials information.	Student Safety Bullying, cyberbullying, David's Law, and reporting procedures.
P-TECH Incoming ninth-grade cohort selection and weighted lottery language.	Assessment State assessment transition language and testing expectations.

Preface

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy (PTAA). We wish this year to be an especially productive experience for each student. For this to happen, we must all work together: students, parents, and staff. This Student/Parent Handbook (“Handbook”) is designed to help us accomplish this goal.

The Handbook is an overview of our school’s goals, services, and rules. It is an essential reference book describing what we expect of our students and parents, what they can expect of us, and how we will achieve our educational mission. We have attempted to make the language in this Handbook as straightforward as possible. Please note that the term “parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Handbook is divided into six sections. The first section includes general information regarding school policies and procedures. The second section provides important health and safety information. The third section provides information about academics and grading. The fourth section is the Student Code of Conduct (“the Code”), which is required by state law and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. Both students and parents need to be familiar with the Code. The Code is also available in the main office at each campus, and is posted on the school’s website. The fifth section is especially for parents, with information regarding parental rights. Finally, the sixth section contains important notices regarding student information, computer resources, and electronic communication devices.

This Handbook is designed to be in harmony with the Board of Directors’ policy. Please be aware that this Handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy and procedure that affect Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters and other communications. In case of conflict between the Board of Directors’ policy and any provision of this Handbook, the provision that was most recently adopted by the Board of Directors will be followed.

We ask our parents to review the entire Handbook with their students and keep it as a reference throughout the school year. Parents or students with questions about the material in this Handbook should contact the principal.

Finally, you must complete and return the last page of this Handbook - “Acknowledgment and Approval of Student/Parent Handbook” - to the school office at your campus.

On behalf of the entire PTAA staff and community, best wishes for a great 2026-2027 school year!

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Mission

The mission of Pioneer Technology Arts Academy (PTAA) is to empower and engage students to reach their full potential as global leaders who will enhance their communities and the world through creativity, collaboration and innovation.

1.2 Board of Directors

Brent Parrott- Chairman

Brian Hogan- Vice Chair

Victoria White- Secretary/Treasurer

Mansoureh Tehrani- Board Member

1.3 About the School

Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy (PTAA) is a unique, innovative, **tuition-free** Charter School offering a K-12 option for residents of Dallas-Fort Worth. Our goal is to make education better, fun and enjoyable to our students. With our focused Engineering and Technology curriculum, PTAA is providing the best in education across all of our campuses.

1.4 Statement of Non-Discrimination

PTAA does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or gender, disability, or age in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including vocational and career technology programs. PTAA complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"); Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and any other legally-protected classification or status protected by applicable law.

As required by Title IX, Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy does not (and is required not to) discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. This non-discrimination requirement applies to admission to and employment with PTAA. Inquiries into issues related to Title IX may be referred to PTAA Title IX Coordinator (identified below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

Any questions or concerns about PTAA's compliance with these federal programs should be brought to the attention of the following persons designated as being responsible for coordinating compliance with these requirements:

- The Title IX Coordinator for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex/gender (including sexual harassment) is Dr. Derrick Love, Chief Academic Officer, at dlove@ptaa.org.
- The ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, is Jennifer Cayce, Director of Special Programs, 15720 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75248, jcayce@ptaa.org.

1.5 General Admissions and Enrollment Information

Admission and enrollment of students shall be open to persons who reside within the geographic boundaries stated in the school's charter, and who are eligible for admission based on lawful criteria identified in the charter and in state law. Additionally, as allowed by Chapter 12 of the Texas Education Code, PTAA may admit a child of a school employee regardless of whether the child resides in the geographic area served by PTAA. The total number of students enrolled in PTAA shall not exceed the number approved in the charter or any subsequent amendments. Total enrollment may be further limited by PTAA, based on occupancy limitations, code compliance, and staffing

requirements, as deemed necessary.

In accordance with state law, PTAA does not discriminate in its admissions policy on the basis of sex, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic, artistic, or athletic ability, or the district the child would otherwise attend.

Exclusion from Admission

As authorized by the PTAA charter and Texas Education Code § 12.111(a)(5)(A), students with a documented history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or other discipline problems under Texas Education Code Chapter 37, Subchapter A may be excluded from admission and enrollment in PTAA.

Submission of Applications and Admissions Lottery

Students wanting to attend PTAA must submit an application during the school's open enrollment period, which is designated by the school administration. Applications for admission are available at PTAA Beltline, PTAA Mesquite, PTAA Royse City, PTAA FATE, PTAA Greenville, PTAA North Dallas, and online through the PTAA website.

If fewer applications than spots available are received, students will be offered admission on a first-come, first-served basis. If PTAA receives more applications than it has spots available in any grade level, it will conduct a random lottery. Each applicant selected during the lottery (up until all open seats are filled) will be offered admission. Once all enrollment spots have been filled by the lottery, the lottery will continue and applicants will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they are drawn. If a vacancy arises before the commencement of the next school year, the individual on the waiting list with the lowest number assignment will be offered admission and then removed from the waiting list.

If an application is received after the application period has passed, the applicant's name will be added to the waiting list behind the names of the applicants who timely applied.

Families offered an enrollment seat will be sent a registration packet with instructions for registering. Families must complete and return the registration packet by the published deadline in order to secure enrollment. If an enrollment offer is declined or if you do not complete the registration packet by the established deadline, your child's seat will be offered to the next potential student on the waiting list.

Exceptions to Lottery Process: Federal guidelines permit PTAA to exempt from the lottery students who are already attending PTAA; siblings of students already admitted to or attending PTAA; and children of PTAA's founders, teachers, and staff, so long as the total number of students allowed under this exemption constitutes only a small percentage of PTAA's total enrollment.

1.6 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001

Homeless children and youth are ensured specific educational rights and protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001. "Children and youth who are homeless," as defined by this federal law, means and includes children who:

- Are abandoned in hospitals, or are awaiting foster care placement.
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or bus or train stations.
- Are living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to a lack of alternative accommodations.
- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Children who are homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain policies and procedures, including proof of residency requirements; immunization requirements; educational program placement; award of credit; eligibility requirements for participating in extracurricular activities; continuing enrollment in the “school of origin” or enrollment in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing; graduation requirements; and other related matters.

Questions concerning assistance offered to homeless students can be obtained from Sonya Gracy, sgracy@ptaa.org

1.7 Student Information

Any student admitted to PTAA must have records, such as a report card and/or transcript from the previous school attended, to verify his or her academic standing. Verification of residency and current immunization records are also required. Every student enrolling in PTAA for the first time must present documentation of immunizations as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

No later than 30 days after enrolling in PTAA, the parent and school in which the student was previously enrolled shall furnish records that verify the identity of the student. These records may include the student’s birth certificate or a copy of the student’s school records from the most recently attended school. Students will not be denied enrollment if they fail to meet this requirement.

PTAA will forward a student’s records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll without the necessity of the parents’ consent.

Food Allergy Information

The parent of each student enrolled in PTAA must complete a form provided by the school that discloses (1) whether the child has a food allergy or a severe food allergy that should be disclosed to the school to enable it to take any necessary precautions regarding the child’s safety, and (2) specifies the food(s) to which the child is allergic and the nature of the allergic reaction.

For purposes of this requirement, the term “severe food allergy” means a dangerous or life-threatening reaction of the human body to a food-borne allergen introduced by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact that requires immediate medical attention.

PTAA may also require information from a child’s physician if the child has food allergies.

Food allergy information forms will be maintained in the child’s student records, and shall remain confidential. Information provided on food allergy information forms may be disclosed to teachers, school counselors, school nurses, and other appropriate school personnel only to the extent consistent with the Board of Directors’ policy and as permissible under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (“FERPA”).

Establishing Identification

Any of the following documents is acceptable proof of identification and age: birth certificate; driver’s license; passport; school ID card; records or report card; military ID; hospital birth records; adoption records; church baptismal record; or any other legal document that establishes identity.

Undocumented Students

Enrollment may not be denied to children who are not legally admitted into the United States.

Residency Verification

The Texas Education Code authorizes schools to obtain evidence that a person is eligible to attend public schools. To be eligible for continued enrollment in PTAA, each student’s parent must show proof of residency at the time of enrollment. Residency may be verified through observation, documentation, and other means, including, but not limited to:

1. A recently paid rent receipt,

2. A current lease agreement,
3. The most recent tax receipt indicating home ownership,
4. A current utility bill indicating the address and name of the residence occupiers,
5. Mailing addresses of the residence occupiers,
6. Visual inspection of the residence,
7. Interviews with persons with relevant information, or
8. Building permits issued to a parent on or before September 1st of the school year in which admission is sought (permits will serve as evidence of residency for the school year in which admission is sought only).

Falsification of residence on an enrollment form is a criminal offense.

1.8 School Calendar

PTAA operates according to the school calendar adopted annually by the Board of Directors. Holidays may be used as school make-up days for days lost due to bad weather. The latest changes to the calendar will be available on the school's website.

1.9 School Day

Classes begin at 7:50 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:35 p.m. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m.; please check with your local campus policy. They will be supervised, but there are no organized activities before the instructional day begins.

1.10 Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

All local PTAA campuses will provide information.

1.11 Student Drivers and Parking

Please ask your local campus principal for further information on local campus policy.

1.12 Attendance

Consistent school attendance is an essential component of each student's education. Absence from school will affect a student's ability to succeed in class; therefore, students and parents should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Additionally, state law mandates compulsory school attendance for children of a certain age, and PTAA policy deals with attendance for course credit and a student's final grade. These laws are discussed below.

Texas Compulsory Attendance Law

The state compulsory attendance law requires that a student between the ages of six and 19 must attend school any applicable accelerated instruction programs and school-required tutorial sessions unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused. PTAA staff must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent from school without permission from any class, from required special programs, or from required tutorials will be considered "truant" and subject to disciplinary action.

Students enrolled in kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to compulsory attendance requirements as long as they remain enrolled.

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day. If a student 19 years of age or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, PTAA may revoke the student's enrollment, except that PTAA may not revoke the enrollment on a day on which the student is physically present at school. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. Prior to revoking the student's enrollment, the school shall issue a warning letter to the student after the third unexcused absence stating that the student's enrollment may be revoked for the remainder of

the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking enrollment, PTAA may impose a behavior improvement plan.

Notice to Parents: *Under Texas Education Code § 25.095(a), you are hereby notified that if a student is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code § 25.093; and the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under Texas Family Code § 65.003(a).*

PTAA shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school, without excuse, on three days or parts of days within a four-week period. The notice will inform the parent that it is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school; the student is subject to truancy prevention measures under Texas Education Code § 25.0915; and that a conference between school officials and the parent is needed to discuss the absences.

Attendance for Credit or Final Grade

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend at least 90% of the days the class is offered. These days include both excused and unexcused absences. A student who attends fewer than 90% of the days the class is offered may be referred to the Attendance Review Committee to determine whether the absences were due to extenuating circumstances and how the student may regain credit or earn a final grade.

The Attendance Review Committee will consider the following factors when determining whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absence:

1. All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered, with consideration given to special circumstances as defined by the Texas Education Code.
2. For a student transferring into PTAA after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
3. In reaching consensus about a student's absences, the Attendance Review Committee will attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student.
4. The Attendance Review Committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or parent could exercise control.
5. The Attendance Review Committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documentation expressing reasons for the student's absences.
6. The Attendance Review Committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
7. The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the Attendance Review Committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit.

If credit is lost or a final grade is not earned due to excessive absences, the Attendance Review Committee will decide how the student may regain credit or earn a final grade. If the Attendance Review Committee determines there are no extenuating circumstances and that credit or a final grade may not be earned, the student or parent may appeal the Attendance Review Committee's decision to the Board of Directors by filing a written request with the Superintendent or designee. The appeal notice must be postmarked to the following email address grievancetexas@ptaa.org within seven days following the last day of instruction in the semester for which credit was denied. Please include the school name and principal in your email.

The appeal notice will then be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board of Director's meeting. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

1.13 Absence and Tardiness

When a student must be absent from school, parents are asked to call the school each day the student will be absent.

Upon returning to school, the student must bring a note, signed by the parent, or a medical excuse signed and dated by a provider that describes the reason for the absence. Notes should be submitted to the attendance clerk/registrar, and may be scanned and emailed or physically submitted to the front office. If a note is not received within 3 school days of the absence, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

Because excessive absences are considered truancy under state law, PTAA reserves the right to take extreme absence cases to court.

PTAA recognizes two kinds of absences: excused and unexcused. Students and parents should read this section carefully to understand the school's expectations. Students and parents should also be aware of the school's policy regarding homework, quizzes, and tests following an absence.

Excused Absences

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. This includes absence for the following activities and events:

- An absence resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes the student's attendance infeasible, if the student or the student's parent provides a certification from a physician licensed to practice medicine in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of the student's absence relating to the illness or related treatment.
- An absence for a student who is 15 years of age or older to visit a driver's license office to obtain a driver's license or learner license, provided that more than one day of school may not be excused during the period the student is enrolled in high school for the purpose of (i) obtaining a driver's license or (ii) obtaining a learner license, and the school verifies the student's visit to the driver's license office in accordance with procedures adopted by PTAA.
- Religious holy days.
- Required court appearances.
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship.
- Service as an election clerk.
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, if the student comes to school or returns to school on the same day as the appointment. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student's arrival or return to campus.
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state who need to attend:
 - 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.

A junior or senior student may also be absent for up to two days per school year for purposes of visiting a college or university, so long as the student obtains permission for the visit from the Principal or designee, follows the school's procedures to verify the visit, and makes up any work missed due to the absence.

- Students may also be excused for their appointment at the Department of Motor Vehicles to take the driving test, as long as documentation is provided.
- A student may also be absent for up to two days in a school year for service as an early voting clerk, provided the student receives approval from the Campus Principal prior to the absence and informs his or teachers of the absence.
- Absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments.

- Additionally, PTAA may excuse up to four days of school for a high school student who is 17 years of age or older to pursue enlistment in a branch of the armed services of the United States or the Texas National Guard, provided that PTAA verifies the student's activities relating to pursuing enlistment.
- For religious holy days, required court appearances, activities related to obtaining citizenship, and service as an election clerk, one day of travel to the site and one day of travel from the site shall also be excused by PTAA.
- The only additional excused absences are for personal illness, death in the immediate family (parent, sibling, grandparent, or member of the immediate household), a school-related absence, or an absence approved in advance by the campus registrar and principal due to extenuating circumstances.

Unexcused Absences

Any absence not listed above or approved in advance by the campus registrar and principal due to extenuating circumstances will be considered an unexcused absence.

Tardiness and Late Arrival

Nearly all tardiness is avoidable. If a student arrives late to school, a parent or guardian must report to the school office to complete a tardy slip. A student who comes to class more than 5 minutes late may be assigned detention in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Repeated tardiness may result in progressive disciplinary consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Tardiness alone will not result in a student being marked absent. Attendance will be recorded in accordance with the Texas Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, provided the student meets required instructional-time and engagement expectations. Disciplinary actions related to tardiness will not reduce a student's eligibility for attendance credit or state funding.

Make-Up Work

If a student misses class for any reason, a teacher may assign make-up work that incorporates the instructional objectives for the class and that will assist the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills necessary to meet subject or course requirements. Students are responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers will provide students and parents with additional information regarding penalties for failure to complete make-up work within the time allotted, and the process for making up tests missed due to absence.

Driver's License Attendance Verification

The Texas Department of Public Safety ("DPS") is required to verify the attendance records of a student between the ages of 16 and 18 that is seeking to obtain or renew a driver's license. In order for DPS to access this information or, in certain circumstances, for a school administrator to provide the attendance information to DPS, written parental permission must be obtained. Students may obtain the required Verification of Enrollment form from the school office.

1.14 Release of Students from School

A student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day except with permission from the Principal or designee and in accordance with campus sign-out procedures. Additionally, state rules require that parental consent be obtained before a student under the age of 18 may leave campus at any point in the school day.

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments or meetings with other professionals should be scheduled at times when the student will not miss instructional time, if possible.

1.15 Closed Campus

Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch. Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child in the

cafeteria. Parents may only bring lunch for their own children. Students and adults may not bring in or give away food to other students during lunch times. Additionally, food may not be delivered to the campus by a service (ie, Uber Eats), for example.

1.16 Withdrawals

Voluntary Withdrawal

A student under 18 years of age may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. PTAA requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. Parents may obtain a withdrawal form from the main office. The parent shall also provide the name of the new school in which the student will be enrolled, and must sign the withdrawal request to document that the student will continue to be enrolled in a school as required by compulsory attendance laws.

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

Withdrawing students and parents are expected to:

- Return all textbooks and checked-out materials and equipment;
- Complete any make-up work assigned;
- Pay any unpaid balance for student fees, if any; and
- Sign a release of student records.

In all cases, withdrawal forms must be appropriately completed and signed before withdrawal is complete.

Involuntary Withdrawal

PTAA may initiate withdrawal of a student under the age of 19 for non-attendance if:

1. the student has been absent 10 consecutive school days, and
2. repeated efforts by the school to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

Additionally, PTAA may revoke the enrollment of a student 19 years of age or older who has more than five unexcused absences in one semester.

1.17 Dress and Grooming

The school's dress and grooming standards are designed to promote appropriate grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, minimize safety hazards, and maintain a positive educational environment while providing reasonable flexibility for parents and students. Students must come to school clean, neatly groomed, and dressed in clothing that does not pose a health or safety hazard or materially disrupt the educational atmosphere. Students are expected to arrive in proper attire each school day.

As authorized by state law and the PTAA charter, students are required to wear school uniforms. Parents or guardians are responsible for providing required uniforms, except as provided by the Texas Education Code for students who are educationally or economically disadvantaged. PTAA may provide uniform assistance to eligible students. Requests for assistance must be made confidentially and in writing to the Principal or designee and will not result in disciplinary action based solely on a family's inability to pay.

Teachers and administrators may address dress and grooming violations through corrective measures consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. When appropriate, a parent or guardian may be contacted to provide an acceptable change of clothing. Reasonable alternatives may be implemented to allow the student to remain in the instructional setting while the issue is resolved. Disciplinary responses will be applied consistently, progressively, and in a manner that does not unnecessarily remove the student from instruction.

PTAA students are expected to dress in a manner that conveys respect for their learning community and reflects personal confidence and pride.

Most of PTAA's required uniform can be purchased from each of PTAA's campuses such as the blazer with monogram or sweater vest with monogram, tie, spirit t-shirts, fleece jacket and PTAA sweatshirt. However, generic khaki pants, shorts, oxford shirts, and polos may be purchased from any other store. For special event days like picture day, all students should have the PTAA monogram blazer or sweater vest that is available through PTAA.

Students who do not follow the School's guidelines for personal attire and appearance may be subject to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, a parent may be contacted to bring an acceptable change of clothing to school, and the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day until a change of clothes is brought to the school. PTAA students are expected to dress in a manner that conveys respect for their learning community and communicates a message of personal confidence and pride. The following specific guidelines must be adhered to: Students may NOT wear:

- Clothing or conspicuously displayed jewelry or accessories with inappropriate advertising or statements that are offensive or inflammatory are prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, alcoholic beverages, profanity, sex, tobacco, drugs, gangs, guns and other weapons, excessively violent or gory imagery, and the promotion of violence.
- Any form of slippers or "house shoes."
- Slides
- Large chains, such as those attached to wallets.
- Jeans or any pants that have tears or holes larger than 1 inch. NO holes or tears may be above the knee.
- Sagging pants. If pants are loose at the waistline a belt should be worn.
- Hair must be neat and clean. Unconventional hairstyles that are considered to be distracting and/or disruptive to the educational environment are prohibited. Students may wear natural hair colors only. For further clarification on what is unconventional, please consult with the campus administration.
- Visible tattoos and similar body painting(s) that promote violence or reflect gang activity are prohibited. Visible tattoos and similar body painting(s) that are considered offensive, inflammatory or disruptive to the learning environment are prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate advertising or statements that are offensive or inflammatory, alcoholic beverages, profanity, sex, tobacco, drugs, gangs, guns and other weapons, excessively violent or gory imagery, and the promotion of violence.

Female students must also adhere to the following rules:

- Skirts and shorts must reach at least the length of one's fingertips when arms are held normally.
- Halter tops, exposed midriffs, strapless and/or low cut tops, exposed backs, spaghetti straps and see-through clothing are not permitted.
- Any sleeveless tops must have straps that are at least two finger-widths wide.
- Oversized armholes/jersey-type tanks are not permitted without a sleeved undershirt.
- Clothing may not be too tight or revealing.
- Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times, and may not be visible or exposed.

Male students must adhere to the following:

- No sleeveless shirts may be worn. This applies to undergarment-type tank tops as well as athletic tank tops, unless worn in athletics/PE.

- Pants must be worn at the waist and secured with a belt if needed.
- Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times, and may not be visible or exposed.

PTAA will periodically review its dress and grooming policies and make changes as needed.

While it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion as to the appropriateness of dress, grooming, and/or determining whether or not a student's attire is disruptive or distracting to the educational environment of the school, the final determination will be made by the Principal or designee. Any student who does not comply with the dress code will be removed from the regular school setting until the student complies with this code.

1.18 Student Fees

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. Students are expected to provide their own consumable items, such as pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, calculators, headsets, etc. Students may be required to pay certain fees or deposits, including:

1. A fee for materials for a class project that the student will keep, including reading materials such as novels;
2. Membership dues in voluntary student clubs or organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities;
3. A security deposit for the return of materials, supplies or equipment;
4. A fee for personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel, although a student may provide the student's own equipment or apparel if it meets reasonable requirements and standards relating to health and safety;
5. A fee for voluntarily purchased items, such as student publications, class rings, pictures, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.;
6. A fee for voluntary student health and accident benefit plan;
7. A reasonable fee, not to exceed the actual annual maintenance cost, for the use of musical instruments and uniforms owned or rented by the school;
8. A fee for items of personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that become the property of the student;
9. A parking fee;
10. A fee for replacement of a student identification card;
11. If offered, a fee for a driver training course, not to exceed the actual cost per student in the program for the current school year;
12. A fee for an optional course offered for credit that requires the use of facilities not available on campus or the employment of an educator who is not part of the school's regular staff;
13. A fee for summer school courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year;
14. A reasonable fee, not to exceed \$50, for costs associated with an educational program offered outside of regular school hours through which a student who was absent from class receives instruction voluntarily for the purpose of making up the missed instruction and meeting the level of attendance required for class credit, so long as the fee would not create a financial hardship or discourage the student from attending the program;
15. A fee for lost, damaged, or overdue library books; or
16. A fee specifically permitted by any other statute.

PTAA may reduce or waive any fee or deposit if the student and parent are unable to pay. A request for such a waiver must be made in writing to the Superintendent or designee, and include evidence of inability to pay. Details

for the fee waiver are available in the campus office.

Families are responsible for paying all fees associated with extra-curricular programs, including clubs, parking, athletics, fine arts, University Interscholastic League (“UIL”) academics, and academic supervision prior to participation.

1.19 Textbooks and Curriculum Materials

State-approved textbooks and additional curriculum materials are provided free of charge for each subject or class, except for dual credit courses. Materials must be used by the students as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued damaged materials should report the damage to the teacher.

Students must return all textbooks and supplemental materials to the teacher at the end of the school year or when the student withdraws from school. Any student failing to return issued materials in an acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and educational materials until the student and/or parent pay for the damages. However, a student will be provided textbooks and educational materials for use during the school day. PTAA may reduce or waive the payment requirement if the student is from a low-income family. Release of student records, including official transcripts, will be delayed pending payment for lost or severely damaged textbooks.

A parent is entitled to request that PTAA allow a student to take home any instructional materials used by the student. PTAA will honor the request, subject to availability of the instructional materials. A student who takes home instructional materials must return the materials to school at the beginning of the next school day if requested to do so by the student’s teacher. PTAA must provide the instructional materials to the student in printed format if the student does not have reliable access to technology at the student’s home. PTAA also is not required to purchase printed copies of instructional materials that the school would otherwise not purchase; PTAA may provide the student of relevant electronic instructional materials.

Library Materials and Parent Access

PTAA supports age-appropriate library access that encourages reading, research, and student learning while honoring parent rights under state law and local policy.

Parents may review available library materials and may access information regarding library materials accessed by their child as provided by law and PTAA procedures.

A parent may submit a list of library materials the parent does not want the student to access. PTAA will implement the restriction in accordance with district procedures and available library systems.

Parents, staff members, and eligible residents may request a formal review of library materials using PTAA’s adopted procedures and required forms. Challenged materials will be reviewed in accordance with applicable law, board policy, and administrative procedures.

1.20 Food Service

PTAA participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers nutritionally balanced breakfasts and lunches. Guidelines set by the Texas Department of Agriculture (“TDA”) and United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) are followed to meet the nutritional needs of all students. Menus may be obtained at the school office.

Free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student’s participation is confidential. See the Principal to apply. Students must apply for meal assistance each school year.

State-Mandated Nutrition Guidelines

The TDA places strict limits on any food or drink provided or sold to students other than through PTAA’s food and nutrition services. More detailed information may be obtained at the school office or online at www.squaremeals.org.

1.21 School-Sponsored Trips / Field Trips

- PTAA periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.
- A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip.

- PTAA may ask a parent to provide information about a student's medical provider and insurance coverage, and may also ask a parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip.
- PTAA may (as allowed by law) require a fee for student participation in a field trip to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, students will not be denied participation because of financial need.

1.22 Transportation

PTAA does not provide regular transportation to and from school unless required by a student's Individualized Education Plan ("IEP") for a student with disabilities. However, PTAA may provide transportation in school vehicles for educational field trips and participation in athletic and other extra-curricular events.

Riding a school vehicle is a privilege. Drivers have the authority to maintain discipline and require seating charts. When riding a school vehicle, students are held to behavioral standards established in this Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

1. Follow the driver's directions at all times;
2. Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner;
3. Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle;
4. Not deface the vehicle or its equipment;
5. Not put head, hands, arms, legs, or an object out of any window; and
6. Wait for the driver's signal in order to leave or cross in front of the vehicle.

Only designated students are allowed to ride in the vehicle. Students may neither ride the vehicle to a different location nor have friends ride the vehicle to participate in after-school activities.

If a student with a disability is receiving school transportation as a result of an IEP, the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee will have the discretion in determining appropriate disciplinary consequences related to inappropriate behavior in a school vehicle.

1.23 Transcripts and Academic Achievement Records

PTAA maintains an academic achievement record (or transcript) for each student enrolled. Transcript's list personal student data, give complete scholastic grades, and report student activities, honors, and scores on standardized achievement tests. Requests for transcripts should be made to the campus registrar. Students are provided with 1 of free official transcripts. Each additional transcript is \$ 5.00. Payments should be made at the time of the request in either cash or check. Official transcripts may be picked up from the campus registrar five business days after the request is submitted except at the end of the semester. Grade point averages and class rank are recalculated at the end of each semester and updated transcripts are not available until the end of the third business week after the end of the semester.

1.24 Displaying a Student's Artwork, Projects, Photos, and Other Original Work

Teachers may display student work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement. Parental consent is not required for the in-school display of student work that does not disclose personally identifiable information.

PTAA will obtain parental consent before publishing or displaying student work, photographs, videos, or voice recordings that include personally identifiable information on the PTAA website, campus or classroom websites, social media, printed materials, video productions, or through other forms of mass communication, unless such disclosure is permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Consent will also be obtained prior to the public release of original student video or audio recordings.

1.25 Distribution of Materials or Documents

School Materials

Publications prepared by and for PTAA may be posted or distributed with prior approval by the Principal or designee. Such items may include school posters, brochures, murals, etc.

Non-School Materials

Students must obtain express prior approval of the Superintendent or designee before distributing, posting, selling, or circulating written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials on campus.

Non-school literature shall not be distributed by students on PTAA property if:

- The materials are obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience.
- The materials endorse actions endangering the health or safety of students.
- The materials promote illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances.
- The distribution of such materials would violate the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person.
- The materials contain defamatory statements about public figures or others.
- The materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action.
- The materials are hate literature or similar publications that scurrilously attack ethnic, religious, or racial groups or contain content aimed at creating hostility and violence, and the materials would materially and substantially interfere with school activities or the rights of others.
- There is reasonable cause to believe that the distribution of the non-school literature would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others.

Any student who posts 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.

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials over which PTAA does not exercise control shall not be sold, circulated, or distributed by persons or groups not associated with PTAA or a school support group on school premises unless the person or group obtains specific prior approval from the Superintendent or designee. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring organization or individual. The requestor may appeal to the Superintendent or designee's decision in accordance with Board policy.

1.26 Electronic Devices and Technology Resources

2026-2027 implementation note: For purposes of this policy, the school day begins at the first bell and ends at dismissal. The prohibition on student use of personal communication devices applies during instructional time, lunch, passing periods, assemblies, and other activities occurring on school property during the school day, unless an authorized exception applies.

Possession and Use of Personal Communication Devices and Electronic Devices

In accordance with PTAA Board Policy, students shall not use personal communication devices on PTAA school property during the instructional day. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to, mobile phones, smart watches, and other electronic communication devices. While on school property, students must store any personal communication device in accordance with campus administrative regulations.

Smart watches may be worn provided they are not used for communication, messaging, recording, internet access, or other unauthorized functions. All smart watches must be removed during state or local testing in accordance with testing security requirements.

Authorized Exceptions

Students may be authorized to use a personal communication device during the instructional day only under the following circumstances, as permitted by Board Policy:

1. The use of the device is required to implement the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 plan, or similar support plan.
2. The use of the device is required due to a documented medical need supported by a directive from a qualified physician.
3. The use of the device is necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the PTAA district or campus safety protocols.

In addition, Dual Enrollment students may be authorized by campus administration to bring and use personal computing devices (BYOD), such as laptops or tablets, solely for approved instructional purposes, subject to administrative approval and campus procedures. When not in approved use, devices must be stored and powered off.

Prohibited Use and Confiscation

Students who use a personal communication or electronic device in violation of this policy or campus regulations may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Authorized PTAA staff may confiscate devices used in violation of this policy. Parents or guardians will be notified in accordance with administrative regulations. Confiscated devices will be stored securely and released in accordance with campus procedures. Confiscated devices will not be disposed of by the campus.

Restricted Areas

The use of any device capable of capturing images, audio, or video is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, whether on campus or at any school-related or school-sponsored activity.

Liability

PTAA is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal communication devices or other personal electronic devices brought onto school property.

Acceptable Use of Technology Resources

School-owned technology resources for instructional purposes may be issued to individual students. Use of these technological resources, which include PTAA's network systems and use of school equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement Acknowledgment Form regarding use of these school resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage

you to review with your child the “[Before You Text: Sexting & Bullying Prevention, Education & Intervention Course](#),” a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

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

1.27 Pledges of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the Superintendent or designee to excuse their student from reciting a pledge.

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

1.28 Recitation of the Declaration of Independence

For all public schools in Texas, the week of September 17 is designated as “Celebrate Freedom Week.” During that time, social studies classes will provide instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, and students in grades 3 and above will recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence. A student will be exempted from this requirement if a parent provides a written statement requesting that the student be excused, PTAA determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or the parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States extends diplomatic immunity.

1.29 Prayer and Meditation

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

Required Classroom and Campus Postings

PTAA will comply with state-required classroom and campus postings, including postings required by Texas law and any applicable court order or agency guidance.

Required postings will be displayed in the manner required by law and local administrative procedures.

SECTION 2: STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.1 Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures

Annual Notice of Health-Related Services and Parent Consent

Before the first instructional day of each school year, PTAA will provide parents written notice of the health-related services offered at the student's campus. The notice will include the parent's right to withhold consent for or decline a health-related service as allowed by law.

Health-related services may include services such as first aid, school nursing support, medication administration when authorized, required health screenings, counseling or wellness supports, chronic illness support, substance abuse prevention, stress management, and other campus-based services identified in the annual notice.

PTAA will seek parent consent before providing health care services when consent is required by law. In an emergency, PTAA may act to protect the immediate health and safety of the student consistent with law and the emergency medical information provided by the parent.

Parents may update consent or opt-out decisions during the school year by contacting the campus office or the designated campus health services contact.

Mental and Physical Health Resources

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

- The school nurse or health aide
- The school counselor
- The local public health authority
- The local mental health authority

Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health

PTAA has adopted Board policies that promote student physical and mental health, including:

- Food and nutrition management,
- Wellness and health services,
- Physical examinations,
- Immunizations,
- Medical treatment,
- Communicable diseases,
- Crisis intervention,
- Trauma-informed care,
- Student safety,
- Child abuse and neglect,
- Freedom from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and
- Freedom from bullying.

Suicide Prevention Risk and Intervention

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROTOCOL: Teacher/Staff Member Referral to Counselor Response

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROTOCOL Teacher/Staff Member Referral → Counselor response: • Establish rapport with the student and create a safe space for the student to speak without fear of being in trouble.

- Determine the level of risk using the Suicide Risk Assessment Tool.
- Low risk: Counselor/Administrator meets with the student and discusses positive coping strategies.
- Moderate risk: Counselor/Administrator meets with the student, attempts face-to-face parent contact, informs the parent of the risk level, provides resources, and develops a safety plan.
- High risk: Counselor/Administrator and student meet with the parent. The parent is informed of the risk level, strongly encouraged to access mental health resources, and informed that a personal conference may be needed before the student returns to school.
- Maintain the student's safety while the student is in the care of school staff. For moderate or high risk, the student should not be left unattended, including restroom use.
- For all risk levels, contact the student's parent or guardian and report the student's condition. If contacting the parent may further endanger the student, staff should determine the risk and contact Child Protective Services if appropriate.
- Moderate risk: Complete the safety plan, inform the parent, and determine whether the student should leave campus that day.
- High risk: Release the student to the parent or guardian and complete the required emergency status, resource receipt, and safety planning documentation.
- With teacher support, develop a personal academic plan for makeup work and adjusted assignments when appropriate.

PTAA has also developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement these policies. Please contact HR Director/PEIMS at sgracy@ptaa.org for information on these policies and procedures.

2.2 Alcohol-Free School Notice

To provide a safe and alcohol-free environment for students and employees, all alcoholic beverages are prohibited on PTAA property at all times, and at all school-sanctioned activities occurring on or off school property. Student violators are subject to possible prosecution, as allowed by law, as well as the disciplinary terms of the Student Code of Conduct.

2.3 Tobacco-Free School Notice

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or any form of smokeless tobacco or electronic vapor product while in school buildings, vehicles, or on or near school property, or at school-related or school-sanctioned events off school property. Student violators are subject to possible prosecution, as allowed by law, as well as the disciplinary terms of the Student Code of Conduct.

2.4 Drug-Free School Notice

PTAA believes that student use of illicit drugs is both wrong and harmful. Consequently, PTAA prohibits the use, sale, possession, or distribution of illicit drugs by students on school premises or any school activity, regardless of its location. PTAA also prohibits the use, sale, possession, or distribution of look-alike substances and/or synthetic substances designed to imitate the look and/or effects of illicit drugs. Student violators are subject to possible prosecution, as allowed by law, as well as the disciplinary terms of the Student Code of Conduct.

2.5 Asbestos Management Plan

PTAA works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings,

and has developed an Asbestos Management Plan. If you have any questions or would like to examine the school's plan in more detail, please contact Safety & Security Coordinator at info@ptaa.org.

2.6 Bacterial Meningitis Information

State law requires PTAA to provide the following information about bacterial meningitis:

What is bacterial meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Meningitis caused by bacteria is the most likely form of the disease to cause serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

Bacterial meningitis can be caused by multiple organisms. Two common types are *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, with over 80 serogroups that can cause illness, and *Neisseria meningitidis*, with 5 serogroups that most commonly cause meningitis.

What are the symptoms?

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

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with bacterial meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

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

How serious is Bacterial Meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. If left untreated or treatment is delayed, bacterial meningitis can be fatal, or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes) or when people cough or sneeze without covering their mouth and nose.

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

How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Vaccination: Bacterial meningitis caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Neisseria meningitidis* may be prevented through vaccination. The vaccine which protects against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is called pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or PCV. This vaccine is recommended by the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for children in the first year of life. *Neisseria meningitidis* is prevented through two types of vaccines. The first is a meningococcal conjugate vaccine which protects against 4 serogroups A, C, W, and Y and is referred to as MCV4. The second is a vaccine against *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B and is referred to as MenB.

The ACIP recommends MCV4 for children at age 11-12 years, with a booster dose at 16-18 years. In Texas, one dose of MCV4 given at or after age 11 years is required for children in 7th-12th grades. One dose of MCV4 received in the previous five years is required in Texas for those under the age of 22 years and enrolling in college. Teens and young adults (16-23 years of age) may be vaccinated with MenB. This vaccine is not required for school or college enrollment in Texas.

Vaccines to protect against bacterial meningitis are safe and effective. Common side effects include redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops about 1-2 weeks after the vaccines are given and lasts for 5 years to life depending on vaccine.

Healthy Habits: Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Wash your hands. Limit the number of persons you kiss. Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. Maintaining healthy habits, like getting plenty of rest and not having close contact with people who are sick, also helps.

Who is at risk for Bacterial Meningitis?

Certain groups are at increased risk for bacterial meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. These risk factors include HIV infection, travel to places where meningococcal disease is common (such as certain countries in Africa and in Saudi Arabia), and college students living in a dormitory. Other risk factors include having a previous viral infection, living in a crowded household, or having an underlying chronic illness.

Children ages 11-15 years have the second highest rate of death from bacterial meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. And children ages 16-23 years also have the second highest rates of disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*.

What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

For more information.

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all infectious diseases. You may call your family doctor or [local health department](#) office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>

and the Texas Department of State Health Services:

- <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/PreteenVaccines.aspx> or
- <https://dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/meningitis/Meningitis.aspx>.

2.7 Communicable Diseases

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. Parents of students with a communicable or contagious disease should notify the Principal or designee so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. School authorities will report those students who are suspected of having a reportable condition. A list of reportable conditions can be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services website at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/>.

Any student excluded from school attendance for reason of communicable disease may be readmitted by one or more of the following methods, as determined by the local health authority:

- Certificate of the attending physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant attesting that the child does not currently have signs or symptoms of a communicable disease or to the disease's non-infectiousness in a school setting;
- Submitting a permit for readmission issued by a local health authority; or
- Meeting readmission criteria as established by the commissioner of health.

Please contact the school nurse if you have questions or if you are concerned about whether a child should stay home.

2.8 Immunization Requirements

The State of Texas requires that every child in the state be immunized against preventable diseases caused by infectious agents, in accordance with an established immunization schedule. To determine the specific number of doses that are required for your student, please read the “2021-2022 Immunization Requirements for Schools” available on the Texas Department of State Health Services website at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/school-requirements.aspx>.

Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

Provisional Enrollment

A student may be provisionally admitted to or enrolled in PTAA if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by law. To remain enrolled, the student must continue to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as medically feasible, and complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible. The student and/or parent must also provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to PTAA.

A nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and PTAA shall exclude him or her from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

Homeless Students: A student who is homeless, as defined by federal law, shall be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. PTAA shall promptly refer the student to appropriate public health programs to obtain the required vaccinations.

Children in Foster Care: A student who is a “child in foster care” as defined by 45 C.F.R. § 1355.20(a) shall be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. PTAA shall promptly refer the student to an appropriate health provider to obtain the required vaccinations.

Transfer Students: A student can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if the student transfers from one Texas school to another, and is awaiting the transfer of the immunization record.

Military Dependents: A military dependent can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if the student transfers from one school to another and is awaiting the transfer of the immunization record. The collection and exchange of information pertaining to immunizations with respect to military dependents shall be subject to confidentiality provisions prescribed by federal law.

Exclusions from Immunization Requirements

Exclusions from immunization requirements are allowable on an individual basis for medical reasons, reasons of conscience (including a religious belief), and active duty with the armed forces of the United States.

To claim exclusion for medical reasons, the student must present a statement signed by the student’s physician (M.D. or D.O.), duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States who has examined the student, in which it is stated that, in the physician’s opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student’s household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

To claim an exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, a signed Texas Department of State Health Services affidavit must be presented by the student’s parent, stating that the student’s parent declines vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including because of the person’s religious beliefs. The affidavit will be valid for a period of two years. The form affidavit may be obtained by writing the Texas Department of State Health Services Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347, or online at [Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunization](#). The form must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee within

90 days from the date it is notarized. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student. Students, who have not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.

To claim an exclusion for the armed forces, the student must prove that he or she is serving on active duty with the armed forces of the United States.

If a parent seeks an exemption for more than one student, a separate form must be provided for each student.

Immunization Records Reporting

The school's record of a student's immunization history, while private in most instances, may be inspected by the Texas Education Agency ("TEA"), local health departments, and Texas Department of State Health Services and transferred to other schools associated with the transfer of the student to those schools.

2.9 Emergency Medical Treatment

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity and the parent cannot be reached, PTAA staff will seek emergency medical treatment unless the parent has previously provided a written statement denying this authorization. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the campus registrar to update any information.

2.10 Student Illness

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

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she must receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. If the nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

Head Lice

Head lice (which are not an illness or disease) are common among children, and may spread easily through contact during play or when students share items such as headphones, brushes, combs, hats, or other items that come in contact with hair. If PTAA observes that a student may have head lice, an appropriate administrator will contact the student's parent to determine whether the student needs to be sent home and to discuss a plan for treatment with an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse. When an elementary student has head lice, PTAA will also provide written notice to the student's parent and the parents of each child assigned to the same classroom as required by state law.

2.11 Administration of Medication

Medication should be administered at home whenever possible. If necessary, medication can be administered at school by the school nurse under the following circumstances:

1. Nonprescription medication brought to school must be submitted to PTAA by a parent along with a written request. The medication must also be in the original and properly labeled container.
2. Prescription medications administered during school hours must be prescribed by a physician or advanced nurse practitioner ("ANP") and filled by a pharmacist licensed in the State of Texas. In accordance with the Texas Board of Nursing Practice Act, PTAA will not administer medications prescribed or fulfilled in Mexico.
3. Prescription medications must be submitted in a labeled container showing the student's name, name of the medication, reason the medication is being given, proper dosage amounts, the time the medication must be taken, and the method used to administer the medication. Medications sent in plastic baggies or unlabeled containers will NOT be administered.
4. If the substance is herbal or a dietary supplement, it must be provided by the parent and will be administered

only if required by the student's IEP or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

5. Only the amount of medication needed should be delivered to PTAA, *i.e.*, enough medication to last one day, one week, etc. In cases of prolonged need, send in the amount for a clearly specified period. Extra medication will not be sent home with the student.
6. In certain emergency situations, PTAA may administer a nonprescription medication to a student, but only in accordance with the guidelines developed by the school's medical advisor and when the parent has previously provided written consent for emergency treatment.

Changes to daily medications require written instruction from the physician or ANP and written permission from the parent. Parents are responsible for advising PTAA that a medication has been discontinued.

Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication

Asthma and anaphylaxis are life-threatening conditions, and students with those conditions are entitled to possess and self-administer prescription medication while on PTAA property or at school-related events.

Student possession and self-administration of asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school requires the student to demonstrate his or her ability to self-administer the medication to the student's physician or other licensed health care provider and the school nurse, if available. Requirements also include written authorization from the student's parent and physician or other licensed health care provider on file in the school office indicating the student is capable of independently administering his or her own asthma or emergency anaphylaxis medication. Medication in a student's possession must be in an original container with a prescription label. Please note that most pharmacies will place a label on the inhaler device upon request.

2.12 Seizure Management Plan

The parent of a student with a seizure disorder may seek care for the student's seizures while the student is at school or participating in a school activity by submitting to PTAA a copy of a seizure management and treatment plan developed by the parent and the physician responsible for the student's seizure treatment. The plan must be submitted to and reviewed by PTAA:

1. Before or at the beginning of the school year;
2. On enrollment of the student if the student enrolls after the start of the school year; or
3. As soon as practicable following a diagnosis of a seizure disorder for the student.

A seizure management and treatment plan must:

1. Identify the health care services the student may receive at school or while participating in a school activity;
2. Evaluate the student's ability to manage and level of understanding of the student's seizures; and
3. Be signed by the student's parent and the physician for the student's seizure treatment.

2.13 Steroid Notice

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

PTAA does not permit steroid use. A notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the school gym or in another place in a building where physical education classes are conducted.

2.14 Dyslexia and Related Disorders

From time to time, students may be tested and, where appropriate, treated for dyslexia and related disorders in accordance with programs, rules, and standards approved by the State of Texas. The program approved by the state must include screening at the end of the school year of each student in kindergarten and each student in the first grade. Parents will be notified should PTAA determine a need to identify or assess their student for dyslexia and

related disorders.

2.15 Health Screenings

Athletics Participation

For certain extracurricular activities, a student must submit to 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:

- An athletics program;
- Marching band; or
- Any extracurricular programs identified by the Superintendent.

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.

Fitness Testing

According to requirements under state law, PTAA will annually assess the physical fitness of students. PTAA is not required to assess a student for whom, as a result of disability or other condition identified by rule or law, the assessment exam is inappropriate.

Spinal Screening

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

All students who meet Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted following the most recent, nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards for spinal screening.

A parent who declines participation in the spinal screening provided by PTAA must submit to the Principal or designee documentation of a professional examination, which includes the results of a forward-bend test. This documentation must be submitted to PTAA during the year the student is scheduled for screening or, if the professional exam is obtained during the following summer, at the beginning of the following school year.

Exemption: A student is exempt from screening if the screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the individual is an adherent or member. To qualify for the exemption, the student's parent, managing conservator, or guardian must submit to the Superintendent or designee on or before the day of the screening procedure an affidavit stating the objections to screening.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

All children enrolled in Texas schools must be screened for possible vision and hearing problems in accordance with regulations issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Students in certain grade levels identified by state regulations shall be screened for vision and hearing problems annually. A student may be screened using photo screening to detect vision disorders.

Screening records for individual students may be inspected by the Texas Department of State Health Services or a local health department, and may be transferred to another school without parental consent.

Exemption: A student is exempt from screening requirements if screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the individual is an adherent or a member. To qualify for the exemption, the individual or, if the individual is a minor, the minor's parent, managing conservator, or guardian, must submit to the Superintendent or designee on or before the day of admission an affidavit stating the objections to screening.

Acanthosis Screening for Diabetes

Children in certain grades identified by the state must be screened for warning signs of diabetes.

Exemption: A student is exempt from screening if the screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the individual is an adherent or member. To qualify for the exemption, the student's parent must submit to the Principal or designee on or before the day of the screening procedure an affidavit stating the objections to screening.

2.16 Preparedness Training

PTAA will annually offer instruction in CPR at least once to students in grades 7-12. The instruction may be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR certification.

PTAA 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](#) and [Stop the Bleed Texas](#).

2.17 Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

Statement of Nondiscrimination

PTAA prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint and/or grievance process is a violation of school policy.

Discrimination and Harassment (Prohibited Conduct)

For purposes of PTAA policy, the term "Prohibited Conduct" means discrimination or harassment against a student involving conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or sex, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law and that adversely affects the student, and/or that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

- Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
- Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes; name calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

As noted above, PTAA also considers gender-based harassment to be Prohibited Conduct. Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student's gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of Prohibited Conduct (meaning discrimination or harassment) is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of reported Prohibited Conduct is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a PTAA investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.

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

Reporting Prohibited Conduct

****NOTE**** The following procedures apply to allegations of Prohibited Conduct other than allegations of harassment prohibited by Title IX. For allegations of sex-based harassment that, if proved, would meet the definition of a formal complaint of sexual harassment under Title IX, please see the procedures outlined in “Freedom from Sexual Harassment” in this Handbook.

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced Prohibited Conduct or retaliation or believes that another student has experienced Prohibited Conduct or retaliation should immediately report the alleged conduct to a teacher, counselor, Principal or designee, or other school employee. The report may be made by the student’s parent. Alternatively, a report may be made directly to the appropriate Compliance Coordinator identified in this Handbook.

Upon receiving a report of potential Prohibited Conduct, PTAA will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. If not, PTAA will determine if the allegations, if proven, would constitute bullying. If the alleged Prohibited Conduct, if proven, would constitute discrimination or harassment and would also be considered bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted.

Investigation

To the extent possible, PTAA will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with the law. Allegations of Prohibited Conduct will be promptly investigated.

- The investigation may be conducted by the Compliance Coordinator or designee, or by a third party designated by PTAA, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the Principal or the student’s teacher(s) will be involved in or informed of the investigation.
- If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies PTAA that it is investigating the matter and requests that the school delay its investigation, PTAA will resume the investigation at the conclusion of the agency’s investigation.
- PTAA will take interim action to address the alleged Prohibited Conduct during an investigation and when appropriate.
- If PTAA’s investigation indicates that Prohibited Conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary action and, in some cases, corrective action will be taken to address the conduct. PTAA may take disciplinary and corrective action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint was not unlawful.
- All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”).

Appeal

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation of reported Prohibited Conduct may appeal through the PTAA student and parent complaint and/or grievance procedure, beginning at the Level with the Chief Academic Officer.

2.18 Freedom from Sexual Harassment

PTAA prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, by an employee, volunteer, or another student.

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A school employee conditioning the provision of aid, benefit, or service on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to PTAA's educational programs or activities;
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking (as those offenses are defined in the Clery Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f), and the Violence Against Women Act, 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)).

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; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

Romantic or inappropriate social relationships between students and school employees are prohibited. Any sexual relationship between a student and a school employee is always prohibited, even if consensual.

General Definitions

- A "complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- A "respondent" means an individual who is reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- A "formal complaint" means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that PTAA investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

"Supportive measures" means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered appropriate and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to PTAA's educational program or activity without unreasonably burdening either party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or PTAA's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Examples of supportive measures include, but are not limited to, counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of class schedules, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, and other similar measures.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

Any person may report sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by email, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator on page 2 of this Handbook, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, by using the telephone number or email address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

PTAA's response to a report of sexual harassment must treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures and by following a grievance process before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.

After a report of sexual harassment has been made, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

Notice of Allegations

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, PTAA must provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

- Notice of PTAA's grievance process, including any informal resolution process.
- Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment, including, to the extent known, the identity of the parties, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident.

- Notice that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made known at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- Notice that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.
- Notice that the parties may inspect and review evidence related to the complaint.
- Notice that PTAA prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, during an investigation, PTAA decides to investigate allegations about the complaint or respondent that are not included in the initial notice of the complaint, PTAA must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Grievance Process

Informal Process

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with the appropriate teacher, Assistant Principal, or other campus administrator. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Formal Process

At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in the education program of PTAA.

If an informal conference regarding a complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the student or parent, the student or parent may initiate the formal process described below by timely filing a written complaint form.

Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students and parents are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A student or parent whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time. The process described in this policy shall not be construed to create new or additional rights beyond those granted by law or Board policy, nor to require a full evidentiary hearing or “mini-trial” at any level.

Prior to facilitating an informal resolution process, PTAA must:

- Provide to the parties a written notice disclosing the allegations and the requirements of the informal resolution process, including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations. The notice must also inform that, at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint, as well as of any consequence resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.
- Obtain the parties’ voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process

Freedom from Retaliation

Neither PTAA nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation or proceeding under this policy.

- Examples of retaliation may include, but are not limited to, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination.
- Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedure described above.

Notice to Parents and Students

The School shall inform students and parents of this policy.

Complaints

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning. This policy shall apply to all student and parent complaints, except as provided below.

General Provisions Filing

Student and/or parental complaints shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the School. Copies of documents that support the complaint shall be attached to the complaint form or presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted unless their existence was unknown to the complainant before the Level One conference. A complaint that is incomplete may be dismissed. For purposes of this policy, “days” shall mean calendar days and announcement of a decision in the student’s or parent’s presence shall constitute communication of the decision.

Level One

The student or parent shall request in writing a conference with the appropriate Campus Principal or Designee within three days from the time the event(s) causing the complaint were or should have been known. Following a conference, the appropriate Assistant Principal shall have seven days to respond. Attached Exhibit A

Level Two

If the student or parents is not satisfied with the Level One decision, or if no decision is provided, the student or parent may request in writing a conference with the Superintendent's designee. The request must be filed within seven days of the Level One decision or the response deadline if no decision is made. The Designee shall hold the conference within seven days of the request. The student or parent shall submit a signed statement of the complaint, any evidence supporting the complaint, and the date and results of the conference with the Campus Principal or Designee. The Designee shall have seven days following the conference to respond. Attached Exhibit B

Level Three

If the student or parents is not satisfied with the Level Two decision, or if no decision is provided, the student or parent may request in writing a conference with the Superintendent or designee. The request must be filed within seven days of the Level Two decision or the response deadline if no decision is made. The Superintendent or Designee shall hold the conference within seven days of the request. The student or parent shall submit a signed statement of the complaint, any evidence supporting the complaint, and the date and results of the conference with the Office of Student Services. The Superintendent or Designee shall have seven days following the conference to respond. Attached Exhibit B

Level Four

If the student or parent is not satisfied with the Level Three decision, or if no timely decision is provided, the student or parent may submit to the Superintendent of Schools or designee in writing a request for a hearing before the Board of Directors. The request must be filed within seven days of the Level Three decision or the response deadline if no decision is made. The student or parent shall be informed of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The Board of Directors shall hear the student or parent complaint and may set a reasonable time limit for presenting the complaint. Only written documentation and issues previously submitted and presented by the student or parent and the school will be considered. An audiotape recording of the hearing shall be made. The Board of Directors shall communicate its decision, if any, orally or in writing before or during the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If no decision is made by the end of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Level Two decision shall be upheld. The Board may not delegate its authority to issue a decision, and any decision by the Board of Directors is final and may not be appealed. If the complaint involves concerns or charges regarding a student or School employee, it shall be heard by the Superintendent in a closed meeting unless the employee to whom the complaint pertains requests that it be heard in public. Attached Exhibit C

Emergency Removals

PTAA may remove a respondent, including a student or employee, from PTAA's education program or activity on an emergency basis when PTAA conducts an individualized safety and risk analysis and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. PTAA will provide the respondent with notice of the removal and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

Emergency removal is a temporary measure and does not constitute a disciplinary determination. For students, any emergency removal will be implemented in a manner consistent with the Texas Education Code, Chapter 37, and PTAA's Student Code of Conduct. PTAA's authority to conduct an emergency removal does not modify or diminish any rights afforded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, including requirements related to manifestation determinations, procedural safeguards, and access to educational services, as applicable.

Confidentiality

PTAA must keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by FERPA or as required by law, or for purposes related to the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising under the Title IX regulations.

Non-Sexual Harassment Sex Discrimination

The formal complaint investigation and resolution process outlined above in "Freedom from Sexual Harassment" applies only to formal complaints alleging sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, but not to complaints alleging sex discrimination that do not constitute sexual harassment. Complaints of non-sexual harassment sex discrimination may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator and will be handled under the process described under "Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation" as outlined above.

2.19 Freedom from Bullying

PTAA prohibits bullying as defined below, as well as retaliation against anyone who reports or is involved in an investigation of potential bullying.

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

- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, 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; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the School; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

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

PTAA will also take steps to prevent and mediate bullying incidents between students that:

- Interfere with a student's educational opportunities; or
- Substantially disrupt the orderly operations of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

The school's anti-bullying policy applies to:

- Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
- Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
- Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying:
 - Interferes with a student's educational opportunities; or
 - Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

David's Law and Cyberbullying

David's Law addresses bullying and cyberbullying that materially and substantially disrupts the educational environment, infringes on the rights of a student at school, or occurs through the use of electronic communication devices.

Bullying means 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 written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student or damage to the student's property.

Cyberbullying means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including a cellular or other type of telephone, computer, camera, email, instant messaging, text messaging, social media application, internet website, or other internet-based communication tool.

Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to report bullying or cyberbullying immediately to a teacher, counselor, campus administrator, or through the campus reporting process.

PTAA will investigate reports of bullying and cyberbullying and will take appropriate disciplinary, safety, and corrective action consistent with law, policy, and the Student Code of Conduct.

Reporting Procedures

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, the Principal, or another school employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. PTAA will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged target and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying. Reports of potential bullying may be submitted anonymously. See Something? Say Something! is the district's anonymous reporting website.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4zdGOqb-glUwvWnLIPsuOPLNtTWmD0yIJGAngoCcx5Jy11A/viewform>

Investigation of Report

The Principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report if proven, would constitute prohibited harassment and, if so, proceed under that policy instead. The Principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report and shall take prompt interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

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

A student who receives special education services will be disciplined for conduct meeting the definition of bullying or cyberbullying within applicable requirements under federal law, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 *et seq.*). PTAA may not impose discipline on a student who, after an investigation, is found to be a target of bullying, based on that student's use of reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying.

The Principal or designee may make a report to local law enforcement authorities if, after an investigation is completed, the Principal or designee has reasonable grounds to believe that a student engaged in conduct that constitutes an offense under Section 22.01 (Assault) or 42.07(a)(7) (Harassment), Texas Penal Code.

To the greatest extent possible, PTAA shall respect the privacy of the complainant and/or grievant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation. If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies PTAA that it is investigating the matter and requests that the school delay its investigation, PTAA will resume the investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through the PTAA student and parent complaint and/or grievance procedure.

Freedom from Anti-Gang Activity

General Definition

What is a gang? According to Section 71.01(d) of the Texas Penal Code, it is "three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities."

According to the PTAA Charter School Student Code of Conduct, students are prohibited from:

- Involvement in a public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or gang including participating as a member or pledge, or soliciting another person to become a pledge or member of a public-school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang.
- Involvement in criminal street gang activity

Signs of possible gang involvement:

- change in friends
- changes in dress (wearing the same color combination, etc.)
- gang type symbols writing on books, clothing, etc.
- tattoos
- money or new expensive items that cannot be explained
- carrying a weapon
- losing interest in school and family
- truancy
- legal problems such as arrest and other police involvement
- alcohol and other drug involvement
- talking in gang style language
- using hand signals when communicating with others

Are you concerned your child may be involved in a gang?

- talk to your child and discuss the consequences of being in a gang
- talk to school officials and counselors about local gang intervention programs and counseling
- contact your local law enforcement agency, juvenile authority, and local youth organizations to get more information on anti-gang programs
- take immediate action if you experience graffiti on your property-report it to the police, take photos and remove it immediately.

Reporting Procedures

Students and employees should report suspected or experienced gang-related conduct to a teacher, counselor, principal, or District official. If anyone believes that students are involved in a gang or gang activity, it is important for the student, parents, and employees to notify the administration as soon as possible. The administration will investigate any allegations of gang involvement, activity, and other related misconduct. PTAA will also provide notice to the parents of the alleged students. Reports of potential gang involvement may be submitted anonymously. See Something? Say Something! is the district's anonymous reporting website.

Investigation of Report

The Principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report if proven, would constitute gang involvement or activity and, if. The Principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report and shall take prompt interim action calculated to prevent gang involvement or activity during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

If the results of an investigation indicate that gang activity has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances. Disciplinary or other action may, if the investigation finds the presence of gang involvement and activity be issued.

Consequences

Violations can lead to disciplinary action as outlined in the PTAA Student/Parent Handbook.. Texas state law also addresses gang activity in schools:

- Texas Education Code § 37.121 makes it an offense to be involved with a public school gang.
- Students who violate this section must be recommended for removal from PTAA Charter School.
- Offenses under this section are Class C misdemeanors.
- Texas Education Code § 37.110 requires student handbooks to include information on gang-free zones and consequences for organized criminal activity within them.

2.20 Law Enforcement Agencies

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the Principal or designee will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, including without parental consent, if necessary, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

In other circumstances:

1. The Principal or designee will verify and record the identity of the official and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
2. The Principal or designee ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent, unless the

interviewer raises what the Principal or designee considers to be a valid objection.

3. The Principal or designee ordinarily will be present during the questioning or interview, unless the interviewer raises what the Principal or designee considers to be a valid objection.

Students Taken into Custody

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

1. By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in conduct that violates a penal law, delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision, or conduct that violates a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
2. By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation.
3. 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.
4. By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
5. By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, 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 Texas Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.
6. Pursuant to a properly issued directive to apprehend.
7. To comply with a properly issued directive from a juvenile court to take a student into custody.
8. To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
9. To comply with the laws of arrest.

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

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

2.21 Mental Health Promotion and Intervention

PTAA has developed protocols for providing a parent with a recommended intervention for a student with early warning signs and a possible need for early mental health or substance abuse intervention, or who has been identified as at risk of attempting suicide. PTAA's mental health liaison or other administrator will notify a parent within a reasonable amount of time after learning that a student has early warning signs and possible need for intervention, and will also provide additional information on available counseling options.

The district administrator, Dr. Derrick Love, may be reached at dlove@ptaa.org and can provide additional information about the school's intervention program, as well as materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment, and accommodations available at school.

Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)

PTAA 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; and
- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates.

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;
- Grief, trauma, and trauma-informed care;
- Positive behavior interventions and supports;
- Positive youth development; and
- Safe, supportive, and positive school climates.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's mental health, contact your child's school counselor and ask for information about District and community resources.

State-wide and national informational resources include the following:

- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 512-693-2000; 1-800-633-3760.
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; crisis line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255); crisis text line: Text "TALK" to 741741; information line: 1-888-333-AFSP (2377).

If a student has been hospitalized or placed in residential treatment for a mental health concern or substance abuse, PTAA has procedures to support the student's return to school. Please contact the district administrator at dlove@ptaa.org.

Teachers and other school employees may discuss a student's behavior or academic progress with the student's parent or another employee; 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 and that is intended to alter perception, emotion, or behavior. An employee who is a registered nurse, 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.

Information on Student ID Cards

Each student ID card issued to a student in grade six or higher will have printed on the card the contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line.

2.22 Child Abuse Reporting and Programs

PTAA provides child abuse anti-victimization programs and cooperates with official child abuse investigators as required by law. PTAA also provides training to its teachers and students in preventing and addressing incidents of sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child

may be a victim of sexual abuse or maltreatment. Assistance, interventions, and counseling options are also available.

The school's administration shall cooperate with law enforcement investigations of child abuse, including investigations by the DFPS. School officials may not refuse to permit an investigator to interview a student who is alleged to be a victim of abuse or neglect at school. School officials may not require the investigator to permit school personnel to be present during an interview conducted at school.

Investigations at school may be conducted by authorized law enforcement or state agencies without prior notification or consent of the student's parent, if necessary.

2.23 Plan for Addressing Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

PTAA has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. For purposes of this plan, trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking. The plan may be accessed by contacting the campus counselor, Principal, or other designated administrator.

What is Sexual Abuse of a Child?

Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child.

What is Trafficking?

Child trafficking in any form is prohibited by the Texas 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 may be trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches, although traffickers frequently make contact with victims online.

What is Other Maltreatment of a Child?

Other maltreatment of a child under the Texas Family Code includes "abuse" or "neglect" of a child.

Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused, trafficked, or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to the DFPS.

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

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

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

- Texas Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400;
- In non-emergency situations, the [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](#);
- Your local police department; or
- Call 911 for emergency situations.

Methods for Increasing Awareness Regarding Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, or Other Maltreatment

For Staff: PTAA trains staff in all content areas addressed in the Plan. Training is provided by campus staff, administrative staff, or outside agencies as determined by the campus administration. The training includes prevention techniques for and recognition of sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other maltreatment of children, including sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children with significant cognitive disabilities.

For Students: School counseling staff will address issues to increase awareness regarding sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children and anti-victimization programs with age-appropriate conversation and materials no less than once per school year. These discussions will occur in classroom group settings.

For Parents: Parents must be aware of warning signs indicating that their child may have been or is being sexually abused, trafficked, or otherwise maltreated.

The fact that the abuser is a parent or other family member does not remove your obligation to protect the child. Parents who permit their child to remain in a situation where he or she may be injured or abused may also be subject to prosecution for child abuse. If a parent is frightened for their own safety or that of their child, they should call 911 or 1-800-252-5400.

Also remember that parents are legally responsible for the care of their children and must provide their children with safe and adequate food, clothing, shelter, protection, medical care and supervision, or arrange for someone else to provide these things. Failure to do so may be considered neglect.

These websites are also helpful:

- [Child Sexual Abuse: A Parental Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet](#)
- [Human Trafficking of School-aged Children](#)
- [KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse](#)
- [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Child Labor Trafficking](#)
- [Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team](#)

Likely Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, or Other Maltreatment

Possible warning signs of sexual abuse or other maltreatment may include:

- An older child behaving like a young child, for example, bedwetting or thumb-sucking.
- Becoming increasingly secretive about Internet or telephone use.
- Developing special relationships with older friends that may include unexplained money, gifts, or privileges.
- Difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches.
- Engaging in adult-like sexual activities with toys, objects or other children.
- Fear of being alone with adults.
- Play, writing, drawings, or dreams of sexual or frightening images.
- Using new or adult words for body parts.
- Verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior.
- Withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

Possible warnings signs of sexual trafficking include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude.

- Frequent runaway incidents.
- Isolation from friends, family, and community.
- Multiple phones or social media accounts.
- Older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone.
- Refillable gift cards.
- Social interaction and schedule being strictly controlled by someone else.
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for instance, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology).
- Tattoos or branding.
- Unexplained injuries.

Possible warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

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

Any one sign does not necessarily mean that a child has been sexually abused, trafficked, or maltreated, but the presence of several signs is the time you should begin asking questions and seeking help. Often signs first emerge at other times of stress, such as during a divorce, death of a family member or pet, problems at school or with friends, or other traumatic or anxiety-inducing events.

Actions That a Child Who Is a Victim of Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, or Other Maltreatment Should Take

During student awareness sessions concerning sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment issues, students will be encouraged to tell a trusted adult in a private and confidential conversation if they have been a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficked, or other maltreatment or have been in situations that make them feel uncomfortable in any way. School employees are trained to take appropriate actions to help the child obtain assistance and to follow proper reporting procedures. Older students will also be provided with local crisis hotline numbers to obtain assistance.

Available Counseling Options

A list of counseling providers can be found through the [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in Your County](#) website.

Notice of Penalties for Trafficking of Persons and Online Solicitation of a Minor

Under Penal Code 20A.02(b-1), an offense related to human trafficking is a first degree felony if the offense is committed in a location that was on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the premises of a school, or on premises or within 1,000 feet of premises where an official school function was taking place or an event sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League was taking place.

Additionally, under Penal Code 33.021(f-1), there are enhanced penalties for the offense of online solicitation of a minor if the actor committed the offense during regular school hours and the actor knew or reasonably should have known that the minor was enrolled in a public or private school at the time of the offense.

2.24 Interrogations and Searches

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that PTAA is safe and drug free, school officials may, from time to time, conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

Administrators, teachers and other professional personnel may question a student regarding the student's own conduct or the conduct of other students. In the context of school discipline, students have no claim to the right not to incriminate themselves.

Students shall be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by school officials. School officials may search a student's outer clothing, pockets, or property by establishing reasonable cause or securing the student's voluntary consent.

A search is reasonable if (1) the school official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will uncover evidence of a rule violation or a criminal violation and (2) the scope of the search is reasonably related to the circumstances justifying the search, such as the extent of the search, the objectives of the search, the age and sex of the student, and the nature of the infraction.

Desk and Locker Searches

Students should have no expectation of privacy in the contents of their lockers, desks or other school property. Lockers and desks assigned to students remain at all times under the control and jurisdiction of PTAA. The school will make periodic inspections of lockers and desks at any time, with or without notice or student consent. School officials will remove any item that violates school policy or that may potentially be dangerous.

Students have full responsibility for the security of their lockers and desks, and shall be held responsible for any prohibited items found therein. A student's parent shall be notified if any prohibited articles or materials are found in a student's locker or desk, or on the student's person.

Vehicles on Campus

Vehicles parked on school property and property under school control are under the jurisdiction of PTAA and may be searched at any time if reasonable suspicion exists to believe that the search will result in evidence that school rules or other laws have been violated. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle and consent to a search of the vehicle. If the student refuses to permit the vehicle to be searched, PTAA may contact the student's parents and/or law enforcement officials. A student may be held responsible for and in possession of prohibited items found in his or her vehicle parked on school property or at a school-related event.

Random Drug Searches

In order to ensure a drug-free learning environment, PTAA conducts random drug searches of all school facilities. PTAA may use or contract for specially trained nonaggressive dogs to sniff out and alert school officials to the current presence of concealed, prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. Canine visits may be unannounced. The dogs shall be used to search vacant classrooms, vacant common areas, the areas around student lockers, and the areas where vehicles are parked on PTAA property or at school-related events. The dogs shall not be asked to alert on students. A dog alert to a locker, vehicle, or item in a classroom, constitutes reasonable grounds for a search by school officials.

2.25 Visitor and Volunteer Policy

PTAA encourages parents and family members to regularly visit the school and become involved in student activities. The impact that positive parental involvement has on the learning and development of students is immeasurable. With that in mind, the following policies must be adhered to so that a safe, secure, and productive learning environment can be ensured for all.

- Visitors **MUST** sign in at the main office whenever they are on campus. They will be provided with a visitor ID that must be worn while on campus. Visitors are not permitted to make unscheduled or drop-in visits to classrooms.
- When visiting campus to meet with teaching staff, visitors must have a pre-arranged time set up with the teacher(s) in question except for urgent matters. Times are best arranged via email. An email directory is located on our website. With few exceptions, conferences are scheduled during teacher/team planning time, and/or immediately before or after school. Under no circumstances can a teacher be interrupted while providing instruction before, during, or after the school day to meet with a parent.
- Visitors to campus must be the parent, guardians, or other adult family members with permission of the parent/guardian. Students' friends, younger siblings, and other non-related individuals cannot visit the campus during school hours.
- Volunteers **MUST** go through a background check conducted by our district office. Once the check is cleared, volunteers are notified and may begin helping on campus. Until this clearance is obtained, they are not to be involved in any educational or extra-curricular activities.

Please note that we request parents and other visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in person, to only record video or audio, or take photographs of classroom activities, after receiving permission from the teacher or a campus administrator.

Additionally, the Principal or designee may take the following actions whenever there is a school visitor:

- Establish an electronic database for storing information concerning visitors. Information stored in the electronic database may be used only for school security, and may not be sold or otherwise disseminated to a third party for any purpose.
- Verify whether the visitor is a sex offender registered with the computerized central database maintained by the DPS or any other database accessible by PTAA.

Any visitor identified as a sex offender shall be escorted by school personnel at all times during a school visit and shall have access only to common areas of the campus.

2.26 Disruptions

To protect student safety and sustain an educational program free from disruption, state law permits PTAA to act against any person-student or nonstudent who:

- Disrupts classes while on school property or on public property that is within 500 feet of school property. Class disruption includes making loud noises; trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity; entering a classroom without authorization; and disrupting the activity with profane language or any misconduct.
- Interferes with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Interferes with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to school property.
- Interferes with the movement of people at an exit, an entrance, or a hallway to a school building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interferes with the transportation of students in school vehicles.
- Uses force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Uses force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving school property without authorization from an administrator.
- Uses force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.

2.27 Emergency Closings

Generally, PTAA dismisses classes for weather-related events on the same days as surrounding local independent school districts. Any closures for weather will be broadcast on local television and/or radio stations. PTAA may also need to close during certain emergency situations beyond the control of school officials. The announcement of non-weather related school closings will be broadcast on local television and/or radio stations as early as possible. Any emergency closures will also be posted on the PTAA website.

2.28 Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

Students, teachers, and other staff will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of school staff quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner. During the drill, order rather than speed shall be stressed. Defined instructions for vacating each room will be posted in each room, and students should familiarize themselves with these instructions.

Active Threat Exercises

Before PTAA may conduct an active threat exercise, including an active shooter simulation, PTAA shall comply with the notice requirements of Education Code § 37.1141(a)(1)-(3), including adequate notice of the exercise to students, parents, school staff, and first responder organizations that would likely respond in the event of a false report or alarm.

2.29 Pest Control Information

PTAA periodically applies pesticides inside school buildings and on school grounds. While PTAA strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, periodic indoor and outdoor pesticide use is sometimes necessary to maintain adequate pest control and ensure a safe, pest-free environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. PTAA will provide appropriate notice of treatments, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area. Parents who want to be notified before pesticide application may contact the Superintendent or designee.

2.30 Videotaping of Students

For safety purposes, including the maintenance of order and discipline, surveillance cameras may be used to monitor student behavior in classrooms, on school vehicles, and in school common areas. Video recordings may be reviewed routinely to document student misconduct and used by staff when investigating an incident.

SECTION 3: ACADEMICS AND GRADING

3.1 Academic Programs

The Principal or designee will provide students and parents with information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices.

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting will have an opportunity to complete his or her daily work just as if they were in the regular learning center.

Students and parents are encouraged to discuss options for ensuring that students complete all work required with a teacher, the Principal, or the designee.

3.2 Required Curriculum

PTAA offers instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills of the appropriate grade levels in the following required curriculum:

PTAA's approach to education is focused on college preparation for all students. Curriculum includes not just the textbooks and lesson plans we use, but also the culture we provide. Self-determination, responsibility, life-long learning are values that are modeled and relayed to students through academic and behavioral expectations.

PTAA's middle school and high school instruction is based on college prep curriculum. Our STEM integration approach centers on Engineering and Information Technology courses along with more advanced courses in science, math, language, history and global economics. Our English Language Arts curriculum integrates reading, writing, presentation and speaking skills development. Working with our community college partners, our students are able to earn college credits for their advanced classes. For specifics about the curricula we use, see the related links on the left for textbook descriptions and scope and sequence documents.

For any social studies course in the required curriculum, PTAA may not require, make part of a course, or award a grade or course credit (including extra credit) for a student's:

1. Work for, affiliation with, or service learning in an association with any organization engaged in (i) lobbying for legislation at the federal, state, or local level, if the student's duties involve directly or indirectly attempting to influence social or public policy or the outcome of legislation, or (ii) social policy advocacy or public policy advocacy;
2. Political activism, lobbying, or efforts by direct communication to persuade members of the legislative or executive branch at the federal, state, or local level to take specific actions by direct communication; or
3. Participation in any internship, practicum, or similar activity involving social or public policy advocacy.

Additionally, PTAA may not implement or enforce any rules of student conduct in a manner that would result in a student's punishment for discussing, or have a chilling effect on reasonable student discussions involving those concepts described in Education Code § 28.002(a)(4) in school or during a school-sponsored activity.

3.3 Academic Integrity

All students are expected to be honest and to display a high standard of integrity in the preparation and presentation of work for credit in classes. A student's attempt to present the work of another as his or her own will be viewed as a serious offense, and the student may be subject to a grading penalty and/or discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

3.4 Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test

A student in grades 10-12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery ("ASVAB") test and consult with a military recruiter. PTAA will provide each student in grades 10-12 and their parents with notice of the date, time, and location of the scheduled administration of the ASVAB.

3.5 Career and Technical Education Program

PTAA may offer, from time to time, career and technical education (“CTE”) programs in a variety of areas. For a complete listing of CTE courses, please contact the Principal. Admission to these programs is based on student interest and completion of any pre-requisites required by PTAA.

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

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

PTAA will take steps to ensure that a lack of English language skills will not preclude a student from participating in all educational, career, and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator at dlove@ptaa.org; 15720 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75248, (469) 405-8967 and/or the Section 504 Coordinator at dlove@ptaa.org, (469) 405-8967

3.6 College Days

High school students who meet the following criteria will be allowed to have two excused days of absence for a college visit during their junior year and two excused days of absence for a college visit during their senior year:

- The student must have passed the required parts of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (“STARR”) / equivalent state assessment for the previous year.
- The student must be on track to graduate on time.
- The student must be classified as a junior or senior based upon credits earned.
- The student must be passing all coursework.
- The student must have no truancy or other attendance problems.

Students must submit a written request to the school office at least two days prior to the day requested for a college visit so that eligibility criteria for an excused day of absence can be verified and approval granted prior to the student participating in a college visit. Approval will not be granted for a college visit on a day when major exams are scheduled, and no partial days will be approved.

3.7 Computer Resources

To prepare students for an increasingly computerized society, PTAA has made a substantial investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher’s supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and parents must read and agree to abide by the Student Acceptable Use Policy found in this Handbook.

3.8 Counseling

Academic Counseling

Students and parents are encouraged to talk with the school counselor to learn about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures. Each spring, students in 8th-12th grade will be provided with information on anticipated course offerings for the next year and other information that will help to make the most of academic and vocational opportunities.

To plan for the future, including attendance at a college, university, or training school or pursuing some other type of advanced education, students should work closely with the school counselor to take the courses that best prepare

them for the future. The school counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.

Personal Counseling

The Principal or designee and the school counselor are available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including social, family, or emotional issues, and substance abuse. The Principal, designee or school counselor may also provide information about community resources to address these concerns. A student who wishes to meet with the Principal or designee or school counselor should set an appointment through the school secretary.

Please note: PTAA will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent, unless required by state or federal law for special education purposes or by the TEA for child abuse investigations and reports.

3.9 Credit by Exam

PTAA uses examinations and guidelines established by the State Board of Education ("SBOE") to offer credit and acceleration by exam.

If a Student has Prior Instruction (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 Review Committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an exam on the essential knowledge and skills defined for the course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to take an examination to earn credit for a course or to be awarded a final grade in a subject after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery." To receive credit, a student must score at least 70% on the exam.

The Attendance Review Committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to receive credit for a course by passing an exam.

If a Student Has Not Taken the Course

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction or to accelerate to the next grade level. The exams offered by PTAA are approved by the Board of Directors. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the school year will be published in an appropriate school publication and on the PTAA website.

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, a scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level-Level Examination Program, or a score of three or higher on an Advanced Placement ("AP") examination, as applicable. A student may take an exam to earn course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the approved exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's course sequence, the student must complete the course.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the Principal or designee no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. PTAA will not honor a request by a parent to administer a test on a date other than the published dates. If PTAA agrees to administer a test other than the one chosen by the school, the student's parent will be responsible for the cost of the exam.

3.10 Dual Credit Opportunities

A dual credit course is a college course taken by a high school student for which the student earns both college and high school credit. Dual credit is also known as concurrent enrollment.

A student is eligible to enroll in dual credit courses in the 9th grade:

- Demonstrates college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards under the Texas Success Initiative (“TSI”) as set forth in 19 Texas Administrative Code § 4.85, on relevant section(s) of an assessment instrument approved by the SBOE; or
- Demonstrates that he or she is exempt under the provisions of the TSI as set forth in 19 Texas Administrative Code § 19.54.

A 9th-grade student is also eligible to enroll in dual credit courses in reading, writing, and/or mathematics if he or she satisfies standards set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. As these requirements may change from time to time, students and parents are encouraged to contact their school counselor or the participating college for current requirements.

Students in grades 11 and/or 12 are eligible to enroll in workforce education dual credit courses if the student demonstrates that he or she achieved the designated minimum standards set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. A student who is exempt from taking the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills or STAAR end-of-course assessments may be otherwise evaluated to determine eligibility for enrolling in workforce education dual credit courses. A student may enroll only in those workforce education dual credit courses for which he or she has demonstrated eligibility.

All courses should be taken outside of school hours unless approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Students and parents are responsible for any fees for dual credit courses.

P-TECH and Comprehensive Dual Enrollment

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, incoming ninth-grade students will make their program selection through the school choice survey. Students may indicate interest in P-TECH, Honors, or on-level coursework.

- P-TECH participation for incoming ninth-grade students will be determined through a weighted lottery process. Only approximately 35% of incoming ninth-grade students will be accepted into the P-TECH cohort.
- Students accepted into the P-TECH cohort will begin college coursework in grade 10. Ninth-grade students will not take college coursework during the first year of high school.
- Students who are not selected for P-TECH may still participate in dual enrollment through PTAA college partnerships, subject to eligibility, registration requirements, and applicable costs.
- For Dallas College dual enrollment, parents or guardians are responsible for instructional materials costs, including textbooks and required course materials.
- For Paris Junior College dual enrollment, parents or guardians are responsible for tuition and fees at the dual enrollment rate.
- Families should contact campus administration and the guidance counselor for program details, eligibility, deadlines, pathway costs, testing requirements, and registration procedures.

3.11 Distance Learning

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.

The Texas Virtual School Network (“TxVSN”) has been established as one method of distance learning. A student has the option, with certain limitations, to enroll in a course offered through the TxVSN to earn course credit for graduation. If you have questions or wish to make a request that your child be enrolled in a TxVSN course, please contact the Superintendent or designee. Unless an exception is made by the Superintendent or designee, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TxVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

If a student wishes to earn credit in a course or subject by enrolling in a correspondence course or a distance learning course not provided through the TxVSN, the student must receive permission from the Superintendent or designee prior to enrolling in the course or subject. If the student does not receive prior approval, PTAA may not recognize

and/or apply the course or subject toward graduation requirements or subject mastery.

3.12 Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

In accordance with Senate Bill 12 and applicable Texas Education Code requirements, PTAA may authorize or sponsor student clubs that align with district policy, campus procedures, and state law. Parents must provide written consent before a student may join or participate in any district-sponsored student club.

All extracurricular opportunities are reviewed and vetted to ensure compliance with state law, district policy, and campus expectations. Students may not participate in a student club without a signed parental consent form on file.

This requirement does not apply to UIL-sponsored extracurricular activities, including Fine Arts, band, choir, theater, art, athletics, or other UIL-governed programs. These activities will continue to follow UIL participation guidelines and applicable district procedures.

Career and Technical Student Organizations, including but not limited to HOSA, DECA, FFA, TSA, SkillsUSA, TAFE, FCCLA, Esports, and VEX Robotics, require signed parent consent before student participation. Students will not be allowed to participate in a CTSO without a completed parent consent form.

3.13 Graduation (High School Grades Only)

PTAA shall ensure that each student enrolls in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements identified by the SBOE for graduation. Additionally, students must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma:

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

Early Graduation

PTAA may issue a high school diploma to a student under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program using the standards established by TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Students may request early high school graduation for to the campus counselor in the semester prior to the graduating semester (ie. December for a spring graduation). Early graduate students will be included in the class ranking ONLY if they have been a student at PTAA for four (4) consecutive semesters prior to graduation. Students who earn a high school diploma through the Texas First Early High School Completion Program are considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement. For more information, visit TEA at <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/texas-first-early-high-school-completion-program#:~:text=Overview,graduate%20early%20from%20high%20school>.

Testing Requirements for Graduation

Students are required, with limited exceptions, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments. State law and state rules also provide for certain scores on norm-referenced national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities to substitute for the requirement to meet satisfactory performance on an

applicable EOC assessment should a student choose this option. See the Principal or designee for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.

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

In limited circumstances, a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on two or fewer of the required assessments may be eligible to graduate if an individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, unanimously determines that the student is eligible to graduate. Please see the Principal or designee for more information on the makeup of an individual graduation committee and all other requirements for graduation.

****Note for Students in Grade 12 during the 2020-2021 School Year**** In determining whether a student in grade 12 during the 2020-2021 school year is qualified to graduate, an individual graduation committee is not required to consider criteria under Education Code § 28.0258(h) relating to the student's performance on an EOC assessment instrument. Individual Graduation Committees do *not* expire now due to HB1603 being passed in June 2021.

High School GPA and Class Rank

We utilize various GPA scales to calculate class rank. Regular classes are on a 4.0 scale, AP and/or Honor classes are on a 5.0 scale, Dual Credit classes are on a 6.0 scale. Grades earned in the following courses are usually excluded when calculating the weighted GPA and academic class rank:

- High school PE and/or athletics
- Local credits
- Correspondence courses
- Summer school courses
- Credit by examination
- Credit for acceleration
- Credit recovery courses not taken through PTAA
- Home school courses
- Distance Learning and online courses from a non-accredited private or public school
- Courses taken in foreign countries (unless offered by an accredited US school)
- High school courses taken while the student is in middle school
- Pass/fail courses
- Non-accredited private schools

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors will be awarded to the students with the highest and second-highest GPAs. GPAs will be calculated to the ten-thousandth place. To be considered for the award, students must attend at least 4 complete consecutive semesters at PTAA beginning the fall of the Junior year. In years where the class size is relatively small, class ranks may not be completed. Students who are early graduates are not eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian.

The growing competition for acceptance into elite colleges has led to an unprecedented number of dedicated students. Consequently, many high schools now recognize multiple valedictorians to acknowledge the achievements and commitment of several top students. In some schools, in fact, dozens of students now meet the criteria for this distinction.

Additionally, Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy reserves the right to select two valedictorians at the school's

discretion to create a more inclusive recognition of student excellence. This approach allows the school to honor outstanding achievements across a broader spectrum of disciplines and activities.

Community Service

While academics is our prime focus, PTAA will also focus on developing productive citizens. Community Service is giving one's time for the betterment of others.

Students will be required to earn a minimum of 20 community service hours. Any student who earns 100 or more approved community service hours will be awarded a graduation cord. Hours may begin accumulating in June following completion of eighth grade. It is the student's responsibility to track hours earned and submit documentation to the campus counselor or designee by the established deadline.

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 PTAA.

Withdrawal Prior to the End of the Semester

Students who withdraw prior to the end of the semester and before all exams are completed will NOT receive a semester grade or semester credit from a PTAA campus. The grade in progress at the time of withdrawal will be sent to the new school. The student's new school will determine how the grade information sent by PTAA for the current grading period will be processed and credits calculated/awarded.

Enrollment Prior to the End of the Semester

If the previous school has not completed the semester, the withdrawal/transfer grades from the previous school will be used with the grades earned for the remainder of the grading period to determine that grade for the grading period. The student will take the semester final to be used in calculating the semester average and course credit.

Placement of Former Home School Students' High School Course Credits

Students entering PTAA who wish to obtain high school level credit for courses completed in home school settings must follow the procedures below.

- Request high school credit earned through home school within the first nine weeks of enrollment at PTAA.
- Submit copies of student assessment results, work samples, and any other evidence of course completion.
- Submit a detailed outline and/or course syllabus and copies of instructional materials. All required items above should be given to the campus administrator.

After submission of the credit request and required items, PTAA staff will review the materials, and course credit will be awarded based on the level and type of work completed, the relevancy of the course itself, and the level to which the course addresses the Texas state standards (TEKS) for the credit being requested. Submission of the credit request and required items does not guarantee public school credit. In addition, acceptance of home school credit by other private schools does not obligate or guarantee credit for these courses by PTAA.

If PTAA determines that the student appears to be deficient in particular areas of the course or not enough documentation is available to award course credit, the student will be required to complete an end-of-semester, end-of-course, or an equivalent exam to determine course credit. Such exams will assess the overall content knowledge of the courses as outlined in the Texas State Standards (TEKS).

Grades K-8 Placement

Students entering PTAA in grades K-8 from home school programs will follow the same procedures 1-3 as high school students. Work completed in home school settings will be assessed by school staff to determine the extent to which the grade level and subjects align with Texas state standards (TEKS) and PTAA courses. Students may be requested to take an end-of-semester or end-of-course assessment; data from documentation and/or assessment

will be used, in conjunction with the overall assessment of the curriculum used in the home school setting, to place students in the appropriate grade.

Foundation Graduation Program

Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter will graduate under the foundation graduation program. Within the foundation graduation program are “endorsements,” which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student’s transcript and diploma. The foundation graduation program also involves the term “distinguished level of achievement,” which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits.

State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and the student’s parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to an appropriate school administrator for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgements” that will be acknowledged on a student’s diploma and transcript. Performance acknowledgements are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course; on an AP or IB exam; on the PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT, or ACT exam; or for earning a nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgements are prescribed by state rules, and the Principal or designee can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

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

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

The admission, review, and dismissal committee for students with disabilities who receive special education services will make instructional and assessment decisions for these students in accordance with state law and rules. To earn an endorsement under the foundation graduation program, a student must perform satisfactorily on the EOC assessments and receive no modified curriculum in the student’s chosen endorsement area. A student may still be awarded an endorsement when the student fails to perform satisfactorily on no more than two EOC assessments but meets the other graduation requirements under state law.

3.14 Promotion and Retention

A student may be promoted on the basis of academic achievement and/or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must demonstrate mastery on grade level standards and meet PTAA’s requirements for attendance. A student in grades 9-12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned.

A student may be considered for retention if they have met any of the following criteria:

1. failed one or more core subject areas;
2. failed one or more state assessments;
3. is below level in one or more core subject areas; or
4. missed more than 10% of instructional days in an academic year. The decision must be made by a committee, which is comprised of the child’s core subject area teachers, the counselor, and the Principal or designee.

Special Education Students: A student's IEP can modify the school's promotion criteria in whole or in part. Any modified promotion standards shall be determined by the student's ARD committee and documented in the IEP. A student's ARD committee will also make determinations on whether a student will be promoted or retained.

Parent Option for Students to Repeat Grades or Courses

In certain circumstances, a parent may elect for a student to repeat a grade or retake a high school course. Subject to certain restrictions, a parent may elect for a student to:

1. Repeat prekindergarten;
2. Enroll in prekindergarten if the child was eligible to enroll in free prekindergarten under Education Code § 29.153(b) and has not yet enrolled in kindergarten;
3. Repeat kindergarten;
4. Enroll in kindergarten if the child would have enrolled in kindergarten in the previous school year and has not yet enrolled in first grade;
5. For grades one through three, repeat the grade the student was enrolled in the previous school year;
6. For grades four through eight, repeat the grade the student was enrolled in the previous school year; and/or
7. For courses taken for high school credit, repeat any course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year.

A parent may not elect for a student to repeat a course identified in item 7 above if PTAA determines the student has met all of the requirements for graduation.

An election for a student to repeat a grade or retake a high school course must be made in writing. If PTAA disagrees with a parent election for a student to repeat a grade or retake a high school course, the school must convene a retention committee and meet with the parent to discuss retention. The meeting must be conducted in person, unless the parent agrees to alternative means. A student may not be retained for a grade or repeat a course if the parent does not meet with the retention committee.

The retention committee will be composed of the Principal or designee, the student's parent, the teacher who taught the grade or course for which the parent wants the student retained or repeated, and additional teachers at the discretion of the Principal, if the student will potentially repeat multiple courses. During the retention meeting, PTAA and the parent will discuss the merits of and concerns with advancement and retention, and review and consider the student's grade in each subject or course, the results of any formative or summative assessments administered to the student, and any other available academic information to determine the student's academic readiness for the next grade or a given course. After the parent has participated in a retention committee meeting, the parent shall decide whether the student should be retained or retake a grade or course. PTAA must abide by the parent's decision.

A parent's ability to elect for a student to be retained in the grade level or repeat a course in grades 4 and above expired on September 1, 2022.

3.15 Report Cards

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued to parents at least once every nine weeks. During the fourth week of a nine-week grading period, parents will be given a written progress report if their child's performance in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies is near or below 70%, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70% in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. The report card or progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70% in a class or subject. Report cards and progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within seven days.

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the

parent or student may request a conference with the Principal or designee. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the Board of Directors determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the school's grading policy.

3.16 Special Programs

Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English

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

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

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavioral support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The implementation of MTSS has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts and charter schools to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individual(s) 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 if 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 an administrative employee of the school district or open enrollment charter school, the district or charter school must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district or charter school must give the parent a prior written notice of whether it agrees to or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards. If the school district or charter school agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Please note that a request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally and does not need to be in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline.

If the district or charter school 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 to evaluate the student. 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 a district or charter school 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 30th 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 or charter school must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

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

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services please contact your campus principal or Jennifer Cayce at Jcayce@ptaa.org.

Section 504 Referrals

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

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals:

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services please contact your campus principal.

Additional Information

The following websites provide information and resources for students with disabilities and their families:

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process;](#)
- [Partners Resource Network;](#)
- [Special Education Information Center; and](#)
- [Texas Project First.](#)

Notification to Parent of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to General Education Students

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

Services for Title I Participants

Information regarding PTAA's Title I program may be obtained from Dr. Derrick Love at dlove@ptaa.org or the district website.

Students 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 of 1973 ("Section 504"). Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities. When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be created to determine whether the student needs Section 504 services and supports in order to receive an appropriate education as required by federal law.

3.17 Standardized Testing

State Assessment Transition Notice

PTAA will administer state assessments in accordance with TEA requirements and the adopted state testing calendar. During the 2026-2027 school year, families should expect continued state assessment requirements while Texas prepares to implement a new assessment program beginning in 2027-2028.

Parents will receive notice when state assessment results are available and may access student results through the Texas Assessment Family Portal or other district-approved parent access tools.

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students in grades 3-8 will take the state assessment, the STAAR exam, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3-8;
- English Language Arts, annually in grades 3-8;
- Science in grades 5 and 8; and
- Social Studies in grade 8.

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services and who meet certain state-established criteria, as determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee.

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

End-of-Course Assessments for Students in Grades 9-12

STAAR or EOC assessments are administered for the following courses:

- Algebra I;
- Biology;
- English I and II; and
- United States History.

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

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

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for eligible students receiving special education services and who meet certain state-established criteria, as determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee. The student's admission, review, and dismissal committee will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for a student receiving special education services to graduate, following parameters set in state regulations.

Accelerated Instruction

Concern for Educators and Families: Texas students have experienced academic growth post-Covid but learning acceleration is still critically needed, particularly in Math. On the 2022 STAAR, only 52% of students met grade level expectations in Reading Language Arts while only 40% of students met grade level in math.¹

Opportunity: Evidence suggests that high-impact tutoring can have a significant impact on outcomes for students.

Accelerated Instruction Requirements: Texas law requires all students who do not achieve approaches or higher on STAAR grades 3 through 8 or EOC assessments to be provided accelerated instruction. These requirements, modified by House Bill 4545 from the 87th legislature and recently updated with the passage of House Bill 1416 in the 88th legislature, provide that qualifying students must be:

- Assigned a TIA-designated teacher for the subsequent school year in the applicable subject area; OR
- Provided supplemental instruction aligned with the research on high-impact tutoring in the TEKS for the applicable grade levels and subject areas in the following manner:
 - No less than 15 or 30 hours* depending on student performance and is provided in the summer or at least once per week in the school year;
 - Limited to two subjects per year, prioritizing math and RLA;

- Provided in a group of no more than four students, unless the parent or guardian of each student in the group authorizes a larger group;
- Designed to assist the student in achieving satisfactory performance in the applicable grade level and subject area and includes effective instructional materials designed for supplemental instruction;
- Provided by a person with training in the applicable instructional materials for the supplemental instruction and provided by one person for the entirety of their accelerated instruction.

*HB 1416 requires TEA to define requirements for students requiring 30 hours of supplemental instruction through the rulemaking process. TEA will propose rules that will provide that students who fall into the "Low - Does Not Meet" category of STAAR performance receive no less than 30 hours of supplemental instruction. The rules will also provide that students in third grade who do not approach grade level or higher will be required to receive 30 hours of supplemental instruction.

To learn about what has changed in accelerated instruction requirements from HB 1416 and to see the complete list of frequently asked questions, visit the TEA Accelerated Instruction webpage or reach out to accelerated.instruction@tea.texas.gov with questions.

Accelerated Learning Committees

PTAA will establish an accelerated learning committee ("ALC") for each student who fails to perform satisfactorily on:

1. The third-grade mathematics or reading STAAR assessment;
2. The fifth-grade mathematics or reading STAAR assessment; or
3. The eighth-grade mathematics or reading STAAR assessment.

A student's ALC will be composed of the Principal or designee, the student's parent, and the teacher of the subject of the assessment on which the student failed to perform satisfactorily.

The ALC will, not later than the start of the subsequent school year after the student fails to perform satisfactorily on one of the STAAR exams mentioned above, develop an educational plan for the student that provides the necessary accelerated instruction to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the conclusion of the school year. The educational plan must be documented in writing, and a copy must be provided to the student's parent or guardian.

A parent of a student who fails to perform satisfactorily on one of the STAAR exams mentioned above may submit a written request to the Principal for PTAA to consider the student's assignment to a particular classroom teacher in the applicable subject area for the subsequent school year, if more than one classroom teacher is available. PTAA retains discretion to make classroom assignments based on campus needs and classroom capacity.

During the school year, the student's progress will be monitored to ensure that the student is progressing in accordance with the plan. PTAA will also administer to the student the assessment instrument for the grade level in which the student is placed at the same time as the assessment is taken by other students in the same grade level.

If a student assigned to an educational plan fails in the subsequent school year to perform satisfactorily on a STAAR exam in the same subject, the Superintendent or designee will meet with the student's ALC to: (1) identify the reason the student did not perform satisfactorily, and (2) determine, in order to ensure the student performs satisfactorily on next administration of the STAAR exam, whether the student's educational plan must be modified and if any additional resources are required for the student.

The student's parent may contest the content or implementation of an educational plan developed by the ALC by submitting a written complaint to the Principal within (1) seven calendar days of the parent's receipt of the educational plan or (2) within seven calendar days of the parent's concern that the educational plan is not being properly implemented. The designated administrator will conduct a conference with the parent within five school days of the Principal's receipt of the written complaint and issue a written decision within five school days of the

conference. A parent who is dissatisfied with the designated administrator's decision may appeal through PTAA's student and parent complaint process, beginning at the level of Superintendent or designee review.

Special Education Students: The ARD Committee of a student who participates in the school's special education program and who does not perform satisfactorily on the math or reading portions of the third, fifth, or eighth-grade STAAR assessment must meet to determine how the student will participate in an accelerated instruction program.

Texas Success Initiative Assessment

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the TSI assessment. The purpose of the TSI assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. Achieving certain benchmark scores on this assessment for college readiness may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

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

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

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

Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System ("TELPAS") is a system of statewide assessments administered to all Limited English Proficient ("LEP") students in grades K-12. The TELPAS measures English ability based on the stages of language development of second language learners. These results will further the understanding of the educational needs of LEP students by providing a state-level measure of both their current academic English levels and their annual progress in English.

SECTION 4: STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct

To function properly, education must provide an equal learning opportunity for all students by recognizing, valuing, and addressing the individual needs of every student. In addition to the regular curriculum, principles and practices of good citizenship must also be taught and modeled by school staff. To foster an orderly and distraction-free environment, PTAA has established this Student Code of Conduct in accordance with state law and the PTAA open-enrollment charter. The Code has been adopted by the Board of Directors, and provides information to parents and students regarding expectations for behavior, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline.

In accordance with state law, the Student Code of Conduct will be posted at each PTAA campus and/or will be available for review at the campus office. Parents will be notified of any violation that may result in a student being suspended or expelled from PTAA. Students must be familiar with the standards set forth in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

The Student Code of Conduct does not define all types and aspects of student behavior, as PTAA may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Student Code of Conduct. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Student Code of Conduct. When students participate in student activities, they will also be expected to follow the guidelines and constitutions that further specify PTAA organization's expectations, student behavior and consequences.

4.2 Authority and Jurisdiction

PTAA has disciplinary authority over a student:

1. During lunch periods in which a student is allowed to leave campus;
2. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school on PTAA transportation;
3. For any expulsion offense committed away from PTAA property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event if the misconduct creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment;
4. For any expulsion offense committed while on PTAA property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of PTAA or another school in Texas;
5. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
6. When criminal mischief is committed on or off PTAA property or at a school-related event;
7. When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
8. When the student commits a felony, including those provided by Texas Education Code §§ 37.006 or 37.0081, regardless of time or location;
9. While a student is participating in any remote/virtual classroom or other period of online instruction provided by PTAA;
10. While the student is attending any school-related activity, regardless of time or location; and
11. While the student is in transit to or from school or to or from school-related activities or events;

Reporting Crimes

In addition to disciplinary consequences, misdemeanor and felony offenses committed on campus or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities will be reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Safe and Supportive Schools Program and Threat-Related Reporting

PTAA is committed to maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment. The campus behavior coordinator or designee may report serious student conduct or concerning behavioral trends to the Safe and Supportive Schools Program team when required by law or local procedure.

Reportable conduct may include conduct involving a terroristic threat, unlawfully carrying a weapon, prohibited weapons, exhibiting, using, or threatening to use a firearm, or other behavior that may pose a serious risk of violence to the student or others.

When a student receiving special education services is the subject of a threat assessment, the team conducting the assessment will include a person knowledgeable about student disabilities and how disabilities may manifest, as required by law.

PTAA may provide timely internal notice to staff who may be directly affected by a campus-level threat in accordance with state law and district safety procedures.

4.3 Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet PTAA's standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other PTAA staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including PTAA property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

4.4 Discipline Management Techniques

Disciplinary management techniques are designed to improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Discipline will be correlated to the seriousness of the offense, the student's age and grade level, the frequency of misbehavior, the student's attitude, the effect of the misconduct on the school environment, and statutory requirements.

Because of these factors, discipline for a particular offense, unless otherwise specified by law, may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

Techniques

The following discipline management techniques may be used, alone or in combination, for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

- Assignment of school duties such as cleaning or picking up litter.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Cooling-off time or "time-out."
- Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrative personnel.
- Rewards for positive behavior.

- Demerits.
- Detention.
- Expulsion from PTAA, as specified in the expulsion section of the Code.
- Grade reductions for cheating, plagiarism, and as otherwise permitted by policy.
- In-school suspension, as specified in the suspension section of the Code.
- Out-of-school suspension, as specified in the suspension section of the Code.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by PTAA.
- Restorative discipline practices.
- School-assessed and school-administered probation (final warning contracts).
- Seating changes within the classroom.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned area.
- Techniques or penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Verbal correction, oral or written.
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities, field trips, eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, or membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Withdrawal or restriction of bus privileges.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

Corporal Punishment

PTAA will NOT administer corporal punishment upon a student for misconduct.

4.5 Restorative Discipline Practices

PTAA may utilize a wide variety of restorative discipline practices, which are designed to build a sense of school community based on cooperation, mutual understanding, trust, and respect, and emphasize the importance of positive relationships and pro-social relationships between students. Specifically, PTAA believes that when students engage in inappropriate conduct, restorative discipline practices may hold the potential to:

- Build trust, respect, and relationships
- Develop self-discipline and positive behaviors
- Encourage accountability and responsibility in the school community
- Establish mutual understanding
- Help students understand the harm caused by the misconduct
- Identify and respond to the needs of the person harmed and the person who caused the harm
- Increase parent partnerships
- Promote equitable input from all stakeholders
- Reintegrate students who have caused harm in the school community

- Strengthen school culture

Essentially, the restorative approach sees misbehavior or conflict as an opportunity for students to learn about the consequences for their actions, develop empathy for others, and learn methods to make amends in a way that strengthens interpersonal bonds.

Examples of restorative discipline practices may include, but are not limited to:

- Affective statements;
- Apologies;
- Community building circles;
- Mediation;
- Relationship building;
- Repairing harm circles;
- Restitution
- Restorative circles or conferences; and
- Restorative dialogues/making agreements.

Restorative discipline practices may take the form of alternatives in lieu of other disciplinary consequences allowed under the Code of Conduct and/or supplemental action taken along with other disciplinary consequences.

Restorative discipline practices are a collaborative process, and may not be required or appropriate in all student discipline situations.

4.6 Procedures for Use of Restraint

School employees, volunteers or independent contractors are authorized to use restraint in the event of an emergency and subject to the following limitations:

- Only reasonable force as is necessary to address the emergency may be used.
- The restraint must be discontinued at the point at which the emergency no longer exists.
- The restraint must be implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the student and others.
- The student may not be deprived of basic human necessities.

“Restraint” generally means the use of physical force or a mechanical device to significantly restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student’s body.

“Emergency” means a situation in which a student’s behavior poses a threat of:

1. Imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others; or
2. Imminent, serious property destruction.

In a case where restraint is used, school employees, volunteers, or independent contractors shall document the incident as required by the Texas Education Agency. Additionally, PTAA shall report electronically to the Texas Education Agency, following standards provided by the Commissioner of Education, information relating to the use of restraint by a peace officer performing law enforcement duties on school property or during a school-sponsored or school-related activity. The report must be consistent with the requirements adopted by the Commissioner of Education for reporting the use of restraint involving students with disabilities.

4.7 Procedures for Use of Time-Out

A school employee, volunteer, or independent contractor may use time-out with the following limitations:

1. Physical force or the threat of physical force will not be used to place a student in time-out.

2. Time-out may only be used in conjunction with an array of positive behavior intervention strategies and techniques, and must be included in the student's IEP or BIP if it is utilized on a recurrent basis to increase or decrease targeted behavior.
3. Time-out will not be utilized in a manner that precludes the ability of the student to be involved in progress in the general curriculum and advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals specified in the student's IEP.

“Time-out” means a behavior management technique in which, to provide a student with an opportunity to regain self-control, the student is separated from other students for a limited period in a setting:

1. That is not locked; and
2. From which the exit is not physically blocked by furniture, a closed door held shut from the outside, or another inanimate object.

Necessary documentation or data collection regarding the use of time-out, if any, must be addressed in the IEP or BIP. The student's ARD committee must use any collected data to judge the effectiveness of the intervention and provide a basis for making determinations regarding its continued use.

4.8 Student Code of Conduct Offenses

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities.

Level I Offenses:

1. Being in an unauthorized area.
2. Causing an individual to act through the use of threat or coercion.
3. Computer system violations.
4. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others.
5. Defacing or damaging school property, including textbooks, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by other means.
6. Disobeying conduct rules regarding school transportation.
7. Disrespect of school staff and persons in authority.
8. Engaging in any misbehavior that gives school officials reasonable cause to believe that such conduct will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
9. Engaging in disruptive actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
10. Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual contact directed toward another student or a school employee.
11. Engaging in threatening behavior toward another student or school employee on or off school property.
12. Failure to complete assigned homework.
13. Failure to comply with directives of school staff (insubordination).
14. Failure to comply with school dress code policies and grooming standards.
15. Failure to leave campus within 30 minutes of school dismissal (unless involved in an activity under supervision).
16. Failure to report known hazing, harassment, or bullying of students.
17. Improperly discharging a fire extinguisher.
18. Inappropriate behavior (not abusive, threatening, violent).

19. Inappropriate or indecent exposure of a student's private body parts.
20. Inappropriate public display of affection: (Public displays of affection deemed inappropriate by public standards such as lewd or inappropriate, kissing, touching, fondling, holding hands, etc.).
21. Insensitivity to others.
22. Making false accusations or hoaxes regarding school safety.
23. Persistent tardiness (tardy, without excuse, on four or more days within a period of 45 rolling school days).
24. Possessing a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person.
25. Possessing any electronic devices without permission.
26. Possessing matches, lighters, etc.
27. Possessing aerosol canisters or any other object used to set off fire alarms.
28. Possessing published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety; using e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior; or threatening school safety.
29. Refusing to accept discipline management techniques assigned by a teacher or the Principal or designee.
30. Repeatedly violating campus or classroom standards of behavior.
31. Skipping class, detention, or mandatory tutorial sessions.
32. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
33. Using a skateboard, scooter, and/or rollerblades while on campus.
34. Using any telecommunications or other electronic devices, without permission, during school hours.

Progressive Consequences for Personal Communication Devices and Electronics

The following progressive consequences may be used for possession or unauthorized use of personal communication devices and electronics during the school day, unless a more serious violation requires a higher-level consequence under the Student Code of Conduct:

- First violation: verbal warning, parent notification, and temporary confiscation of the device until the end of the school day or release to a parent/guardian according to campus procedures.
- Second violation: parent notification, confiscation of the device, and assigned detention or another Level I consequence.
- Third violation: parent conference, confiscation of the device, loss of device privilege, and in-school suspension or another appropriate disciplinary consequence.
- Repeated or serious violations: additional disciplinary action may include out-of-school suspension, revocation of authorization, loss of privileges, or elevation to a Level II or Level III offense when the conduct involves bullying, harassment, threats, privacy violations, cheating, recording in prohibited areas, or disruption to the educational environment.

Campus administrators may adjust consequences based on the facts, student age, disability-related needs, prior conduct, safety concerns, and applicable law.

Level I Offenses may be elevated to Level II Offenses at Administrator's discretion.

Disciplinary Consequences (may not necessarily be followed in order and progressive disciplinary measures are not required)

1. After school detention.
2. Application of one or more discipline management techniques listed above.

3. Confiscation of cell phones or other electronic devices.
4. Grade reductions for academic dishonesty.
5. In-school suspension.
6. Out-of-school suspension.
7. Removal from the classroom and/or placement in another classroom.
8. Restitution/restoration, if applicable.
9. Saturday school.
10. School-assessed and school-administered probation.
11. Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
12. Verbal correction, oral or written.
13. Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities and eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs or organizations.

Level II Offenses

1. Abusing over-the-counter drugs.
2. Academic dishonesty (cheating or copying the work of another).
3. Being a member of, pledging to become a member of, joining, or soliciting another person to join, or pledge to become a member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang, as defined in Texas Education Code § 37.121.
4. Bypassing of Internet blocks on school computers or networks to enter unapproved sites.
5. Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail (obtaining money or another object of value from an unwilling person).
6. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others, including but not limited to PTAA property or facilities, property belonging to school employees or other students.
7. Defacing or damaging PTAA property, including textbooks, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, or property of any other person with graffiti or by any other means.
8. Engaging in offensive conduct of a sexual nature (verbal or physical).
9. Failure to comply with conditions of after-school detention and/or in-school suspension placement.
10. Failure to comply with PTAA's medication policies.
11. False accusation of conduct that would constitute a misdemeanor or felony.
12. Falsifying records, passes, or other school-related documents.
13. Fighting/mutual combat.
14. Gambling.
15. Gang-related activity of any kind or nature (behavior that is deemed serious gang-related activity may be elevated or addressed as a Level Three offense).
16. Inappropriate behavior (e.g., violent; threat of being violent; racially, ethnically, or culturally motivated actions).
17. Interference with school activities or discipline.
18. Involvement in a felony offense not listed in Title 5, Texas Penal Code, and PTAA is notified by the police.
19. Leaving classroom, school property, or school-sponsored events without permission.

20. Making an obscene gesture.
21. Persistent Level I offenses (two or more Level One offenses within a semester).
22. Possessing drug paraphernalia.
23. Possessing, viewing, or distributing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in any media format.
24. Refusing to allow lawful student search.
25. Sexual harassment/sexual abuse not defined as a Level III offense.
26. Theft.
27. Threats (nonviolent/verbal or written).
28. Throwing objects not considered an illegal weapon that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
29. Trespassing on PTAA property.
30. Unruly, disruptive, or abusive behavior that interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class.
31. Use of profanity or vulgar/offensive language (oral or in writing).
32. Using a cell phones or other device to capture images in locker rooms, restroom areas, or other sensitive areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.
33. Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten students or employees, or cause disruption to the school program.
34. Verbal or written abuse (e.g., name calling, racial or ethnic slurs, or derogatory statements that may disrupt the school environment, etc.).
35. Willful destruction of school or personal property and/or vandalism.

Level II Offenses may be deescalated to Level I or elevated to Level III Offenses at Administrator discretion.

Disciplinary Consequences (may not necessarily be followed in order and progressive disciplinary measures are not required)

1. Any applicable Level I Disciplinary Consequence or Discipline Management Technique listed above, including multiple consequences at PTAA's discretion.
2. Out-of-school suspension for up to five days.

Level III Offenses

1. Abusing a student's own prescription drug, giving a prescription drug to another student, or possessing or being under the influence of another person's prescription drug while on PTAA property or at a school-related event.
2. Aggravated assault.
3. Aggravated kidnapping.
4. Aggravated robbery.
5. Aggravated sexual assault.
6. Any offense listed in Sections 37.006(a) or 37.007 (a), (b), and (d) of the Texas Education Code, no matter when or where the offense takes place.
7. Arson.
8. Assault.
9. Burglary of a motor vehicle on campus.

10. Capital murder.
11. Commission of a felony offense listed under Title 5, Texas Penal Code.
12. Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Texas Penal Code.
13. Committing the following offenses on school property or within 1,000 feet of school property as measured from any point on PTAA's real property boundary line, or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - a. Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable volatile chemicals.
 - b. Behaving in a manner that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness or indecent exposure.
 - c. Committing an assault under Texas Penal Code 22.01(a)(1).
 - d. Engaging in conduct punishable as a felony.
 - e. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person an alcoholic beverage; committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol, if the conduct is not punishable as a felony offense.
 - f. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug in an amount not constituting a felony offense.
14. Conduct endangering the health and safety of others.
15. Creation or participating in the creation of a "hit list" under Texas Education Code § 37.001(b)(3).
16. Criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder.
17. Criminal mischief.
18. Criminally negligent homicide.
19. Deliberate destruction or tampering with PTAA's computer data or networks.
20. Engaging in bullying and/or cyberbullying.
21. Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
22. Engaging in conduct punishable as a felony.
23. Engaging in conduct punishable as a felony listed under Title 5 of the Texas penal Code when the conduct occurs off PTAA property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event and:
 - a. The student receives deferred prosecution;
 - b. A court or jury finds that the student has engaged in delinquent conduct; or
 - c. The Principal or designee has reasonable belief that the student engaged in the conduct.
24. Engaging in conduct punishable as a Level III expulsion offense when the conduct occurs off PTAA property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, and the conduct creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
25. Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm or report (including a bomb threat) or a terroristic threat involving a public school.
26. Engaging in conduct relating to a false alarm to induce emergency response.
27. Engaging in conduct relating to harassment of a PTAA employee, including but not limited to:
 - a. Initiating communication and, in the course of the communication making a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene;
 - b. Threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the treat, to inflict bodily

- injury on the person or to commit a felony against the employee, a member of the employee's family or household, or the employee's property;
 - c. Conveying, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the employee receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the scholar to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury; or
 - d. Sending repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another.
28. Engaging in conduct that constitutes dating violence, including intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship.
 29. Engaging in conduct that constitutes discrimination or harassment, including conduct motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or age and directed toward another student or PTAA employee.
 30. Engaging in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment or sexual abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct directed toward another person, including a PTAA student, employee, or volunteer.
 31. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of retaliation against any PTAA employee or volunteer, whether on or off of school property.
 32. Engaging in the electronic transmission of sexually explicit visual material that :
 - a. Depicts any person engaging in sexual conduct; or
 - b. Depicts a person's intimate parts exposed; or
 - c. Depicts the covered genitals of a male person that are in a discernibly turgid state; and
 - d. Is not sent at the request of or with the express consent of the recipient.
 33. Engaging in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
 34. Engaging in online impersonation.
 35. Failure to complete more than one scheduled in-school suspension without a confirmed excuse.
 36. Felony criminal mischief against school property, another student, or school staff.
 37. Gang activity.
 38. Hazing.
 39. Inappropriate sexual conduct.
 40. Inciting violence against a student through group bullying.
 41. Indecency with a child.
 42. Inhalant abuse.
 43. Issuing a false fire alarm.
 44. Manslaughter.
 45. Murder.
 46. Persistent Level I offenses (four or more Level I offenses committed in any one school year).
 47. Persistent Level II offenses (two or more Level II offenses committed in any one school year).
 48. Possessing any prohibited items, including but not limited to:
 - a. A "look-alike" weapon (includes but is not limited to BB guns, CO2 guns, air pistols or rifles, pellet guns, or any other device designed to appear to be a firearm or other weapon);

- b. A laser pointer for other than an approved use;
 - c. A pocketknife or any other small knife with a blade less than 1.5” in length;
 - d. A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
 - e. A stun gun;
 - f. Ammunition;
 - g. An air gun or BB gun;
 - h. Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic or explosive device;
 - i. Mace or pepper spray;
 - j. Matches or a lighter;
 - k. Tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device or accessory to a vapor product; or
 - l. Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the Principal or designee determines that a danger exists.
49. Possessing or selling look-alike drugs or items attempted to be passed off as drugs or contraband.
 50. Possessing or selling seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
 51. Possessing or using alcohol.
 52. Possessing, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of inhalants.
 53. Possessing, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of a simulated controlled substance.
 54. Possessing, smoking, or using tobacco products and/or e-cigarettes at school or a school-related or school-sanctioned activity on or off school property.
 55. Possessing, using, giving, or selling paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance, including illegal, prescription, and over-the-counter drugs.
 56. Possession, use, transfer or exhibition of any firearm, handgun, improvised explosive device, location-restricted knife, club, or any other prohibited weapon or harmful object (as determined by PTAA).
 57. Public lewdness.
 58. Releasing or threatening to release “intimate visual material” of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student’s consent.
 59. Required registration as a sex offender.
 60. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a cannabidiol (CBD) substance, a dangerous drug, or an alcoholic beverage.
 61. Sending or distributing sexually suggestive, nude, or partially nude photographs and/or sexually explicit message via text message, social media applications, or other methods of electronic delivery while at school, or while away from school if the conduct creates a substantial disruption to the school environment.
 62. Sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal, including conduct occurring off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
 63. Setting or attempting to set fire on school property.
 64. Sexual abuse of a young child or children.
 65. Sexual assault.

66. Stealing from students, staff, or PTAA.
67. Targeting another individual for bodily harm.
68. Use, exhibition, or possession of a hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown, including but not limited to a dagger; dirk; stiletto; poniard; bowie knife; sword; spear; switchblade; assisted-open knife (regardless of length); or as otherwise defined by Board of Director's policy.
69. Use, exhibition, or possession of a knife with a blade more than 1.5" in length, including but not limited to switchblade knives or any other knife not defined as a location-restricted knife.
70. Vandalism or conduct constituting criminal mischief with respect to school facilities or property.
71. Violating the terms and conditions of a student behavior contract.
72. Violating PTAA's computer use policies, rules, or agreements, such as the Student Acceptable Use policy, and including conduct involving but not limited to:
 - a. Attempting to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of PTAA or its students or employees, and uploading or creating computer viruses, including such conduct off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
 - b. Attempting to alter, destroy, or disable PTAA computer equipment, PTAA data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the PTAA system, including conduct occurring off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption of the educational environment.
 - c. Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten PTAA students, employees, or volunteers, including conduct occurring off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
 - d. Sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including conduct occurring off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
 - e. Using e-mail or Web sites at school to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety.
73. Any discretionary or mandatory expulsion violation under Texas Education Code, Chapter 37.

Level III Offenses may be deescalated to Level II Offenses at Administrator discretion.

Disciplinary Consequences (may not necessarily be followed in order and progressive disciplinary measures are not required)

1. Out of school suspension for five-ten days.
2. Expulsion.

4.9 Student Code of Conduct Consequences

Detention

Detention may be held on each day during school for up to eight hours. Students who serve detention must make arrangements to be picked up from school. Parents may request, in person, a delay of the detention; no phone calls or notes will be accepted.

After School Detention

The following rules apply to students assigned to after school detention:

1. Students will bring materials to work on. Classroom materials may also be sent by a teacher.
2. Students will not be permitted to go to their lockers during detention; all materials must be brought to the detention room when reporting.
3. Sleeping is not permitted.

4. Students will follow all rules concerning classroom behavior. Failure to comply will mean suspension from school.
5. Any student assigned to detention must stay the entire time. Students refusing to complete their time will be suspended from school.

Suspension

PTAA utilizes two kinds of suspension: in school suspension and out of school suspension.

In School Suspension

The following rules and regulations apply to all students assigned to in school suspension (“ISS”):

1. Students must report to the detention room at ____ a.m. ISS will be run from ____ a.m. until dismissal time.
2. Students will bring materials to work on, including an ISS assignment with their teachers’ names, subjects, and assignments. Students are responsible for obtaining assignments from each teacher.
3. Students will not be permitted to go their lockers. All materials must be brought to the room when reporting.
4. Students may not bring food or drink into the detention room.
5. No disruptive behavior will be allowed.
6. Unexcused absences from suspension will be referred to the Principal or designee.
7. Sleeping is prohibited.
8. Students must abide by PTAA’s policies and behavioral standards during their suspension period.
9. A student who misses a scheduled ISS session without a confirmed excuse will be assigned one day out of school suspension. If a student misses more than one scheduled ISS session without a confirmed excuse, he or she may be subject to expulsion.

Failure to follow these guidelines will be reported to the Principal or designee for further action, which may include up to three days of out-of-school suspension or any other Level I consequence.

Out of School Suspension

In deciding whether to order out-of-school suspension, the administrator may take into consideration factors including self-defense, prior discipline history, the student’s status as a student in foster care or who is homeless, intent or lack of intent and other appropriate or mitigating factors determined by the administrator.

In addition to the Code of Conduct violations listed above that may result in suspension, the Principal or designee has authority to suspend a student for a period of up to five school days for any of the following additional reasons:

1. The need to further investigate an incident,
2. A recommendation to expel the student, or
3. An emergency constituting endangerment to health or safety.

Special Rules for Suspensions Involving Homeless Students

PTAA may not place a student who is homeless in out-of-school suspension unless the student engages in the following conduct while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property:

1. Unlawful possession of a firearm or other weapon;
2. Assault, sexual assault, aggravated assault, or aggravated sexual assault; or
3. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana or a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or an alcoholic beverage.

Emergency Placement

If the Principal or designee reasonably believes a student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with students in a class, with the ability of a student's classmates to learn, or with the operation of PTAA or a school-sponsored activity, the Principal or designee may order immediate removal of the student. The Principal or designee may impose immediate suspension if he or she reasonably believes such action is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm. At the time of such an emergency removal, the student will be given verbal notice of the reason for the action and appropriate hearings will be scheduled within a reasonable time after the emergency removal.

Removal from School Transportation

A student being transported by PTAA transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity may be removed from a school vehicle for conduct violating the school's established standards for conduct in a school vehicle.

4.10 Conferences, Hearings, and Appeals

All students are entitled to conferences, hearings, and/or appeals of disciplinary matters as provided by applicable state and federal law, and PTAA policy.

Process for Suspensions Lasting Up to Three Days

Prior to suspending a student for up to three days, the Principal or designee must attempt to hold an informal conference with the student to:

1. Notify the student of the accusations against him/her,
2. Allow the student to relate his or her version of the incident, and
3. Determine whether the student's conduct warrants suspension.

If the Principal or designee determines the student's conduct warrants suspension during the school day for up to five days, the Principal or designee will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent(s) that the student has been suspended before the student is sent home. The Principal or designee will notify a suspended student's parent(s) of the period of suspension, the grounds for the suspension, and the time and place for an opportunity to confer with the Principal or designee.

A student shall receive credit for work missed during the period of suspension if the student makes up work missed during the period of suspension within the same number of school days the student was absent on suspension.

Process for Out-of-School Suspensions Over Three Days (extended suspension) and Expulsion**Notice**

When the Principal or designee determine that a student's conduct warrants suspension for more than three days (extended suspension) or expulsion, but prior to taking any such action, the Principal or designee will provide the student's parent(s) with written notice of:

1. The reasons for the proposed disciplinary action; and
2. The date and location for a hearing before the Principal or designee, within five school days from the date of the disciplinary action.

The notice shall further state that, at the hearing, the student:

1. May be present;
2. Shall have an opportunity to present evidence;
3. Shall be apprised and informed of PTAA's evidence;
4. May be accompanied by his or her parent(s); and

5. May be represented by an attorney.

Hearing Before the Principal

PTAA shall make a good faith effort to inform the student and the student's parent(s) of the time and place for the hearing, and PTAA shall hold the hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's parent(s) or another adult representing the student attends. The Principal designee may audio record the hearing.

Within 48 hours or two school days, whichever is later, following the hearing, the Principal or designee will notify the student and the student's parent(s) in writing of his or her decision as to whether the student's conduct warrants suspension and/or expulsion and, if so, the decision shall specify:

1. The length of the extended suspension or expulsion, if any;
2. When or if the expulsion is not permanent, the procedures for re-admittance at the end of the expulsion period if at all; and
3. The right to appeal the Principal or designee's decision to the Board of Directors or the Board's designee.

The notice shall also state that failure to timely request such an appeal constitutes a waiver of further rights in the matter, and that disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal.

Appeal to the Board of Directors

The student or his or her parent(s) may appeal the extended suspension or expulsion decision to the Board of Directors by notifying the Principal in writing within five calendar days of the date of receipt of the Principal or designee's decision. The student and/or his or her parent(s) will be informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting in which the disciplinary consequence will be reviewed. The Board of Directors will review the disciplinary administrative record and any audio recording or transcription/minutes of any hearings or conferences before the Principal or designee at a regular or specially called meeting in closed session as permitted by the Texas Open Meetings Act. The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered during the disciplinary consequence, except that if the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the expulsion record, the administration shall provide the student or parent(s) notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the Board of Directors' meeting.

The Board of Directors may, but is not required to, allow an opportunity for the student or parent(s) and the administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consider the appeal and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the disciplinary decision.

The Board of Directors will communicate its decision, if any, orally or in writing before or during the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting. If no decision is made by the end of the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting, the Principal or designee's decision with respect to the disciplinary action appeal shall be upheld. The Board of Directors may not delegate its authority to issue a decision, and any decision by the Board of Directors is final and may not be appealed.

As stated above, disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal of an extended suspension or expulsion to the Board of Directors.

No Credit Earned

Except when required by law, students will not earn academic credit during a period of expulsion.

4.11 Placement of Students with Disabilities

All disciplinary actions regarding students with disabilities (504 or special education under the IDEA) shall be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

A student with a disability shall not be removed from his or her current placement for disciplinary reasons and/or pending appeal to the Board of Directors for more than ten days without action by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee to determine appropriate services in the interim and otherwise in accordance with applicable law. If a special education due process appeal to a TEA special education hearing officer is made, the

student with a disability shall remain in the then current education setting in place at the time such appeal is noticed to PTAA, unless PTAA and the student's parent(s) agree otherwise.

If a student's IEP includes a behavior improvement plan or behavioral intervention plan, the student's ARD committee shall review the plan at least annually and more frequently if appropriate to address:

1. Changes in a student's circumstances that may impact the student's behavior, such as:
 - a. Placement of the student in a different educational setting;
 - b. An increase or persistence in disciplinary actions taken regarding the student for similar types of behavioral incidents;
 - c. A pattern of unexcused absences; or
 - d. An unauthorized unsupervised departure from an educational setting; or
2. The safety of the student or others.

4.12 Gun-Free Schools Act

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free Schools Act, PTAA shall expel, from the student's regular program for a period of one year, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. The Principal or designee may modify the term of expulsion for a student or assess another comparable penalty that results in the student's expulsion from the regular school program on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with legal requirements.

For the purposes of this section, "firearm" means:

1. Any weapon - including a starter gun - which will, or is designed to, or which may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive from the frame or receiver of any such weapon;
2. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer;
3. Any destructive device. "Destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than 1/4 ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the preceding described devices. It also means any type of weapon - other than a shotgun shell or a shotgun that is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes - by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than 1/2 inch in diameter; and any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device as described, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

4.13 Glossary

The glossary provides legal definitions and locally established definitions and is intended to assist in understanding terms related to the Student Code of Conduct.

Abuse is improper or excessive use.

Abusable Volatile Chemical Offense, as defined by Health and Safety Code § 485.001 and 485.031. No student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use, or possess an abusable volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use any of these in a manner:

1. Contrary to the directions for use, cautions, or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the chemical; and
2. Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination, or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance, or coordination.

No student shall knowingly deliver to a person younger than 18 an abusable volatile chemical. Health and Safety Code § 485.032

No student shall knowingly use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the human body an abusable volatile chemical. No student shall knowingly deliver, sell, or possess with intent to deliver or sell inhalant paraphernalia knowing that that person who receives it intends to use it to inhale, ingest, apply, use, or otherwise introduce into the human body an abusable volatile chemical. Health and Safety Code § 485.033

Armor-piercing ammunition is handgun ammunition used principally in pistols and revolvers and that is designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

Arson is defined by Texas Penal Code § 28.02 and occurs when a person starts a fire, regardless of whether the fire continues after ignition, or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:

- Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
- Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
 - Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town,
 - Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction,
 - Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest,
 - Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another,
 - Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another, or
 - When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.

Arson also occurs when a person:

- Recklessly starts a fire or causes an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance and the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
- Intentionally starts a fire or causes an explosion and in so doing recklessly damages or destroys a building belonging to another, or recklessly causes another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

Assault is defined in part by Texas Penal Code § 22.01 as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another.

Bullying is defined 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 (1) 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; (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; (3) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the school; or (4) infringes on the rights of the victim at school. Bullying also includes "cyberbullying," which means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device including a cellular telephone or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool. Bullying conduct includes conduct (1) that occurs on or is delivered to PTAA property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property; (2) that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and (3) cyberbullying that occurs off PTAA property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying (i) interferes with a student's educational opportunities or (ii) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, PTAA, or a school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Breach of computer security includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in Texas Penal Code 33.02, if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a public school; and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school property or information; or commits a breach of any other

computer, computer network, or computer system.

Chemical dispensing device is a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being.

Club is an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death, including but not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled substances or dangerous drugs include but are not limited to marijuana; any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, barbiturate; anabolic steroid; or prescription medicine provided to any person other than the person for whom the prescription was written. The term also includes all controlled substances listed in Chapters 481 and 483 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Criminal street gang means three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Dating violence is the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship, as defined by Texas Family Code § 71.0021.

Deadly conduct occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, and includes, but is not limited to, knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

Deferred adjudication is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Deferred prosecution may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Delinquent conduct is conduct that:

- Violates either state or federal law, other than a traffic offense, and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail;
- Violates a lawful order of a court under circumstances that would constitute contempt of that court in a justice or municipal court, or a county court for conduct punishable only by a fine;
- Constitutes an intoxication and alcoholic beverage offense under Chapter 49 of the Texas Penal Code; or
- Violates Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 106.041 relating to driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor (third or subsequent offense).

Discretionary means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

E-Cigarette or electronic cigarette means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device, or a consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other similar device. The term also includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe; a dab pen; a vapor product; or any other similar device under another product name or description. Also included is any component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device. The term does not include a prescription medical device unrelated to the cessation of smoking.

Explosive weapon is any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror, and includes a device designed, made, or adapted for delivery or shooting an explosive weapon.

False Alarm or Report occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

- Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
- Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

False alarm to induce emergency response occurs when a person makes a report of a criminal offense or an emergency or causes a report of a criminal offense or an emergency to be made to a peace officer, law enforcement agency, 9-1-1 service, official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies, or any other governmental employee or contractor who is authorized to receive reports of a criminal offense or emergency when (1) the person knows the report is false and (2) the report causes an emergency response from a law enforcement agency or other emergency responder.

Firearm is defined by federal law (18 U.S.C. § 921(a)) as:

- Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon; or
- Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such term does not include an antique firearm.

Firearm silencer or suppressor means any device designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm.

Graffiti means making marks with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

Handgun is defined by Texas Penal Code § 46.01 as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

Harassment is:

- Conduct that meets the definition of harassment set in Board policy and/or the Handbook;
- Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, is sexually intimidating or obscene, causes physical damage to the property of another student, subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety; or
- Conduct including the elements of (1) initiating a communication and in the course of the communication making a comment, request, suggest, or proposal that is obscene; (2) threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property; (3) conveying a false report that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury; (4) causing the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another; (5) making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection; (6) knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to engage in harassment; or (7) publishing on an Internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern.

Hazing is an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, that is directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization, if the act involves situations outlined in Texas Education Code § 37.151.

Hit list is a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent

to cause bodily harm.

Improvised explosive device is defined by Texas Penal Code § 46.01 as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

Indecent Exposure means exposing one's anus or genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person while being reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Intimate Visual Material means visual material that depicts a person (a) with the person's intimate parts exposed; or (b) engaged in sexual conduct.

Knuckles means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

Location-Restricted Knife means a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

Look-alike weapon means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

Machine gun is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

Mandatory means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

Online Impersonation occurs when a person, without obtaining the consent of another person and with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten any persons, uses the name or persona of another person to:

- Create a web page on a commercial social networking site or other Internet website; or
- Post or send one or more messages on or through a commercial social networking site or other Internet website, other than on or through an electronic mail program or message board program.

Online impersonation also occurs when a person sends an electronic mail, instant message, text message, or similar communication that reference a name, domain address, phone number, or other item of identifying information belonging to any person:

- Without obtaining the other person's consent;
- With the intent to cause a recipient of the communication to reasonably believe that the other person authorized or transmitted the communication; and
- With the intent to harm or defraud any person.

Paraphernalia are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body. It also includes equipment, products, or materials used or intended for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, or concealing a controlled substance.

Possession means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including but not limited to clothing, purse, or backpack; a private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited, to an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; or any other school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

Prohibited Weapon means an explosive weapon; a machine gun; a short-barrel firearm; armor-piercing ammunition; a chemical dispensing device; a zip gun; a tire deflation device; or an improvised explosive device.

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student.

Public lewdness occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Reasonable belief is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Self-defense is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes the force is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

Short-barrel firearm is a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Switchblade Knife is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or by the application of centrifugal force. The term does not include a knife that has a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure and open the knife.

Terroristic threat is a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

- Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
- Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
- Cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service;
- Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
- Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state, or a public charter school (including PTAA).

Tire deflation device means a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

Title 5 offenses are those that involve injury to a person and include murder; manslaughter; criminally negligent homicide; trafficking in persons; unlawful transport; kidnapping; assault (on a public servant); aggravated assault; sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; unlawful restraint; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; harassment of a public servant; improper photography; smuggling persons; and tampering with a consumer product.

Trespassing means entering or remaining on the property of another (including PTAA) without effective consent of the owner, and the person (1) had notice that the entry was forbidden; or (2) received notice to depart but failed to do so. Trespassing may also include presence on PTAA campus if expelled or suspended.

Under the influence means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person's physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student "under the influence" need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

Use means voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

Vapor product means electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or any other device that uses a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver vapor that may include nicotine to the individual inhaling from the device, or any substance used to fill or refill the device.

Zip gun is a device or combination of devices, not originally a firearm, but adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.

SECTION 5: ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS

Parent Rights and Annual Notices

Parents are essential partners in each student's education. PTAA will provide required parental rights and options information at initial enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, and will make required information available through the handbook, campus communications, and the PTAA website as applicable.

Parents have rights related to instruction, instructional materials, library materials, student records, surveys, attendance, grading, promotion, retention, graduation planning, health-related services, special programs, bilingual and special education services, grievance procedures, and other areas addressed by state and federal law.

Parents may request to review instructional materials and teaching aids used in the classroom. Parents may also request information about library materials and submit requests or challenges consistent with PTAA procedures.

Parents are encouraged to contact the campus principal first when questions or concerns arise. Formal complaints and grievances may be submitted using PTAA's adopted grievance procedures.

5.1 Accommodations for Children of Military Families

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

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

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from a deployment of at least four months will be excused by PTAA. The school 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.

5.2 Notice of Teacher Qualifications

PTAA will provide parents with the qualifications of each teacher employed by the school. Parents may also request, and PTAA will provide in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers. Information provided in response to a parent request will include, at a minimum:

1. Whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. Whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

5.3 Parent Contact Information

Parents are required to provide, in writing, the parent's address, phone number, and email address upon a student's enrollment within the first two weeks of the start of each school year. If a parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must notify PTAA no later than two weeks after the effective date of the change.

5.4 Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns

PTAA values the opinions of its students and parents, and the public it serves. Parents and students have the right to express their views through appropriate informal and formal processes. The purpose of this complaint and/or grievance policy is to resolve conflicts in an efficient, expeditious, and just manner.

The Board of Directors encourages parents and the public to discuss their complaints and grievances through informal meetings with the Principal or designee. Complaints and grievances should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level.

Neither the Board of Directors nor any School employee shall unlawfully retaliate against a parent or student for voicing a complaint and/or grievance.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the school's complaint and grievance procedures are provided to all parents and students. The formal complaint and grievance procedure shall provide for any complaint and grievance to ultimately be considered or heard by the Board of Directors in accordance with Commissioner of Education rules.

For purposes of this policy, "days" shall mean school days, and announcement of a decision in the student's or parent's presence shall constitute communication of the decision.

Informal Conferences

A parent or student may request an informal conference with the Principal or designee, teacher, or other campus administrator within seven school days of the time the parent or student knew or should have known of the event(s) giving rise to the complaint and/or grievance. If the parent or student is not satisfied with the results of the informal conference, he or she may submit a written complaint and/or grievance form to the Principal or designee. Complaint and grievance forms may be obtained from the Principal's office.

Formal Grievance Process

The formal complaint and grievance process provides all persons with an opportunity to be heard up to the Board of Directors if they are dissatisfied with an administrative response. Once all administrative procedures are exhausted, a parent and/or student can bring complaints and/or grievances to the Board of Directors, as outlined below.

A complaint and/or grievance must specify the harm alleged by the parent and/or student, and the remedy sought. A parent or student should not submit separate or serial complaints and/or grievances regarding the same event or action. Multiple complaints and/or grievances may be consolidated at the school's discretion. All time limits shall be strictly complied with; however, if an administrator determines that additional time is needed to complete a thorough investigation of the complaint and/or grievance and/or to issue a response, the administrator shall inform the parent or student in writing of the need to extend the response time and provide a specific date by which the response will be issued. Costs of any complaint and/or grievance shall be paid by the complainant and/or grievant.

Level One Complaint -Principal Review

A parent or student shall submit a written Level One Complaint or Grievance Form to the Principal or designee within the later of (1) three days from the time the event(s) causing the complaint and/or grievance were or should have been known, or (2) within 7 days following an informal conference with the Principal or designee. The school reserves the right to require the complainant and/or grievant to begin the complaint and/or grievance process at Level Two.

The Principal or designee will meet with the complaining and/or grieving parent and issue a written Level One Decision within 7 days of the Principal or designee's receipt of the complaint and/or grievance.

***Note:** A complaint and/or grievance against the Superintendent shall begin at Level Three.*

Level Two Complaint - Superintendent or Designee Review

If the parent or student is not satisfied with the Level One Decision, or if no Level One Decision is provided, the parent or student may file a written appeal to the Superintendent or designee. The appeal must include a signed statement of the complaint and/or grievance, any evidence supporting the complaint and/or grievance, and a copy of the written Level One complaint and a copy of the Level One Decision, if issued. The appeal shall not include any new issues or complaints and/or grievances unrelated to the Level One complaint. The appeal must be filed within seven days of the Level One Decision or the response deadline if no Level One Decision is made. The Superintendent or designee will meet with the complaining and/or grieving parent or student and issue a written Level Two Decision within 7 days of receiving the written appeal.

Level Three - Superintendent

If the parent or student is not satisfied with the Level One Decision, or if no Level One Decision is provided, the parent or student may file a written appeal to the Superintendent or designee. The appeal must include a signed statement of the complaint and/or grievance, any evidence supporting the complaint and/or grievance, and a copy of the written Level One & Two complaint and a copy of the Level One & Two Decision, if issued. The appeal shall not include any new issues or complaints and/or grievances unrelated to the Level One complaint. The appeal must be filed within seven days of the Level Two Decision. The Superintendent or designee will meet with the complaining and/or grieving parent or student and issue a written Level Two Decision within 7 days of receiving the written appeal.

Level Four- Board of Director's

If the student or parent is not satisfied with the Level Two Decision, or if no Level Two Decision is provided, the parent or student may submit to the Superintendent a written appeal to the Board of Directors. The request must be filed within seven days of the Level Two Decision or the response deadline if no Level Two Decision is made. The Superintendent or designee will inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board of Director's meeting at which the complaint and/or grievance will be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Board.

The Board of Directors will consider the appeal, and may allow a presentation by the parent or student and the school administration. The appeal will be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the complaint and/or grievance record, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the Board of Directors' meeting.

PTAA will determine whether the appeal will be presented in open or closed session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law.

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for any presentation of evidence, including an opportunity for the student or parent and administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall hear the complaint and/or grievance and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

The Board of Directors shall communicate its decision, if any, orally or in writing before or during the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If no decision is made by the end of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the decision being appealed shall be upheld. The Board of Directors may not delegate its authority to issue a decision, and any decision by the Board of Directors is final and may not be appealed.

Additional Complaint Procedures

This Parent and Student Complaints and Grievance process does not apply to all complaints and/or grievances:

1. Complaints alleging Prohibited Conduct (discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and similar matters) shall be submitted as described in "Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation," page 33 of this Handbook.
2. Complaints concerning decisions of an accelerated learning committee and/or PTAA's implementation of a student's accelerated learning plan shall be submitted as described in "Accelerated Learning Committees," page 6 of this Handbook.
3. Formal complaints alleging sexual harassment shall be submitted as described in "Freedom from Sexual Harassment," page 35 of this Handbook.
4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted as described in "Freedom from Bullying," page 39 of this Handbook.
5. Complaints and grievances concerning loss of credit on the basis of attendance shall be submitted as described in "Attendance for Credit or Final Grade," page 13 of this Handbook.
6. Complaints and grievances concerning disciplinary long-term suspensions and/or expulsions. Shall be submitted as described in "Conferences, Hearings, and Appeals" as described in the Student Code of

Conduct.

7. Complaints concerning the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504 shall be submitted as described in “Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns” above, except that the deadline for filing an initial Level One complaint and/or grievance shall be 30 calendar days and the procedural safeguards handbook.
8. Complaints concerning the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall be submitted in accordance with applicable Board policy and the procedural safeguards provided to parents of all students referred to special education.
9. Complaints regarding the Free and Reduced Price Meal Program. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the school is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, political beliefs, age, disability, national origin, or limited English proficiency. (Not all bases apply to all programs.) Reprisal is prohibited based on prior civil rights activity. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which is available online at the following website: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usada.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339, or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

5.5 Surveys and Activities

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (“PPRA”) requires that students may not be required to participate in certain surveys, analyses, or evaluations - funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education - that concern:

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

Parents may inspect the survey or other instrument and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation.

“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities

The PPRA also gives parents the right to receive notice of and deny permission for their student’s participation in:

1. Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding;
2. School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from their student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information;
3. A non-emergency, invasive physical examination, or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and

safety of the student (exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam of screening permitted or required under state law.)

SECTION 6: IMPORTANT NOTICES

Annual Notice of Parent and Student Rights (Annual FERPA Confidentiality Notice)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s educational records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education record within 45 days after the day PTAA receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child’s or their education records should submit to the Principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Principal or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask PTAA to amend their child’s or their education records should write the Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If PTAA decides not to amend the records as requested by the parent or eligible student, PTAA will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before PTAA discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A “school official” is:

- A person employed by PTAA as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel);
- A person serving on the Board of Directors;
- A volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by PTAA, performs an institutional service or function for which PTAA would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of PTAA with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or providers of video conferencing or other virtual learning software apps to hold classes or conduct classroom activities virtually;
- A parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or
- A parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, PTAA discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by PTAA to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Privacy Policy Office
 U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20202

Notice of Directory Information

FERPA, a federal law, requires that PTAA, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, PTAA may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised PTAA to the contrary in accordance with PTAA procedures.

Directory Information for School-Related Purposes:

PTAA has designated the following categories of information as directory information for the purpose of disclosure for school-related purposes:

- Student name;
- Address and telephone listing;
- Date and place of birth;
- Dates of attendance;
- Degrees, honors, and awards received;
- Grade level;
- Major field of study;
- Most recent educational institution attended;
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
- Photographs (including video images); and
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams.

School-related purposes are those events/activities that PTAA conducts and/or sponsors to support the school's educational mission. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Extracurricular programs or events (e.g., playbills or programs for events such as school plays, concerts, athletic events, graduation ceremony, etc.).
- Honor roll and other student recognition lists.
- Marketing materials of PTAA (e.g., using directory information for print media, website or social media accounts operated by PTAA, videos, newspaper articles, etc.).
- Publications (e.g., printing student names and pictures in newsletters and yearbooks, etc.), including sharing directory information with companies who have a contractual relationship with PTAA and that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

Directory Information Supplied to Military and College Recruiters (Secondary Students Only):

Two federal laws require PTAA to provide military recruiters or an institution of higher education, upon request, with access to the name, address, and telephone listing of each secondary student served by PTAA, unless parents have advised PTAA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Directory Information Supplied to Law Enforcement Officials and Authorities:

PTAA has designated the following categories of information as directory information for purposes of responding

to requests for general student information made by law enforcement officials and authorities: students name, address, and telephone number.

PTAA shall not release directory information except for the purposes indicated above, namely, disclosure relating to school-related purposes; for the purpose of disclosure to military recruiters and institutions of higher education for secondary students; and for the purpose of disclosure upon request by law enforcement officials and authorities.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT PTAA TO DISCLOSE ANY OR ALL OF THE TYPES OF INFORMATION DESIGNATED ABOVE AS DIRECTORY INFORMATION FROM YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION RECORDS WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT, YOU MUST NOTIFY PTAA IN WRITING WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THIS "NOTICE OF PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS (ANNUAL FERPA CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE)."

Disclosure of PII without Consent

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, § 99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires PTAA to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

PTAA may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student:

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom PTAA has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom PTAA has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(3) are met. (§ 99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of § 99.34. (§ 99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the Texas Education Agency. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of § 99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf, if applicable requirements are met. (§§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary for such purposes as to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§ 99.31(a)(4))
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to § 99.38. (§ 99.31(a)(5))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction, if applicable requirements are met. (§ 99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§ 99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§ 99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena if applicable requirements are met. (§ 99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to § 99.36. (§ 99.31(a)(10))

- Information PTAA has designated as “directory information” if applicable requirements under § 99.37 are met. (§ 99.31(a)(11))
- To an agency caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency or tribal organization who is authorized to access a student’s case plan when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with State or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student in foster care placement. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(L))
- To the Secretary of Agriculture or authorized representatives of the Food and Nutrition Service for purposes of conducting program monitoring, evaluations, and performance measurements of programs authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, under certain conditions. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(K))

FERPA Directory Information Opt-Out Form

“Directory Information” means information contained in an educational record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. FERPA permits PTAA to designate certain personal information as “directory information,” which may be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting it as proscribed in school policy.

To prohibit PTAA from releasing your student’s directory information, you must circle NO adjacent to the appropriate statement(s) below, sign the form, and return it to your student’s school. **Completion of this form is optional. However, if you do not circle NO or return this form, directory information about your student may be released** in accordance with PTAA policy.

If you have more than one student enrolled, you must complete a separate for each student.

PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO

For all students:

YES	NO	I give permission for my student’s directory information to be used for school-related purposes.
YES	NO	I give permission for my student’s name, address, and telephone number to be provided upon request by law enforcement officials and authorities.

For secondary students only:

YES	NO	I give permission to release my student’s directory information to institutions of higher education.
YES	NO	I give permission to release my student’s directory information to military recruiters .

PRINT Student’s Full Legal Name

Student’s Date of Birth

PRINT Parent/Guardian Full Legal Name
or Eligible Student Full Legal Name

Parent/Guardian Signature
or Eligible Student Signature

Date

Use of Student Work in School Publications

Occasionally, PTAA wishes to display or publish a student's name and photo along with student artwork, photos taken by the student, or other original work on the school's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the school (such as a classroom website), on social media accounts operated by the school, and in school publications. PTAA agrees to use these student projects in this manner.

Parents/Guardians: Please circle one of the choices below:

I, parent/guardian of _____ (student's name), **(do give)** **(do not give)** PTAA permission to use my child's artwork, photos, or other original work in the manner described above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Photo/Video Release Form

Throughout the school year, there may be times when PTAA staff, the media, or other organizations (with the approval of the Principal), may take photographs of students, audiotape and/or videotape students, or interview students for school-related stories in a way that would individually identify a specific student. Those photographs, audio recordings, and/or videotaped images or interviews may appear in PTAA publications; in PTAA video productions; on the PTAA website; in PTAA advertisements, fundraising, and/or recruitment materials; in the news media; or in other nonprofit, education-related organizations' publications.

In order to release student photos, video footage, comments and/or post on the PTAA website, we need written permission. To give your consent, please complete the form below.

_____ I hereby give permission for PTAA to use my child's voice and/or likeness in its publications for the purposes mentioned above. I authorize the use and reproduction by PTAA of any and all photographs and/or audio or video recordings taken of my child, without compensation to my child or to me. All photographs and recordings shall be the sole property of PTAA. I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs, audio or video recordings, and/or reproduced materials that may be used in conjunction with them. I understand and agree that PTAA may use my child's voice and/or likeness in subsequent school years unless I revoke this authorization by notifying the Principal in writing, I further grant unto PTAA permission to permit my child to be photographed, audio/videotaped, or interviewed by the news media or other approved organizations for school-related stories or articles. I release PTAA and those acting pursuant to its authority from liability for any violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with the purposes mentioned above.

_____ PTAA may not use my child's voice and/or likeness in its publications for the purposes mentioned above. I further decline permission for PTAA to permit my child to be photographed, audio/videotaped, or interviewed by the news media or other approved organizations for school-related stories or articles.

Student's Name: _____ Parent Name : _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

* Students 18 years of age or older may sign this release form for themselves *

Student Acceptable Use Policy

This Student Acceptable Use Policy (“Policy”) sets forth the guidelines governing the use of all PTAA technology resources by students while on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities on- or off-campus, as well as the use of all PTAA technology resources via off-campus remote access.

PTAA reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of this Policy at any time.

Introduction

PTAA is pleased to offer students access to school computers, communications systems, the Internet and a wide array of other technology resources to promote educational excellence and enhance the classroom experience. Technology can expand a student’s access to educational materials, prepare students by providing workforce skills and college readiness, and lead to personal growth. PTAA recognizes, however, that access to technology must be given with clear guidelines, expectations, and supervision to protect students. This Policy is designed to make parents, teachers and administrators partners to teach students how to be responsible users of technology.

PTAA will educate all students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

PTAA will hold ALL students responsible for their use of technology, whether school-provided or personal, and they are expected to act in an appropriate manner in accordance with campus procedures, PTAA policy and procedures, and legal requirements. This applies to the use of all PTAA technology resources by students while on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities on-or off-campus, as well as the use of all PTAA technology resources via off-campus remote access.

This Policy shall be used in conjunction with the Student Code of Conduct.

Using the Internet and Communications Systems

PTAA provides technology resources to students for the express purposes of conducting research, completing assignments, and communicating to the faculty, staff, and others to complement their educational experience. Just as students must demonstrate proper behavior in a classroom or school hallway, they must also behave appropriately when using any PTAA computer networks, personal electronic devices, personal device data plans, software or websites sanctioned or used by PTAA, and any personal technology used in an educational setting. Access to PTAA’s technology is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with all standards set forth in this Policy at all times in order to maintain the privilege of using its technology resources.

Students and their parents are advised that any information stored on and/or sent through PTAA’s technology resources is the property of PTAA. Accordingly, in connection with ensuring student safety, PTAA network administrators and/or other appropriate personnel will engage in periodic reviews and searches of stored files and communications stored on PTAA technology resources to maintain system integrity and ensure that students are complying with this Policy and using technology in a responsible and appropriate manner. Such reviews will include students’ use of school-approved educational websites or software to ensure that they are using it in an appropriate manner consistent with PTAA’s expectations for such use. Students do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy over any information stored on PTAA technology.

PTAA may allow students to bring personal technology devices (i.e., tablets, e-readers, smartphones) for use during the school day for authorized curricular purposes. Students that use personal technology devices will be required to comply with all aspects of the Acceptable Use Policy and/or the Student Code of Conduct in the use of such devices at school. A student’s personal technology device may be subject to search by campus administrators in connection with determining if a student has committed a violation of this Policy and/or the Student Code of Conduct.

PTAA remains committed to integrating technology to enhance its curriculum for students, which it believes increases students’ educational experience for them and allows for better preparation for job skills and college success. Access to the Internet enables students to use extensive online libraries, databases and websites selected by PTAA for use in instruction.

Although PTAA strives to ensure that any Internet access avoids any inappropriate material, students and their families should be aware that some material accessible on the Internet may contain information that is inaccurate, profane, sexually oriented, defamatory and potentially offensive to some. PTAA does not condone any student accessing, or attempting to access, such material, and it remains deeply committed to safe Internet use. PTAA takes steps to minimize students' opportunities to access such content, including the implementation of technology prevention measures, such as extensive content-filtering software, to restrict access to inappropriate content such as those that are illegal, obscene, or harmful to minors. Each PTAA device with Internet access shall have a filtering device or software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA") and/or as determined by the school administration. This software is not fail-safe, however, and while at school, PTAA strives to ensure that students' Internet use is supervised, it is possible that the software may miss some content, or students may find a way around the software to access inappropriate material. For this reason, this Policy is strictly enforced, and students who misuse any PTAA technology outside its intended purpose, including the use of school-recommended websites for purposes outside the educational intent, will be in violation of this Policy, which may lead to disciplinary consequences for the student.

With this in mind, PTAA still believes that the benefits of allowing student access to the Internet to enhance the educational experience outweighs any potential harm to students.

Proper and Acceptable Use of All Technology Resources

PTAA requires students to use all technology resources, including any websites or software used in the classroom, in a manner consistent with the following rules. PTAA will hold students responsible for any intentional misuse of its technology resources, or any other failure to comply with the rules in this Policy. When using PTAA technology systems outside the school, parents should strive to ensure that students do so in compliance with the rules set forth in this Policy, as PTAA is unable to supervise students' technology use at home. PTAA's content-filtering software will not work in a student's home, so parents are encouraged to place content-filtering software on their home computers or take any other steps necessary to monitor students' Internet usage at home.

Students, who unintentionally access inappropriate material in connection with their use of any PTAA technology, including websites and software used in the classroom, shall immediately stop accessing the material and report it to a supervising adult. PTAA shall take immediate steps to ensure such material is blocked from further view at school by its content-filtering software.

All PTAA technology resources, including but not limited to school computers, communications systems and the Internet, including any websites or software used in the classroom, must be used in support of education and academic research and in accordance with the rules set forth in this Policy.

Activities that are permitted and encouraged include the following:

- School work and assignments;
- Original creation and presentation of academic work;
- Research on topics being discussed in classes at school;
- Research for opportunities outside of school related to community service, employment or further education;
- Reporting inappropriate content or harassing conduct to an adult.

Activities that are barred and subject to potential disciplinary action and loss of privileges, whether on a school-provided or personal electronic device, include the following:

- Attempting unauthorized access, or "hacking," of PTAA computers or networks, or any attempts to bypass Internet content-filtering software used by PTAA.
- Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication. Security breaches include, but are not limited to, accessing data of which the student is not an intended recipient or logging into a server or account that the student is not expressly authorized to access. For purposes of the section, "disruption" includes, but is not limited to, network sniffing, pinged floods, packet spoofing, denial of service, forged

routing information for malicious purpose, and any other form of network monitoring designed to intercept data not intended for the student's host.

- Engaging in abusive, harassing, insulting, ostracizing, intimidating, or any other online conduct which could be considered bullying and/or damaging to another's reputation while using any PTAA technology resource, to include the use of any website or software used by the school.
- Engaging in any conduct potentially constituting "cyberbullying," which means bullying done through the use of any electronic communication device, including the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool. Examples of cyberbullying include, but are not limited to:
 - Creating a social networking site or web page that masquerades as another person's personal site and using it to embarrass the other person.
 - Making it appear that a person is posting malicious comments about friend to isolate the person from his or her friends.
 - Posting a person's personally identifiable information on a site to put the person at greater risk of contact by predators or strangers.
 - Posting abusive comments on someone's social networking site.
 - Recording and distributing media with the intent to manipulate or embarrass others.
 - Sending abusive comments while playing interactive games.
 - Sending abusive text messages to cell phones, computers, or Internet-connected game consoles.
 - Sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else.
 - Sending, posting, or sharing statements encouraging another person to commit self-harm.
- Engaging in any conduct that damages or modifies, or is intended to damage or modify, any PTAA equipment, network, stored computer file, or software, to include any conduct that results in a person's time to take any corrective action.
- Exporting software, technical information, encryption software or technology, in violation of international or regional export control logs.
- Intentional or neglectful transmission or direct placement of computer viruses or other unauthorized programs onto PTAA equipment, networks, stored computer files, or software.
- Interfering with or denying service to any other use or than the student's host (for example, denial of service attack).
- Participating in online chat rooms or using instant and/or text messaging without prior approval by a classroom teacher, coach or administrator.
- Port scanning or security scanning.
- Presenting any copyrighted, registered, or trademarked work as that of the student.
- Refusing to submit to a search of a personal electronic device in accordance with the Student Acceptable Use Policy and the Student Code of Conduct.
- Revealing an account password to others or allowing use of an account(s) by others. This includes family and other household members when work is being done at home.
- Searching, viewing, communicating, publishing, downloading, storing, or retrieving any inappropriate or offensive material, including but not limited to obscene, profane, vulgar, or pornographic materials, or any material that is not related to the permitted activities set forth above.
- Sharing online any personal information of another student or staff member, including name, home address,

or phone number.

- Taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as “sexting.”
- Tampering with, removing components from, or otherwise deliberately interfering with the operation of PTAA computers, networks, printers, user files, or other associate peripherals.
- Unauthorized copying of copyrighted material including, but not limited to, digitization and distribution of photographs from magazines, books, or other copyrighted sources, copyrighted music, and the installation of any copyrighted software for which PTAA or the end user does not have an active license.
- Using a website or software program implemented by PTAA in a manner outside the scope of the use specified by the classroom teacher, coach or administrator.
- Using any programs/script/command, or sending messages of any kind, with the intent to interfere with, or disable, a user’s terminal session, via any means, locally or via the Internet/Intranet.
- Using any PTAA technology for games, role-playing, multi-user environments, gambling, junk mail, chain mail, jokes or fundraising activities without prior approval by a classroom teacher or administrator.
- Using any PTAA technology resource to engage in any activity that violates any Board policy, the Student Code of Conduct, campus rule, local, state, and/or federal law.
- Using any PTAA technology resource to take, disseminate, transfer, or share obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content.
- Using any PTAA technology resources for any commercial and/or for-profit purpose, to include personal financial gain or fraud.
- Using obscene or profane language on any PTAA technology resource, to include posting such language on any website or software used by PTAA.
- Using PTAA or personal technology during the administration of state standardized testing, End of Course, and or final examinations unless expressly allowed to do so by a teacher.
- Using technology for plagiarism or otherwise representing the work of others as the student’s own.
- Using USB, bootable CD’s, or other devices to alter the function of any PTAA technology equipment, network or software.
- Violating the rights of any person or company protected by copyright, trade secret, patent or other intellectual property or similar laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, any downloading, installation, or distribution of “pirated” or other software products.

Students shall immediately report any violations of this Policy to a classroom teacher or administrator. If any student or parent has any question about whether any activity may be a violation of this Policy, they should ask a classroom teacher or the Principal or designee.

Personal Electronic Devices

In accordance with PTAA Board Policy and the Student/Parent Handbook, students are not permitted to use personal communication devices on PTAA school property during the instructional day.

Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to, mobile phones, smart watches, and other electronic communication devices. While on school property, students must store any personal communication device in accordance with campus administrative regulations.

Smart watches may be worn only if they are not used for communication, messaging, recording, Internet access, or other unauthorized functions. All smart watches must be removed during state and local testing in accordance with testing security requirements.

Authorized Exceptions

A student may be authorized to use a personal communication device during the instructional day only under the following circumstances, as permitted by Board Policy:

- The device is required to implement the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 plan, or comparable support plan;
- The device is required due to a documented medical need supported by a directive from a qualified physician; or
- The use of the device is necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or PTAA district or campus safety protocols.

In addition, dual enrollment students may be authorized by campus administration to bring and use personal computing devices such as laptops or tablets solely for approved instructional purposes. When not in approved use, such devices must be powered off and properly stored.

Prohibited Use and Confiscation

Students who use a personal communication or electronic device in violation of this policy or campus regulations may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Authorized PTAA staff may confiscate devices used in violation of this policy. Parents or guardians will be notified in accordance with campus procedures. Confiscated devices will be stored securely and released pursuant to administrative regulations.

Restricted Areas

The use of any device capable of capturing images, audio, or video is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, whether on campus or at any school-related or school-sponsored activity.

Liability

PTAA is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal communication devices or other personal electronic devices brought onto school property.

Privacy, Security, and Security

Students are expected to comply with all PTAA policies governing technology use, privacy, and security. Violations of these policies will result in disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. Consequences for misuse of electronic devices will align with those imposed for comparable violations of other school policies.

Acceptable Use Agreement Acknowledgment Form

I have read and agree to abide by PTAA's Student Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that any violation of this policy may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my Internet and computer access privileges may be revoked, and disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

(If you are under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this Acceptable Use Agreement Acknowledgement Form.)

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read PTAA's Student Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. PTAA has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for PTAA to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold PTAA responsible for materials transmitted on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Electronic Communication Device Commitment Form

This Electronic Communication Device Commitment Form applies only to students who have been expressly **authorized** by Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy (PTAA) to possess or use a personal electronic or communication device during the instructional day in accordance with the Student/Parent Handbook.

Electronic communications at school and at school-related functions are subject to regulation by PTAA.

This form grants PTAA the authority to regulate personal electronic communication devices when such devices are brought onto school property or used at school-related functions or events. Electronic communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, smart watches, laptops, tablets, pagers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other similar devices.

These regulations are necessary due to the potential for such devices to be used in violation of law, Board policy, the Student Code of Conduct, or campus regulations, and to engage in conduct that disrupts the educational environment. The portability and security features of electronic communication devices require additional oversight when possession or use is authorized.

Basis for Authorization

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Dual Enrollment Student (approved instructional device only)
- ☐ IEP Requirement
- ☐ Section 504 Requirement
- ☐ Documented Medical Need
- ☐ Health or Safety Exception
- ☐ Other Administrator-Approved Exception (specify): _____

Authorization is limited to the purpose(s) identified above and does not constitute unrestricted use.

Student and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment and Agreement

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge and agree to the following:

- The possession and use of electronic communication devices by students on school property or at school-related events is subject to regulation by PTAA and campus administrative procedures.
- Authorization to possess or use a device may be limited by time, location, device type, and purpose, and may be revoked at any time.
- PTAA is authorized, with parent/guardian consent, to confiscate and secure an electronic communication device if there is reasonable suspicion that the device has been used in violation of law, the Student Code of Conduct, Board policy, or campus regulations.
- When reasonable suspicion exists, authorized PTAA personnel may power on, power off, or examine the device to the extent necessary to investigate the suspected violation, consistent with applicable law and policy.
- An electronic communication device possessed or used in violation of law, the Student Code of Conduct, Board policy, or campus regulations may be confiscated and subject to campus procedures for return.
- PTAA is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal electronic communication devices brought onto school property or to school-related events.

Misuse of an authorized device may result in disciplinary consequences and/or revocation of authorization in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

SIGNATURE LINES AND DATES

(Signature of student) Date: _____

(Printed name of student)

(Signature of parent/guardian) Date: _____

Food Allergy Notification Form

Dear Parents,

PTAA is required by law to request, at the time of enrollment, that the parent or guardian of each student attending PTAA disclose the student's food allergies. This form will satisfy this requirement.

This form allows you to disclose whether your child has a food allergy or severe food allergy that you believe should be disclosed in order for PTAA to take necessary precautions for your child's safety.

"Severe food allergy" means a dangerous or life-threatening reaction of the human body to a food-borne allergen introduced by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact that requires immediate medical attention.

Please list any foods to which your child is allergic or severely allergic, as well as the nature of your child's allergic reaction to the food. PTAA will contact you for a note from your physician if your child has food allergies. **Your child must have an EpiPen prescribed to help in the event of an emergency.**

Food:	Nature of allergic reaction to the food:

PTAA will maintain the confidentiality of this form and the information provided above, and may disclose the information to teachers, school counselors, school nurses, and other appropriate school personnel only within the limitations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Board of Director's policy. **PTAA will maintain this form as part of your child's student record.**

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Grade: _____ Parent/Guardian Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date form received by PTAA: _____

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: PARENT AND STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

PTAA School Complaint Form

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date of Problem: _____

Mailing Address: _____

PTAA School (include address): _____

Basis of complaint:

Please provide further details:

Please submit the grievance form to grievancetexas@ptaa.org

Routine Health Services Consent and Opt-Out Form

Senate Bill 12, effective September 1, 2025, requires school districts and charter schools to provide parents notice regarding health-related services offered at school and to seek parental consent as required by law.

PTAA may provide routine health-related services during the school day. Parental consent for routine services is presumed unless a parent or guardian chooses to opt out of a particular routine service offered by PTAA. Parents may review or update consent preferences during the school year by contacting campus administration.

Routine health services that may be opted out of include the following:

Physical Health Services

- First aid. TEA has clarified that first aid must be provided to all students, regardless of parental consent, as a general caretaking responsibility of school districts and charter schools.
- Injury evaluation.
- Administration of over-the-counter or prescription medications according to school policy and proper authorization.
- Monitoring of chronic health conditions, such as asthma or diabetes.
- Vision, hearing, acanthosis nigricans, and scoliosis screenings.
- Support during illness or physical symptoms at school.
- Heat illness prevention and injury support for student athletes.

Mental Health Services

- Short-term individual counseling or check-ins.
- Comprehensive student-success needs assessment for academic-related behavior needs, such as study skills and school involvement, not for mental health diagnostic purposes.
- Social-emotional skill-building or group counseling.
- Support during emotional distress or crisis, including assessment following a reported concern of student self-harm or harm to others.
- Behavioral observations and problem-solving.
- Referral to external providers, if needed, with additional consent.

This consent does not include formal medical or psychological diagnosis, prescription medication administration without proper authorization, or ongoing therapy or treatment requiring parental notification under law. These activities require separate written consent and parent involvement, unless an emergency or legal exception applies.

If health services are needed beyond routine services, campus staff will contact the parent or guardian to discuss the student's additional needs and seek further consent for non-routine health services recommended.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Campus: _____

Select any services you are choosing to opt out of for your child:

- ☐ Physical health services listed above, except for first aid, are required as a general caretaking responsibility.
- ☐ Mental health services listed above.
- ☐ I do not wish to opt out of routine health services at this time.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Community Service Hours Verification Form

Students must complete a minimum of 20 approved community service hours. Students who complete 100 or more approved hours will be awarded a graduation cord.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Campus: _____

Service Organization/Location: _____

Date(s) of Service: _____ Total Hours Completed: _____

Description of Service: _____

Supervisor Name: _____ Supervisor Phone/Email: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Acknowledgement and Approval of Student/Parent Handbook
and Student Code of Conduct**

Our signatures below acknowledges that PTAA has made its Student/Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct available to us; that we have been given notice of the rules, responsibilities and consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct; that we have been informed that when my child is enrolled in PTAA, all information herein is applicable to student, parent/guardian, and all school staff; and that we have expressed intent to review this Student/Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct contained within and to abide thereby.

Printed Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____