Alto High School Student Handbook

2020-2021

"AHS Accepting all Challenges"



Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of or to electronically access at www.alto.esc7.net the Alto High School Student Handbook for the 2020–2021 school year.

I have chosen to (check one):

- ❑ Receive a paper copy of the Student Handbook.
- ❑ Accept responsibility for accessing the Student Handbook by visiting the web address listed above.

I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook, I should direct those questions to the principal at 936-858-7110.

Printed name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____

Signature of parent: _____

Date: _____

Acuse de recibo de la distribución electrónica del Manual del Estudiante

Mi hijo(a) y yo hemos recibido la opción de tener una copia impresa o acceso electrónico en www.alto.esc7.net del Manual del Estudiante de Alto High School para el año 2020-2021.

He elegido:

- ❑ Recibir una copia impresa del Manual del Estudiante.
- ❑ Aceptar la responsabilidad de acceder al Manual del Estudiante visitando la dirección del sitio Web listado arriba.

Entiendo que el manual contiene información que mi hijo(a) y yo necesitaremos durante el año escolar y que todos los estudiantes son responsables de su conducta y serán sujetos a consecuencias disciplinarias detalladas en el Código de Conducta Estudiantil. Si tengo preguntas acerca de este manual, las dirigiré al director en _____ 936-858-7110.

Nombre del estudiante:

Firma del estudiante:

Firma del padre/madre:

Fecha:

Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information

State law requires the district to give you the following information:

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting the information unless the parent or guardian objects to the release of the directory information about the student. If you do not want Alto High School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing within ten school days of your child's first day of instruction for this school year.

This means that the district must give certain personal information (called "directory information") about your child to any person who requests it, unless you have told the district in writing not to do so. The district is providing you the following form so you can communicate your wishes about these issues. [See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** in the Alto High School's Student Handbook for more information.]

Alto ISD has designated the following information as directory information:

Student's name, Address, Telephone listing, E-mail address, Photograph, Date and place of birth, Major field of study, Degrees, honors, and awards received, Dates of attendance, Grade level, Most recent school previously attended, Participation in officially recognized activities and sports, Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team, Enrollment status, Student identification numbers or identifiers that cannot be used alone to gain access to electronic education records.

Parent, please circle one of the choices below:

I, parent of _____ (*student's name*), [**do give**] [**do not give**] the district permission to release the information in this list in response to a request.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note that if this form is not returned within the specified time frame above, the district will assume that permission has been granted for the release of this information.

Notificación relacionada con la Información del directorio y la respuesta de los padres acerca de la divulgación de la información estudiantil

La ley estatal requiere que el distrito le dé la siguiente información:

Cierta información acerca de los estudiantes del distrito se considera información del directorio y se divulgará a cualquiera que siga los procedimientos de solicitud de información a menos que un padre o tutor objete la divulgación de la información del directorio del estudiante. Si usted no desea que Alto ISD divulgue la información del directorio del expediente de educación de su hijo(a) sin su consentimiento previo por escrito, debe notificar al distrito por escrito dentro de los diez días.

Esto significa que el distrito debe dar cierta información personal (llamada "información del directorio") de su hijo(a) a cualquier persona que la solicite, a menos que usted haya instruido al distrito por escrito para que no lo haga. El distrito le ofrece el formulario siguiente para que usted pueda comunicarle sus deseos acerca de estos asuntos. [Vea **Objetar a la divulgación de información del directorio** en el Manual del Estudiante del Alto ISD para más información.]

El Alto ISD ha designado la siguiente información como información del directorio: Nombre del estudiante, Dirección, Número de teléfono, Dirección de e-mail, Fotografía, Fecha y lugar de nacimiento, Área principal de estudio, Títulos, honores, y premios recibidos, Fechas de asistencia, Grado, Escuela a la que asistió más recientemente, Participación en actividades y deportes de reconocimiento oficial, Peso y estatura, si es miembro de un equipo deportivo, Estado de inscripción, Números de identificación o identificadores que no se pueden usar solos para tener acceso a los expedientes electrónicos de educación.

Padres, por favor marque con un círculo una de las opciones siguientes:

Yo, padre/madre de _____ (nombre del estudiante), **[otorgo] [no otorgo]** al distrito permiso para divulgar la información en esta lista en respuesta a un pedido.

Firma del padre/madre Fecha

Favor de notar que si este formulario no se devuelva en el tiempo especificado arriba, el distrito supondrá que el permiso ha sido otorgado para la divulgación de esta información.

Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education

(Applicable to secondary grade levels only)

Federal law requires that the district release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, the name, address, and telephone number of secondary school students enrolled in the district, unless a student's parent or eligible student directs the district not to release information to these types of requestors without prior written consent. [See **Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education** on page 25 for more information.]

Parent: Please complete and return to school the following only if you **do not** want your child's information released to a military recruiter or an institution of higher education without your prior written consent.

I, parent of _____ (*student's name*), request that the district **not** release my child's name, address, and telephone number to a military recruiter or institution of higher education without my prior written consent.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note that if this form is not returned with the other materials identifying what the district considers directory information, the district will assume that permission has been granted for the release of this information.

Objeción de los padres a la divulgación de la información del estudiante a reclutadores militares e instituciones universitarias

(Solamente aplicable a niveles de grado secundarios)

La ley federal requiere que el distrito divulgue a reclutadores militares e instituciones universitarias, si lo solicitan, el nombre, dirección y número de teléfono de los estudiantes de preparatoria inscriptos en el distrito, a menos que los padres del estudiante o un estudiante elegible instruya al distrito de no divulgar información a estos tipos de solicitantes sin el consentimiento previo por escrito. [Para más información, vea **Objetar a la divulgación de información del estudiante a reclutadores militares e instituciones universitarias** en la página 25.]

Padres: Por favor complete y devuelva a la escuela lo siguiente solamente si usted no desea que la información de su hijo(a) se comparta con reclutadores militares o instituciones universitarias sin su consentimiento escrito previo.

Yo, padre/madre de _____ (nombre del estudiante), solicito que el distrito **no** divulgue el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono de mi hijo(a) a reclutadores militares o instituciones universitarias sin mi consentimiento previo por escrito.

Firma del padre/madre Fecha

Favor de notar que si este formulario no se devuelva con los otros materiales identificando lo que considera el distrito como información del directorio, el distrito supondrá que el permiso ha sido otorgado para la divulgación de esta información.

ALTO HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK has been prepared to help you while at Alto High School. Please read it carefully. The purpose of this handbook is to give students and parents the rules, policies, and expectations of Alto High School. This handbook does not constitute a contract between Alto ISD and any student and/or parent/guardian.

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Alto High School! I am looking forward to an amazing year filled with high levels of achievement for all students. Our mission as educators is to inform, inspire, empower and equip all students to pursue futures beyond what they can imagine. As a staff, we are committed to making certain that every student receives the highest quality education. We believe in the power of developing and maintaining meaningful relationships, delivering quality instruction, providing support systems, and offering extracurricular organizations that focus on the social and emotional needs of students. As your Proud Principal, my priority is to be a servant leader that always puts students' needs first. I encourage all students, parents and teachers to strive for excellence and take advantage of the opportunities presented to you this year.

Sincerely,

Shanequa Redd-Dorsey

Alto High School Principal

SCHOOL COLORS

Black and Gold

SCHOOL SONG

Hail to thee, dear Alto High School

We have loved you so,

And we'll fight to keep our honor

As through life we go.

Yes, we'll always be together,

Heart if not in soul,

Hail to thee, dear Alto High School

Till we reach our goal.

FIGHT SONG

Here's to all our Jackets,

Honest, brave, and true.

Here's to our ball team,

And how we love you,

We do, we do, we do.

So here's to all our Jackets,

May they always be

Shouting the battle cry of "Victory!"

J-A-C-K-E-T-S

Jackets! Jackets! Yes! Yes! Yes!

ALTO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff Duplichain ----------President

Jed Morris----------Vice-President

Stancy Skinner----------Secretary

Jay Jones

Randy Low

Jeremy Jackson

Lionel Whitaker

ADMINISTRATION AND HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF

Kelly West----------Superintendent of Schools, Alto ISD

Paula Low----------Director of Assessments and Special Programs

Shanequa Redd-Dorsey---------- Principal of Alto High School

Krystin Lucas ----------Principal of Alto Middle School

Candis Mabry--- ----------Principal of Alto Elementary School

Tonya Watson----------High School Counselor

Laci Meeks----------Middle/Elementary Counselor

Le Ann Jones----------Student Services

Richard Meeks----------Athletic Director

Timothy Ektefaei---------- Band Director/Dean of Students

Misty Townsend----------Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Shinita Hicks----------Secretary to the Principal

SCHOOL ADDRESS

Alto High School

248 County Road 2429

Alto, Texas 75925

Phone: 903-858-7110

Fax: 903-858-4387

THE ALTO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING IS HELD THE 3rd MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 244 COUNTY ROAD 2429.

ALTO ISD Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Alto Independent School District to educate all students to the fullest capacity possible of each student. This shall include the opportunity to develop, within a comprehensive curriculum, the ability to think logically, independently and creatively and to communicate effectively. Quality at all levels, equities in all endeavors, and accountability for all responsibilities shall be the characteristics of this district. The Alto Independent School District, therefore, shall use every reasonable resource to provide a living education for culturally diverse students in order that, upon graduation, those students are qualified to meet the developments and uncertainties of the future.

Alto High School Mission Statement

Excellence for Everyone Everyday

Alto High School Vision Statement

To produce and promote 21st century innovators and scholars

ALTO HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULES

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE	PEP RALLY BELL SCHEDULE	EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULE	DELAYED START SCHEDULE
Morning Bell: 7:40 1st Period 7:45-8:30 2nd Period 8:33-9:18 (w/announcements) 3rd Period 9:21-10:06 4th Period 10:09-10:54 5th Auxillary 10:57-11:32 6th Period 11:35-12:20 Lunch 12:23-12:53 7th Period 12:56-1:41 8th Period 1:44-2:29 9th Period 2:32-3:17	Morning Bell: 7:40 1st Period 7:45-8:26 2nd Period 8:29-9:10 (w/announcements) 3rd Period 9:13-9:54 4th Period 9:57-10:38 5th Auxillary 10:41-11:16 6th Period 11:19-12:00 Lunch 12:03-12:33 7th Period 12:36-1:17 8th Period 1:20-2:01 9th Period 2:04-2:45 Pep Rally 2:48-3:17	Morning Bell: 7:40 1st Period 7:45-8:17 2nd Period 8:20-8:52 3rd Period 8:55-9:27 4th Period 9:30-10:02 6th Period 10:05-10:37 7th Period 10:40-11:12 8th Period 11:15-11:47 9th Period 11:50-12:22 LUNCH 12:25-12:57 Buses run at 1:00	Morning Bell: 10:00 1st Period 10:05-10:37 2nd Period 10:40-11:12 3rd Period 11:15-11:47 4th Period 11:50-12:22 Lunch 12:25-12:57 6th Period 1:00-1:32 7th Period 1:35-2:07 8th Period 2:10-2:42 9th Period 2:45-3:17 Buses run at 3:20

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Preface

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

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

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

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

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

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Alto ISD Student Code of Conduct, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found on the district's website at www.alto.esc7.net and is available in hard copy upon request.

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

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

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

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, the Student Handbook does not create any additional rights for students and parents. It does

not, nor is it intended to, create contractual or legal rights between any student or parent and the district.

If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact the principal.

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

1. Acknowledgment of Electronic Distribution of Student Handbook;
2. Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information;
3. Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education, if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities; and
4. Consent/Opt-Out Form.

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

Note: References to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to board policy. The district's official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office [, and an unofficial electronic copy is available at www.alto.esc7.net].

Section I: Parental Rights

This section of Alto High School Student Handbook includes information related to certain rights of parents as specified in state or federal law.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation

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

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 behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts 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 is:

Contact Person: Tonya Watson– High School
Phone Number: 936-858-7113

Each school district or charter school must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district 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 is:

Contact Person: Misty Townsend
Phone Number: 936-858-7110

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
*Texas Project First

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

Teachers may display students' work, which may include personally identifiable student information, in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement.

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

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

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

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Otherwise Permitted by Law

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

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

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

[See **Video Cameras** for more information, including a parent's right to request video and audio equipment be placed in certain special education settings.]

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment—spanking or paddling the student—may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual.

If you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child as a method of student discipline, please return the form included in the forms packet. A signed statement must be provided each year if you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child.

You may choose to revoke this prohibition at any time during the year by providing a signed statement to the campus principal. However, district personnel may choose to use discipline methods other than corporal punishment even if the parent requests that this method be used on the student.

Note: If the district is made aware that a student is in temporary or permanent conservatorship (custody) of the state, through foster care, kinship care, or other arrangements, corporal punishment will not be administered, even when a signed statement prohibiting its use has not been submitted by the student's caregiver or caseworker.

Limiting Electronic Communications with Students by District Employees

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

An employee described above may also contact a student individually through electronic media to communicate about items such as homework or upcoming tests.

However, instant or text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity needs to communicate with a student participating in the extracurricular activity. The employee must follow one of the three requirements below

- The employee is required to include the student's parent as a recipient on all text messages
- The employee is required to include his or her immediate supervisor and the student's parent as recipients on all text messages.
- The employee is required to send a copy of the text message to the employee's district email address.

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

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information

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

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

The district has identified the following as directory information: The District has designated the following categories of information as directory information: student name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If you object to the release of the student information included on the directory information response form, your decision will also apply to the use of that information for school-sponsored purposes, such as the honor roll, school newspaper, the yearbook, recognition activities, news releases, and athletic programs.

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

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

The district is required by federal law to comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students' names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the district not to release their child's information without prior written

consent. A form included in the forms packet is available if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

Participation in Third-Party Surveys

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information. **Note:** This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

- Any 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 or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

  A parent may inspect:

  • Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;

  • Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and

  • Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

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

Human Sexuality Instruction

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

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

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

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

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

- Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and

- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

Alto High School promotes abstinence in regards to human sexuality instruction. During the health course, the school nurse will visit each health class to teach about sexually transmitted diseases.

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

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

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during September 17 Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK(LEGAL).]

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

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** and policy EC(LEGAL).]

Religious or Moral Beliefs

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

Tutoring or Test Preparation

Based on informal observations, evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests, or results from diagnostic assessments, a teacher may determine that a student is in need of additional targeted assistance in order for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills. The schools will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as

possible. In accordance with state law and policy EC, the school will not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student's parent consents to this removal.

The school may also offer tutorial services; which students whose grades are below 70 will be required to attend.

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

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

Instructional Materials

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

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

Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent

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

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

You may request information regarding any state or district policy related to your child's participation in assessments required by federal law, state law, or the district.

Student Records

Accessing Student Records

You may review your child's student records. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,

- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns,
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child, and
- Teaching materials and tests used in your child's classroom.

Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records

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

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

  Family Policy Compliance Office
  U.S. Department of Education
  400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202-5901

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

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

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

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

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

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

- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, TEA, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office,

and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or other child welfare representatives, in certain cases.

- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, school district/system, or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or which the student has received.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administering student aid programs; or improve instruction.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.
- When the district discloses information it has designated as directory information [see **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** for opportunities to prohibit this disclosure].

Release of personally identifiable information to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The principal is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

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

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records. The address of the superintendent's office is 244 County Road 2429, Alto, TX 77925.

The address of the principals' offices is: 248 County Road 2429, Alto, TX 77925.

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

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

The district's policy regarding student records found at policy FL is available on the district's website at www.alto.esc7.net.

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

Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications

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

Students with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances

Children of Military Families

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

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.

- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.

- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from a deployment of at least four months will be excused by the district. The district will permit no more than five excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent's return from deployment.

Additional information may be found at Military Family Resources at the Texas Education Agency

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Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments

Multiple Birth Siblings

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

Safety Transfers/Assignments

As a parent, you may:

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

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

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

- Request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE.]

- Request the transfer of your child to a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on

deferred adjudication for that assault. If the victim does not wish to transfer, the district will transfer the assailant in accordance with policy FDE.

Service/Assistance Animal Use by Students

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a request in writing to the principal at least ten district business days before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus.

Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

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

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

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

Students Who Are Homeless

Children who are homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement, if the student is unable to provide previous academic records, or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness;
- Credit-by-examination opportunities;
- The award of partial credit (awarding credit proportionately when a student passes only one semester of a two-semester course);

- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and ● Graduation requirements.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 is homeless and transfers to another school district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request to receive a diploma from the previous district if he or she meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

Federal law also allows a homeless student to remain enrolled in what is called the "school of origin" or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

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

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

Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education Services

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district'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. For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

A parent may request an evaluation for special education services at any time. If a parent makes a written request to a school district's director of special education services or to a district administrative employee for an initial evaluation for special education services, the school must, not later than the 15th school day after the date the school receives the request, either give the parent prior written notice of its proposal to evaluate the student, a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards, and the opportunity for the parent to give written consent for the evaluation or must give the parent prior written notice of its refusal to evaluate the student and a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards.

If the school decides to evaluate the student, the school must complete the initial evaluation and the resulting report no later than 45 school days from the day the school 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 must be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45 school day timeline. If the 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, the school 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 completion, the school must give you a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

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

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

- Texas Project FIRST
- Partners Resource Network

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education services is Tonya Watson at 936-858-7110.

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

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

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

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

Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English

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

Students with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected Under Section 504

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

The designated person to contact regarding a referral for evaluation applicable to Section 504 is Misty Townsend at 936-858-7170. [See policy FB.]

Section II: Other Important Information for Students and Parents

Topics in this section of the Student Handbook contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Where possible, the topics are also organized to alert you to the applicability of each topic based on a student's age or grade level. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Principal Shanequa Redd-Dorsey at 936858-7110.

Absences/Attendance

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

Compulsory Attendance

Age 19 and Older

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

Between Ages 6 and 18

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

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

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

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

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

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, if the student comes to school or returns to school on the same day as the appointment. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student's arrival or return to campus; and
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state, ○ 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.

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

Secondary Grade Levels

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

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

- A student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the district's board has authorized this in policy FEA(LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absence; and

- A student serving as an election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

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

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

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

Students with Disabilities

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

Age 19 and Older

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

Between Ages 6 and 18

When a student between ages 6 and 18 incurs unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the school will send a notice to the student's parent, as required by law, to remind the parent that it is the parent's duty to monitor his or her child's attendance and to require the student to come to school. The notice will also inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures and request a conference between school administrators and the parent. These measures will include a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, or referrals to either in-school or out-of-school counseling or other social services. Any other measures considered appropriate by the district will also be initiated.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the high school is Principal Shanequa Redd-Dorsey. If you have questions about your student and the effect of his or her absences from school, please contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

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

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

[See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

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

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

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

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

- If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered extenuating circumstances for purposes of attendance for credit or the award of a final grade.
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- In reaching a decision about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit or a final grade.

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

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

Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)

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

Official attendance is taken every day at 10:15 a.m.

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

Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is age

18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note.

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

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

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

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school in order to determine whether the absence or absences will be excused or unexcused. [See policy FEC(LOCAL).]

Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 to obtain a driver's license, written parental permission must be provided for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to access the student's attendance records and, in certain circumstances, for a school administrator to provide the student's attendance information to DPS. A verification of enrollment (VOE) and attendance form may be obtained from the office, which the student will need to submit to DPS upon application for a driver's license.

Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)

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

- The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for the district, compiled by TEA, the state agency that oversees public education, based on academic factors and ratings;
- A School Report Card (SRC) for each campus in the district compiled by TEA based on academic factors and ratings;
- The district's financial management report, which will include the financial accountability rating assigned to the district by TEA;

- The performance ratings of the district's evaluation of community and student engagement using the indicators required by law; and

- Information compiled by TEA for the submission of a federal report card that is required by federal law.

Information about all of these can be found on the district's website at www.alto.esc7.net.

Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

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

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test

A student in grades 10–12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter. The test shall be offered at anytime during the school year. See counselor. Please contact the principal for information about this opportunity.

Bullying (All Grade Levels)

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;
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

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

The district is required to adopt policies and procedures regarding:

- 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.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

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

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

Transfers/Assignments .]

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

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

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

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas: Business, Technology, and Agriculture. Admission to these programs is based on grade classification and prerequisites.

These programs will be offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Alto ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and CTE programs. [See **Nondiscrimination Statement** for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and Section 504 coordinator, who will address certain allegations of discrimination.]

Celebrations (All Grade Levels)

Although a parent or grandparent is not prohibited from providing food for a school-designated function or for children in the child's or grandchild's classroom for his or her birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss this with the child's teacher prior to bringing any food in this circumstance. Occasionally, the school or a class may host certain functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that will involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers for bringing food products.

[See **Food Allergies** .]

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

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at www.alto.esc7.net. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking. As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is

defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include 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. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

A child who has experienced sexual abuse 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 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.

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

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect:

- Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet
- KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Resources
- Texas Attorney General, What We Can Do About Child Abuse Part 1
- Texas Attorney General, What We Can Do About Child Abuse Part 2 Reports of abuse

or neglect may be made to:

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

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse

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

A child who has been or is being sexually abused may exhibit physical, behavioral, or emotional warning signs, including:

• Difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches;
• Verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior; or
• Withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school. Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [**See Dating, Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation]**

Warning Signs of Trafficking

Child trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services. Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches, although traffickers frequently make contact with victims online. Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include: • Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude; • Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology); • Tattoos or branding; • Refillable gift cards; • Frequent runaway episodes; • Multiple phones or social media accounts; • Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone; • Unexplained injuries; • Isolation from family, friends, and community; and • Older boyfriends or girlfriends. Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include: • Being unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips; • Being employed but not having a school-authorized work permit; • Being employed and having a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours for students; • Owing a large debt and being unable to pay it off; • Not being allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours; • Being overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss; • Not being in control of his or her own money; • Living with an employer or having

an employer listed as a student's caregiver; and • A desire to quit a job but not being allowed to do so.

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, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS). A child who has experienced sexual abuse or any other type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Children may be more reluctant to disclose sexual abuse than physical abuse and neglect and may only disclose sexual abuse indirectly. As a parent or trusted adult, it is important to be calm and comforting if your child or another child confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling you. If your child is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in Your County. Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at1-800-252-5400 or on the web at Texas Abuse Hotline Website).

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

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

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

(Updated and Approved by the AlSD Board of Trustees May 25, 2010 and in accordance with Alto lSD Board Policy (EIF Legal and EIF Local).

A weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) will be used to determine class ranking, honor graduates, and eligibility for National Honor Society membership. Grade points are earned for a particular grade in each semester of a course successfully completed, including all college courses. Grade points are only awarded at the end of each semester. The numerical grade earned will vary in grade points with the level of the course. Grades below 70 do not qualify for credit, and thus must be re-taken for graduation and credit purposes. Exception: A student fails Angelina College History 1301 but passes US History at Alto HS. The failing grade at Angelina College does not have to be re-taken because the student received credit by passing US History at Alto HS. Grades used for calculating final rank will stop at the end of the third quarter of the senior year. Senior year fourth quarter grades are not used in calculated rank.

The district is required to use the academic achievement record (transcript) form designated by the State Board of Education for all calculations. Class ranking and scholastic honors shall be determined by averaging cumulative semester grade averages earned throughout the course of high school studies. Certain grades shall be unweighted according to specifics below. Each of the individual semester grades for the student's first three and a half years (to include high school level courses taken in Jr. High) shall be averaged, plus the third quarter of the senior year. All grades shall reflect numeric semester averages as indicated on the student's official high school transcript. The total number of Grade Points accumulated will be divided by the total number of semesters to ascertain final grade point averages and final class rankings.

The highest "un-weighted" individual grade a student may have recorded on his or her transcript for any semester course is a 100. However, it is very conceivable that a student might have an individual grade or cumulative grade point average above 100 on the calculations template due to "weighting." Transcripts will only reflect "un-weighted" semester averages.

Class Ranking Addendum

The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit.

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

The calculation shall include failing grades.

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in physical education, athletics, cheerleading, fine arts, any agriculture elective, a distance learning course, unless the course is either assigned to the student by the District or offered as a course option along with

traditional District courses, an assigned remediation or tutoring course, any local credit course, or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced/Honors and Standard in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Eligible dual credit courses and English honors, pre-calculus, calculus, physics, anatomy and physiology, and Spanish 3 shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced/Honors courses. All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Standard courses.

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

Category	**Weight**
Advanced / Honors	plus 10
Standard	plus 0

No points shall be added to failing grades.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2023.

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced/Honors, Standard, and Fundamental in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Eligible dual credit courses and English honors, pre-calculus, calculus, physics, anatomy and physiology, and Spanish 3 shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced/Honors courses.

All courses other than Advanced/Honors and Fundamental courses shall be categorized and weighted as Standard courses.

All courses that have been modified as to the required content of the Texas essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) shall be categorized and weighted as Fundamental courses.

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

Category	Weight
Advanced / Honors	plus 20
Standard	plus 10
Fundamental	plus 0

No points shall be added to failing grades.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

The following provisions shall apply to all students, regardless of their graduating class.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Standard or Fundamental category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only if the same or a similar course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth sixweek grading period of the senior year.

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

The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation;

The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2023.

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation;

2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and

3. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

The following provisions shall apply to all students, regardless of their graduating class.

Ties

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

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

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian and Salutatorian shall be selected based on the weighted cumulative grade point average. To be eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, the student must have attended Alto High School through the entire eleventh and twelfth grades. The Valedictorian of the graduating class will be the student with the highest weighted cumulative grade point average. The Salutatorian will be the student with the second highest grade point average.

In case of two or more students tying for the highest weighted cumulative grade point average, Co-Valedictorian will be recognized. Should Co-Valedictorians exist, no Salutatorian would be recognized. In the case of one Valedictorian and two or more students tying for the second highest weighted cumulative grade point average, Co-Salutatorians will be recognized.

The rank to determine Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Honor Students will be calculated at the end of the third quarter. The fourth quarter grades will be averaged and substituted for the final semester grade for ranking purposes only.

Commencement speeches to be given by the Valedictorian(s) and Salutatorian(s) on the night of graduation must be pre-approved by the high school principal. [For further information, see policy EIC.]

Top Ten Percent

Students ranking in the “Top 10 Percent” of the class shall be so identified as such: for example, if the graduating class has fifty students, the top five academically ranked students shall be

declared "Top 10 Percent". A student who is eligible for top 10% automatically receives college admission. Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program (a student must graduate with at least one endorsement and must have taken Algebra II as one of the four required math courses). ie. 4 Math, 4 ELA, 4 Science, 4 Social Studies, 2 years of Spanish, 1 Fine Arts, 1 PE and 6 elective credits.

Top Ten percent will be calculated based on whole numbers; it will not be rounded up to the next ten. Example: If there are 47 graduates at the time of ranking, there will be 4 in the top ten percent, not 5. This is mandated by the State of Texas, not Alto High School. Top Ten Percent graduates to Texas public high schools are guaranteed admission to all Texas public colleges and universities (except The University of Texas Austin). This provides guaranteed ADMISSION only, not payment of tuition or fees, nor does it guarantee admittance to a specific area within the college. For two school years following their graduation, District graduates who ranked in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas. Students and parents should contact the counselor for further information about how to apply and the deadline for application.

Beginning with admissions for the 2011–12 academic year, the University of Texas at Austin (UT) is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission in excess of the number required to fill 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year.

In order to be eligible for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and/or "Top Ten Percent" honors, a student must complete four full years of high school, be eligible for graduation according to all state guidelines (i.e. pass all required STAAR EOC), and must complete all coursework required for graduation.

Students who entered High School during or after the 2014/2015 school year must be on the "Foundation with Endorsement/Distinction" diploma plan to receive automatic admission to college as Valedictorian, Salutatorian or "Top 10 Percent". Students who wish to be eligible for top 10% (automatic college admission) must be on the Distinguished plan. The Distinguished level of achievement requires: 4 Math, 4 ELA, 4 Science, 4 Social Studies, 2 years of Spanish, 1 Fine Arts, 1 PE and 6 elective credits. This plan must include Algebra II as one of the Math credits. There are no dual credit course requirements for this plan. HB5 will include Performance Acknowledgements to be displayed on a student's transcript. The Performance Acknowledgments are: PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT or ACT, Bilingualism and Biliteracy and Dual Credit. Requirements for each of these areas can be found in TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B 74.14. grade point averages shall be calculated to the one-thousandth of a point (i.e. 98.7455 = 98.746).

Transferred Courses

Courses transferred into Alto shall be considered regular level courses (not granted "weighted" points) unless the courses are also offered to Alto students (i.e. Honors English I, Spanish 3,

Physics, etc.) as "Honors" courses. All transfer grades (with the exception of those listed below which are not calculated in final grade point average) shall be accepted for class rankings. In accordance with EIC Legal and Alto lSD EIC Local policy, transferred letter grades shall be converted to numerical averages before averages are computed for class ranking according to the following conversions:

--Grades stated as A-, A, or A+ shall be assigned the value of 92, 95, or 98 respectively.

--Grades stated as 8-, B, or B+ shall be assigned the value of 82, 85, or 88.

--Grades stated as C-, C, or C+ shall be assigned the value of 75, 77, or 79. -Grades translated to have a value below the numerical value of 70 shall be considered failing and shall be assigned a value of 65.

Cumulative grade point averages and relative class ranks are to be determined and provided to each student: At the end of his/her Junior year; At the conclusion of the Fall semester of his/her Senior year; and, At the conclusion of the fifth six-weeks of his/her Senior year (Final Grade Point Average and Final Class Rank). Dual credit college courses not completed by the end of the fifth six weeks of the student's senior year in high school will not be averaged in the final grade point average, and thus not be considered in final class rank.

The following courses shall be deemed weighted courses at Alto High School, and thus awarded ten (10) points per semester toward final grade point averaging. These are the only classes that will be awarded the ten (10) points: English 1 Honors (2 Semesters); English II Honors (2 Semesters); English III Honors or Advanced Placement English III (2 Semesters); English IV Honors or Advanced Placement English IV (2 Semesters); Angelina College English 1301-Dual Credit English (1 Semester); Angelina College English 1302-Dual Credit English (1 Semester); PreCalculus (2 Semesters); Calculus (2 Semesters); Statistics (2 Semesters); Anatomy and Physiology (2 Semesters); Physics (2 Semesters); Angelina College History 1301-Dual Credit History (1 Semester); Angelina College History 1302-Dual Credit History (1 Semester); Angelina College Government 2305-Dual Credit Government (1 Semester); Angelina College Economics 2301-Dual Credit Economics (1 Semester); and Spanish 3.

*Only courses for which Alto High School has an articulation agreement with a college will be deemed "Dual Credit," and thus be granted ten points per semester for final grade point average and class rank purposes. Those particular courses are listed above as "Dual Credit."

The ten (10) points will be awarded on the first attempt at classes (listed above) taken at Angelina College. A student may elect to re-take a class at Angelina College, but the first attempt will be the only grade eligible for the ten (10) points and to be included in the GPA.

Any student involved in academic dishonesty will be ineligible for the ten (10) points awarded for the class taken.

Students taking dual credit courses at Angelina College will follow Angelina College's testing procedures. Angelina College may allow students to test at Alto HS with a proctor present. This

testing procedure will be set up by the Alto HS Administration. This will be allowed during fall, spring, and summer sessions. Summer session testing will be limited to three days during the summer semesters.

If a student takes a course both at the high school level and at the college level, the highest of the semester grades will be calculated in for grade point average and class rank.

Only courses listed above as Advanced Placement, Honors, or Dual Credit courses will receive the extra ten points. College courses NOT required for graduation from Alto High School will not be reflected on the student's high school transcript, nor averaged in final grade point or class rank calculations, and will not be reimbursed by Alto ISD for tuition. These might include Psychology, Sociology, Medical Terminology, etc.

In accordance with EIC Legal and EIC Local, grades earned in the following elective courses shall NOT count toward class rank or scholastic honors: Physical Education; Athletics; Band; Student Aide; One Act Play; Cheerleading; STAAR Remediation Classes; Credit Recovery courses; Credit by Examination Courses; Correspondence Courses; Office Aide; Study Island; Vocational Agriculture; Art; Yearbook; and Home Bound/Home School courses. [For further information, see policies at EIC.]

Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

Advanced Placement and Honors Classes

It is the philosophy of AISD that all students are encouraged to have high expectations. Therefore, AHS follows a rigorous curriculum consisting of advanced classes. Any student wishing to attempt the advanced courses is allowed to do so, as long as the student has met the minimum passing standard on the STAAR test. The purpose of these courses is ultimately to prepare the student for college.

HONORS ENGLISH -REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS-Prepared by AHS English Department
Admittance

Admittance into an Honors class requires a recommendation from a teacher and permission from the counselor. Additionally, admittance can be obtained by maintaining a minimum average of 90 in a regular English class or a minimum average of 85 in a current Honors class.

Students enrolled in honors is one who is reputable in turning in all work on the due date without fail. Late work or negligence to turn in assignments will result in the expulsion from the honors class. Work ethic, participation, and a positive attitude are necessary traits to produce the quality work that will be expected.

*Students enrolled in a College Board Advanced Placement course must pay the test fee by the end of the 4th grading period and take the AP Exam in May to be eligible for the extra ten points.

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

College and University Admissions (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

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

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. For students who are eligible to enroll in the University during the summer or fall 2020 term or spring 2021 term , the University will be admitting the top seven percent of the high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process. As required by law, the district will provide written notice concerning automatic college admission, the curriculum requirements for financial aid, and the benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid. Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they received this information.

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

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

[See **Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student** on page 51 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** [see page 84 for information associated with the foundation graduation program].

College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the school counselor for more information. Depending on the student's grade level and the course, a state-mandated end-of-course assessment may be required for graduation.

It is important to keep in mind that not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

Dual Credit Academic Program Offerings and Guidelines

Alto High School has entered into an exclusive Dual Credit Concurrent Enrollment Partnership Agreement with Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas. Courses taken for Dual Credit at Angelina College only will count toward high school credits and weighted grade point averaging at Alto High School. Courses may be taken either in person on the Angelina College campus or via the internet.

In order to be eligible for enrollment in the dual credit program (and all subsequent dual credit courses), a student must be pre-approved by the Counselor. Requirements for admission to the Dual Credit program include: achieved at or above the state exemption scores on ACT, SAT, or STAAR End of Course (EOC); meeting minimum passing standards on the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exam; and a minimum overall high school numeric grade point average of 85.00 or above for incoming juniors and above.

Students are responsible for all admissions paperwork requirements, initial financial payments, and all books, materials, and supplies needed for the courses.

Numeric grades will be provided to Alto lSD by Angelina College for transcript recording and grade point average weighting. Articulation agreements between Alto High School and Angelina College have been established for the following courses only, beginning June 1, 2010.

ENGLISH 1301articulates as ENGLISH IV, FALL SEMESTER

ENGLISH 1302articulates as ENGLIGH IV, SPRING SEMESTER

HISTORY 1301 articulates as UNITED STATES HISTORY, FALL SEMESTER

HISTORY 1302 articulates as UNITED STATES HISTORY, SPRING SEMESTER

GOVERNMENT 2305 articulates as HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT (1 SEMESTER) ECONOMICS

2301 articulates as HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS (1 SEMESTER).

Alto High School students have the option (on their own) to enroll concurrently in additional college courses (i.e.Speech, Psychology, etc.). These courses, however, will not be counted for high school credit.

Students taking dual credit courses at Angelina College will be reimbursed for the tuition fees only upon completion of the course with a grade of "C" or higher. Students must submit the proper paperwork to Dean of Students to receive reimbursement. This policy is contingent on available funding.

Communications—Automated Emergency

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

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

Non-emergency

Your child's school will request that you provide contact information, such as your phone number and e-mail address, in order for the school to communicate items specific to your child,

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

Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the board has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the district's policy manual available on the district website. A copy of the complaint forms may be obtained in the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district website.

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

Conduct (All Grade Levels)

Applicability of School Rules

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

Campus Behavior Coordinator

By law, each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The campus behavior coordinator at each district campus is listed below:

- Shanequa Redd-Dorsey and Timothy Ektefaei, High School

- Krystin Lucas, Middle School
- Candis Mabry, Elementary School

Disruptions of School Operations

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

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

Deliveries

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

Social Events

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

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

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

Counseling

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

• A guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives;
• A responsive services component to intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk;
• An individual planning system to guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development; and
• Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students. The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available to parents to review during school hours.

Academic Counseling

High School Grade Levels

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

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

The school counselor will also provide information each year a student is enrolled in high school regarding: • The importance of postsecondary education; • The advantages of earning an

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

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

Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)

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

[See Mental Health Support on page 98, and Child Sexual Abuse, Sex Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children and Dating Violence on page 44.]

Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student in grades 9-12, or in a lower grade when a student is enrolled in a high school creditbearing course, will earn credit for a course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a twosemester (1 credit) course, the student's grades from both semesters will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. Should the student's combined average be less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

Credit by Examination—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (All Grade Levels)

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit or a final grade for it—may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a non-accredited 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.”

The school counselor or principal would determine if the student could take an exam for this purpose. If approval is granted, the student must score at least 70 on the exam to receive credit for the course or subject.

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

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

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

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

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

Students in Grades 6–12

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, a scaled score of 50 or higher on an exam administered through CLEP, or a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam, as applicable. A student may take an exam to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school’s high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Alto High School offers a credit recovery program during the regular school year. An internet instructional delivery program is utilized to help students recover credits which were denied when students failed a course or lose credits due to excessive absences. Participation is granted through approval by the principal. Credits cannot be awarded for acceleration unless approved by the principal. Courses will not count towards class rank or scholastic honors.

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

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

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. A copy of the district's policy is available on the district's website. [See policy FFH.]

Dating Violence

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

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

Discrimination

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

Harassment

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

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

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

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment

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

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

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

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

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

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.

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

Reporting Procedures

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

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

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

Investigation of Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

Detentions, Saturday School, In School Suspension, Off Campus Suspension, and Discipline Alternative Education Program

Detentions

1. Faculty and staff members may issue detention time as a consequence of student behavior.
2. Detention hall is held each day in a designated classroom during lunch Monday-Friday and after school from 3:15 – 4:15 pm Monday-Thursday.
3. Detentions may be assigned for 1 hour at the discretion of the faculty or staff member.
4. When a detention is given, the student has that day plus the next four school days to serve the time or the student will be assigned one day of ISS regardless of absences. Instances of extreme absences (3 or more consecutive days) will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
5. Behavior problems in detention hall will result in additional consequences.
6. Students will not be admitted to detention hall if they are late
7. Student and parent questions related to the details of an individual detention should be first addressed with the faculty or staff member who issued the detention.
8. Students with excessive detentions will be subject to further disciplinary action.
9. Students should bring necessary materials to work on class assignments or EOC preparation.

Saturday School

Saturday School is a detainment for students who have conduct or attendance problems in school. Saturday School is held in a designated classroom each Saturday from 8:00am-12:00pm. Skipping Saturday School will result in a two day ISS assignment. The only acceptable excuse for missing a Saturday School assignment will be a doctor's note.

Saturday School is also used to make up time for students who have "Excessive Absences". Each student will be allowed to make up 5 class periods for each Saturday School attended.

SATURDAY SCHOOL RULES:

1. Student shall follow dress code regulations as stated in Alto High School Student Handbook.
2. Student shall not be admitted after 8:00 am (official school clock time).
3. Student shall speak only when permission is granted.
4. Student shall remain at assigned desk unless otherwise instructed.

5. Student shall bring classroom assignments, textbooks, and supplies to work on during Saturday School.
6. Student shall not distract and/or communicate with others in any manner.
7. Student shall not sleep or lay head on the desk.
8. Student shall stay busy the entire assigned time by continually working on classroom tasks.
9. Student shall adhere to all driving violations/regulations as stated in the student handbook.
10. Student shall adhere to all rules and regulations as stated in the student handbook and Code of Conduct.

In School Suspension

Students may be assigned to in school suspension (ISS) for discipline problems. During ISS students are removed from their regular class setting and placed in isolation from all other students. The students' lessons from their classes are brought to the room for them to complete. ISS is Monday through Friday from 7:45-3:17 pm, located on campus and presided over by a teacher. The student is allowed one restroom break at 10:00am and one at 2:00pm. Students will eat at a time and place designated by the instructor.

Students are not allowed to be on school property before or after school and are not allowed to participate in or attend any school related function (on or off Alto I.S.D. campuses) while enrolled in I.S.S. A student may not participate in a school related function until 7:45am the following school day from the last day served.

ISS RULES:

1. Student shall follow dress code as stated in Alto High School Student Handbook.
2. Student shall work on classroom assignments.
3. Student shall speak only when permission is granted.
4. Student shall remain at assigned desk unless otherwise instructed.
5. Student shall bring supplies, materials, and textbooks necessary to complete assignments.
6. Student shall not distract and/or communicate with others in any manner.
7. Student shall not sleep or lay head on the desk.

8. Student shall stay busy the entire time by continually working on classroom tasks.
9. Student shall bring a sack lunch from home or eat from the regular tray line. Lunch may not be brought from an outside source.
10. If student leaves ISS early (before 3:17pm), he/she shall receive an additional day of ISS.
11. If student is sent to the office due to a discipline problem (including dress/hair code infractions, cell phone, etc.) or is tardy to ISS, then the student shall be assigned an additional day of ISS.
12. If student is sent to the office a second time because of a discipline problem, then the student shall be suspended for two days. The student's remaining days in ISS shall be served when student returns from the suspension.
13. Students with multiple ISS assignments are subject to further disciplinary action which may include assignment to DAEP.
14. If a student is assigned to ISS and does not report, he/she shall be assigned to an additional day of ISS.
15. If a student is assigned to ISS and is absent from school on that day, he/she is to report to ISS upon the first day of his/her return.
16. Student shall adhere to all rules and regulations as stated in the student handbook and Code of Conduct.

Off Campus Suspension

Off Campus Suspension (OCS) will range from 1 to 3 days. When a student is assigned OCS, his/her parents will be called to pick him up or campus security or administration may take him/her home. The student will receive absences in each class for the time of suspension; however, the student will be able to make up the school assignments. Students that come on campus during an OCS will receive additional consequences such as DAEP placement.

Discipline Alternative Education Program

Students enrolled in the Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP) are prohibited from being on AISD property, other than the location deemed by campus administration for transportation. These students are prohibited by law from riding any district transportation other than to and from the DAEP center located at Rusk ISD. They are prohibited from participating in, or attending, any extracurricular or co-curricular activity on or off district property. Violation of these rules will lead to arrest for trespass and are considered grounds for expulsion.

Discrimination

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

Distance Learning

All Grade Levels

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

The distance learning opportunities that the district makes available to district students are Angelina College.

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

Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) (Secondary Grade Levels)

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

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

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

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

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

School Materials

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

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

Non-school Materials

From Students

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

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

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

From Others

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

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

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL) or a noncurriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with FNAB(LOCAL).

- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

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

Dress and Grooming (All Grade Levels)

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DRESS FOR SUCCESS

The Alto Independent School District has adopted a standard dress code for all students, grades Pre-K through 12. This code is established to teach proper grooming and hygiene, to prevent disruption, and to minimize safety hazards. Students are to be dressed and groomed at all times in a manner that is clean, neat, and modest. Alto I.S.D. prohibits any clothing or grooming that, in an administrator's judgment, may reasonably be expected to cause disruption, call attention to him or herself, or interfere with normal school or classroom operations. If a staff member determines that a student's grooming violates codes outlined below, the student will be sent to the principal's office for correction to include: Correction; Changing; Detention; Loss of Extracurricular Event Participation and/or Attendance Privileges; I.S.S.; and/or Suspension (for repeat offenses). Parent conferences will be required for habitual offenders. Students who violate the dress code also choose to take responsibility (consequences) for their actions.

****THESE CODES APPLY TO ALL SCHOOL EVENTS – ON CAMPUS AND OFF.****

Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards provided that he/she complies with the following:

--Proper undergarments are to be worn at all times. At no time is any student to show an exposed midriff, cleavage, or any undergarments to include colored undergarments showing through clothing. Bras and bra straps (to include sports bras on uniforms) are to never be visible.

Pants

--Pants (jeans, slacks, or shorts) are to be properly worn, WITH NO "SAGGING" ALLOWED. Students who pose a problem with this rule will be required to "cinch" their pants at the waist with a belt. Pants with holes, rips, and/or tears above the knee will not be allowed unless leggings are worn

underneath and no skin is showing. Excessive holes or tears will not be allowed. At the middle school and high school level, leggings worn as pants must have a shirt, skirt, or shorts over them that meet the 4" above the knee requirements. Overalls are allowable, so long as bib buckles remain buckled at all times. Belts must also be buckled at all times, and "excessive" belt lengths will not be allowed. Shorts may be worn to school, but may be no shorter than four inches above the knee.

Shirts

--Shirts or blouses may be fashionable, but must be modest. No material which is sheer or seethrough will be allowed without a 3" or wider tank top worn underneath. Burn-out t-shirts may only be worn if a full tank top is worn underneath. Undergarments should never be visible. FOR GRADES FIVE AND ABOVE, BOYS ARE TO WEAR SHIRTS TUCKED IN OR IF THE SHIRT IS WORN UNTUCKED IT CAN NOT EXTEND BELOW THE WRIST WHEN STANDING. Boys' shirts must have a least a full half-sleeve (no cutoff or muscle shirts may be worn). Jerseys are not allowed unless a full tee shirt is worn underneath. Tops with spaghetti straps, halter tops, or backless shirts are not allowed.
All shirts must have at least 3" of material on the shoulder. Arm socks or "sleeves" which are not a part of a shirt are not allowed.

--Skirts, shorts, and dress lengths may be no higher than four inches above the top of the knee. This includes slits in both skirts and dresses. Dresses and shirts with cut-outs are not allowed.

Footwear

--Soled shoes must be worn at all times. Bare feet are not allowed at any time. House shoes and/or slippers are not allowed. Shoe laces are to be tied at all times. Heels exceeding three inches are not allowed. At the elementary level, shoes may not have a heel that exceeds one inch in height, and shoes must have straps and/or buckles to fasten securely (no backless shoes) as a safety measure. Shoes with built-in wheels or electronic capabilities are not allowed. Skate boards are not allowed on any school grounds at any time.

Body Piercing

--Body piercing (i.e. nose, eyebrow, lip, tongue, or facial) is not allowed by any student. Girls may wear earrings, but they shall not be questionable and/or disruptive in nature. Neither boys nor girls are allowed to wear "Lobe Expander Earrings," "Loop Earrings", "Gauge Earrings," or any other type of "Fake Earrings," such as tabs. (Bars in the ear, ear cuffs, no more than 1 piercing in each ear.)

Accessories

--Gel bracelets with questionable language / wording are not allowed to be worn at any time. Excessive jewelry is not allowed. This is to include: chains on clothing or wallets; "grills" on teeth; spiked jewelry; multiple rings/bracelets; etc. that call attention to oneself and/or are disruptive in nature.

--Glasses that are non-prescription may not be worn at anytime.

--Sunglasses may not be worn in the building.

--Tattoos must be covered at all times. "Fake tattoos" are not allowed at any time with the exception of "Alto Spirit Tattoos" on game days.

Headwear

-- Caps, hats, hoods, stocking caps, skull caps, and sweat bands are not allowed to be worn by students at any time in any building. Combs and/or picks may not be worn in the hair. Headbands may be worn by girls only and must be flat against the head. Headbands with decorations such as cat ears, pom poms, etc. are not allowed. Caps will not be permitted in any school building (with the exception of special events, athletic dressing rooms, and the ag shop). Caps picked up by staff members or administrators inside the school will be returned to the students at the principal's discretion.

-- Bandanas (as a hair cover, headband, scarf, or pocket display) are not to be worn or exhibited by any student at any time.

--Inappropriate modes of clothing that are disruptive or suggestive, including but not limited to spandex and/or tight-fitting tops or pants are not allowed. Pajamas are not allowed to be worn at school.

--Trench coats, dusters, and/or blankets are not allowed in any building.

--No lewd, vulgar, obscene, or suggestive depictions of sex, violence, drugs or drug related items, alcohol or alcohol related items, tobacco, profanity, death, satanic themes, nudity, hate slogans or pictures, swastikas, pentagrams, or gang related/affiliated materials (described as, but not limited to: dress/ornaments as deemed inappropriate by school administrators) shall not be worn or displayed at any time by any student.

Grooming

--Hair is to be neatly combed, brushed, and out of the eyes at all times. For boys, hair may not touch the back of the collar and may not extend below the bottom of the earlobe. Hair or braids in hair may not extend past the bottom of the collar or be of an unnatural (dyed or bleached) color which eyebrow. Boys are allowed to have facial hair as long as it is neatly trimmed close to the face. may not wear ponytails or buns on top of the head. Hair may not stand up more than three ir would call attention to the student or be distracting. Bangs may not be below the top of the

Boys

on top of the head. No Mohawks, numbers, letters, lines, or symbols may be cut into the hair or eyebrows. Hair must be uniform in length, cut, and style. No hair beads are allowed for boys. Feathers may not be attached and worn in hair.

--Students with offensive body odor (including excessive perfume, cologne, and/or body spray) and/or clothing odor will be counseled and sent to home to wash and/or change.

DRESS CODE AT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All dress, hair, grooming, and related codes will be enforced at extracurricular activities and events. These include: sporting events; school concerts; assemblies; and all school-related functions (either on Alto School grounds or at other sites). Students who violate the dress code at an extracurricular event will be instructed to immediately correct the infraction (if minor), or be dismissed from the event if it is a major or repeat offense.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE DRESS CODE

On established "Special" days, students may be allowed to abide by a "relaxed" code. These would include "Costume" or "Dress-Up" Days during Homecoming Week; and/or established campus "Fun" days at the campus levels. These decisions are at the discretion of the campus principal or designated administrator.

Homecoming, prom and/or banquet dress will be allowed (within good taste) to include: Evening Dresses for girls and formal attire for boys at the prom; Sun dresses for girls at Spring Banquets; and/or established campus "Special" events; Homecoming Court attire must be of school colors (black, gold, white or silver). These decisions are at the discretion of the campus principal or designated administrator.

At the discretion of the campus principal, students may be allowed to wear appropriate attire for special activities (i.e. on field trips, activities at swimming pools or water parks, etc.) so long as the attire is not determined to be obscene, disruptive, or controversial.

"THE FINAL SAY"

Administrators, teachers, coaches, and/or sponsors have the authority to remove any student from any class, event, or activity at any time if they determine the student's attire or grooming is inappropriate and/or out of code compliance. Students removed from an activity may also be subject to further disciplinary actions.

THE PRINCIPAL OR DESIGNATED ADMINISTRATOR HAS THE "FINAL SAY" IN ALL DRESS, HAIR, AND GROOMING CODE APPROPRIATENESS MATTERS.

Dress Code at Extracurricular Activities

All dress, hair, grooming, and related codes will be enforced at extracurricular activities and events. These include: sporting events; school concerts; assemblies; and all school related functions (either on Alto School grounds or at other sites). Students who violate the dress code at an extracurricular event will be instructed to immediately correct the infraction (if minor), or be dismissed from the event if it is a major or repeat offense.

With the approval of the principal, the sponsors, coaches or other persons in charge of extracurricular activities may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in each activity.

Exceptions to the Dress Code

On established "Special" days, students may be allowed to abide by a "relaxed" code. These would include "Costume" or "Dress Up" Days during Homecoming Week; and/or established campus "Fun" days at the campus levels. These decisions are at the discretion of the campus principal or designated administrator.

Prom and/or banquet dress will be allowed (within good taste) to include: Evening Dresses for girls at the prom; Sun dresses for girls at Spring Banquets; and/or established campus "Special" events. These decisions are at the discretion of the campus principal or designated administrator.

At the discretion of the campus principal, students may be allowed to wear appropriate attire for special activities (i.e. on field trips, activities at swimming pools or water parks, etc.) so long as the attire is not determined to be obscene, disruptive, or controversial.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day. including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. Students are only permitted to use personal electronic devices such as cell phones, games, or other electronic devices, during lunch and after the 3:17 p.m. dismissal bell. If cell phone usage during lunch becomes an issue, the principal has the right to suspend that privilege for the remainder of the school year. Students should not have any electronic device out during breakfast, in the hallways between classes or during class time unless authorized by the teacher. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

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

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student or parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal’s office for a fee of $15. On the first offense, any confiscated device may be picked up with no fee following an administrator conference.

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

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

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

Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices

Except as described below, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

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

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

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

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

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding the use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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

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

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

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

[See **Graduation** and **Standardized Testing** .]

English Learners (All Grade Levels)

A student who is an English learner is entitled to receive specialized services from the district.

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

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

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at **Standardized Testing**

, may be administered to an English learner for a student up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to English learners who qualify for services.

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

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

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

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. The equipment used in football is no exception. As a parent, you are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

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

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics,

science, social studies, economics, or language other than English—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.

- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.

- A student is allowed in a school year up to fifteen absences not related to post-district competition, unlimited absences for post-district competition prior to state, and unlimited absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.

- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

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

Standards of Behavior

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

Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include: Student Council, National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Future Farmers of America, and each grade level will elect their officers. Sponsor and principal will have final approval if each student is allowed to hold office.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is an organization of students who demonstrate outstanding performance in all four criteria of scholarship, leadership, service, and character as determined by the Faculty Council. Membership is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

To be considered for membership, students must first have the prerequisite cumulative weighted grade point average of 90.00. Sophomores must have a GPA of 94.00. Eligible students will apply for membership in the spring and are then evaluated by the Faculty Council on the remaining three criteria: leadership, service and character.

A student who exercises leadership in the school and/or in the community: exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals; exemplifies positive attitudes and inspires positive behavior in others; demonstrates academic initiative in seeking challenging course work; successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted. A student who serves: volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance; is eager to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition; often participates in some activity outside of school. A student of character: consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, and stability); manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others; demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability, both on and off campus. A student may be dismissed from the National Honor Society if he or she fails to maintain the performance standards in any of the four criteria of membership.

Cheerleading

Cheerleading tryouts will take place in the spring of the school year. The students trying out will be selected on the following criteria: Student academics, student attendance, student discipline and actual cheering/tumbling. The academic, attendance and discipline will be gathered by the school while the cheering/tumbling will be observed by outside judges. Only 10^{th}-12^{th} grade students will be selected for varsity. The junior varsity will consist of 9^{th}- 11^{th} grade students.

Fees (All Grade Levels)

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

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.

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

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the principal. [For further information, see policy FP.]

Fundraising (All Grade Levels)

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

Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)

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

Gender-Based Harassment

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

Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9–12 Only)

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

Credits Earned	Classification
6	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
12	Grade 11 (Junior)
18	Grade 12 (Senior)

Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels)

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

The following is the grading guideline for Alto High School. Numerical scores shall be used for all courses at the high school.

A 90-100 Excellent

B 80-89 Good

C 70-79 Average

F Below 70 Failing

Quarter grades will be calculated with 60% comprised of Academic Daily Grades, 40% comprised of Academic Test Grades. Academic Achievement may include, but are not limited to tests (e.g., unit tests), presentations (e.g., speeches, oral reports, etc.), book reports, compositions, portfolios, research projects, special projects such as science fair projects, etc. Academic Practice grades may include, but are not limited to class work/homework, notebooks, journals, lab reports, oral assessments, quizzes, portfolio, technology activities, class participation, etc.

A minimum of 15 daily grades and 3 test grades per nine-week reporting period per subject will be recorded for each student.

Grades shall not be duplicated.

Make Up Work

Students who miss school due to an unplanned absence are responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Students with prior knowledge of upcoming absences, including absences for extra-curricular activities, are encouraged to speak with his or her teacher before the absence occurs. Teachers and students should work together to formulate a plan and ensure work is completed before or shortly after the absence.

Students absent on the day of a test must take the test **the day** they return to school, provided the student was made aware of the test. Students will not be able to make up tests during other teachers' class times. It is at the teacher's discretion when a student makes up a test.

Late Assignments/Late Work

Student's late work must be accepted for all courses including Pre-AP, AP, and Honors courses with a penalty. Late work will not be accepted more than 3 days after the due date. The penalty shall not exceed:

10 points per day for late work:

1 day late = -10 points

2 days late = -20 points 3 days late = -30 points

4 days late = not accepted

**Extenuating circumstances will be considered for late Achievement and Practice grades (please refer to your course syllabus)

Cheating/Plagiarism

Cheating is defined as giving or receiving information on a test or submitting duplicate work for class or outside assignment. Any student involved in an instance of cheating will have his/her paper taken and a grade of zero given. The teacher will contact the student's parent

Plagiarism is the use of another person's original ideas or writing as one's own without giving credit to the true author. Plagiarism will be considered cheating, and the consequences are as cheating.

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

Honor Rolls

All-A Honor Roll: A student must have a 90 or better grade for each subject he/she is taking during a quarter grading period.

Honor Roll: A student must have an 80 or better grade for each subject he/she is taking during a 6 weeks grading period; any grade lower than 80 disqualify that student for that grading period.

Year-end awards for the above will depend on a student making said

Honor Roll each of the 1st five six week periods, not a yearly average.

Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Requirements for a Diploma Beginning with the 2014–15 School Year

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, a student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

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

Early Graduation

Students must declare in writing their intention of graduating early by June 1st at the end of their sophomore year. A student who is graduating early will be included in senior class rank only if he/she is in a position to complete all required coursework after the fall semester of his/her third year in high school, and has passed all STAAR tests. Years two and three must be completed at Alto High School.

Testing Requirements for Graduation

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

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

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

[See **Standardized Testing** for more information.]

Foundation Graduation Program

Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the "foundation graduation program." Within the foundation graduation program are "endorsements," which are paths of interest that include **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies**. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. A personal graduation plan will be completed for each high school student, as described.

State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student's sophomore year, the student and

student's parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university.

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

A student is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student's parent of this fact. However, not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions. A school district will permit a student to satisfy the curriculum requirements for graduation under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement, including an endorsement, by successfully completing courses in the core curriculum of a public Texas institution of higher education. Please see your counselor for more information.

Credits Required

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

Course Area	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program	Number of Credits: Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Science	3	4
Social studies, including economics	3	4
Physical education	1	1
Language other than English	2	2
Fine arts	1	1
Health/Speech	1	1
B.I.M.	1	1
Electives	3	4
Total	**22 Credits**	**26 Credits**

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

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

- **Physical education.** A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing

course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

- **Language other than English.** Students are required to earn 2 credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

Available Endorsements

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

● Business and Industry; ● Arts and Humanities; or ● Multidisciplinary Studies.

Programs of Study for Incoming Freshmen 2020-2021

The Division of College, Career, and Military Preparation has engaged members of the workforce, secondary education, and higher education to advise on the development of programs of study, including coherent sequences of courses, industry-based certifications, and work-based learning to ensure students are prepared for in-demand, high-skill, high-wage careers in Texas. The proposed programs of study go into effect for the **2020-2021 school year** and will allow Texas to meet the federal program approval requirements within the Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). Contact the high school counselor for additional information.

Personal Graduation Plans

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

Please also review TEA's Graduation Toolkit.

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

Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs

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

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

Certificates of Coursework Completion

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

Students with Disabilities

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

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

[See policy FMH(LEGAL).]

ARD committees for students with disabilities who receive special education services will make instructional and assessment decisions for these students in accordance with state law and rules. In order to earn an endorsement under the foundation 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 requirements for graduation under state law.

Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will include:

- Commencement Practice- Mandatory
- Commencement

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

- Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Top Ten Percent, Honor Graduates
- National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of American, Future Farmers of America, Band, UIL Academics
- Red Honor Cord Recipients
- Scholarship recipients

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

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

Honor Graduates

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

- Valedictorian and Salutation
- Honor Graduates must have a minimum GPA of 90.000 or above.

Graduation Speakers

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

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

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

Graduation Expenses

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

Scholarships and Grants

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

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

Harassment

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

Hazing (All Grade Levels)

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated to, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students.

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

[See **Bullying** and policies FFI and FNCC.]

Health-Related Matters

Student Illness (All Grade Levels)

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

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she must 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.

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

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

Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)

Please see the district's website at www.altoisd.esc7.net for information regarding meningitis.

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

[See **Immunization** for more information.]

Diabetes

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

Seizures (All Grade Levels)

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district

before the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder. [See A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504 and contact the school nurse for more information.

Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)

The district requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially those allergies that could result in dangerous or possibly life-threatening reactions either by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact with the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction.

Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, which addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at www.alto.esc7.net.

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

Head Lice (All Grade Levels)

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

More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website Managing Head Lice.

Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)

If a student must take medication during school hours, the student's parent must provide the medication. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's office and be administered by the nurse or another authorized district employee. A student may be authorized to possess his or her own medication because of asthma or a severe allergy as described below or as otherwise allowed by law. The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student. District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, except that authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:

Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions

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

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

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

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

Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)

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

Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)

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

• Mental health promotion and early intervention;

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

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

Other Health-Related Matters

Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3–12)

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

Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)

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

Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Prohibited (All Grade Levels and All Others on School Property)

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or any other electronic vaporizing device, while on school property at any time or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

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

Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's Asbestos Management Plan is available in the superintendent's office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's

plan in more detail, please contact Kim Bradshaw, the district's designated asbestos coordinator, at 936-858-7104.

Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

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

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area. Parents who have further questions or who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Kim Bradshaw, the district's IPM coordinator, at 9368587104.

Homeless Students (All Grade Levels)

You are encouraged to inform the district if you or your child are experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources with you that may be able to assist you and your family.

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's homeless education liaison, Paula Low, at 936-858-7110.

[See **Students Who Are Homeless** .]

Homework

The main purpose of homework is practice, not a demonstration of mastery. Homework may also be used to reinforce, extend, and prepare students for mastery of a concept but never to learn material for the first time. Homework assignments are to include clear instructions and performance expectations so students can complete homework independently. If weekend homework is deemed necessary, the amount should not exceed a regular day's assignment. Homework may not be created as a consequence for misbehavior.

Illness

[See **Student Illness** under **Health-Related Matters**.]

Immunization (All Grade Levels)

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at Affidavit Request

for Exemption from Immunization. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

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

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

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

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

Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels)
Questioning of Students

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

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

Students Taken Into Custody

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

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.

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

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

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested, or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who is thought to have committed certain offenses or who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.
- All appropriate district personnel in regards to a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

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

Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)

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

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

- For students in high school, if the student's parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office in advance of the absence, no later than two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. A phone call received from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes. Once the office has received information that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day. If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may produce a note on his or her own behalf. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school.

  Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, as permitted by the student's parent, or if the student is age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a child in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied by a parent or adult authorized by the parent.

During Lunch

Alto High School is a closed campus. **Students attending Alto High School shall not be allowed to leave campus during the lunch hour.** Students shall not be allowed to leave campus without proper authorization and with anyone other than a guardian. The Principal shall consider special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Students leaving campus without administrative approval shall be subject to disciplinary action. A student who must leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning. A student who becomes ill during the

school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the school nurse. The nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the appropriate administrator and the student's parent.

A parent wishing to remove a student from school must present a signed statement to the attendance clerk or the appropriate principal, explaining the reason for the removal and the effective date.

At Any Other Time During the School Day

Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the principal.

Any senior that has met the criteria for the 12:20 p.m. dismal may leave the campus during that time. The senior must have passed ALL EOC exams, met their credit requirements, and be enrolled in Career Preparation and Practicum. Copies of employment verification must be provided as proof of employment (paystubs or affidavits from employers will be sufficient documentation). Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Lost and Found (All Grade Levels)

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

Makeup Work

Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives missed for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.

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

A student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school and that, even though absences

may be excused or unexcused, all absences account for the 90 percent threshold in regards to the state laws surrounding “attendance for credit or final grade.” [See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** .]

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

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

Students absent on the day of a test must take the test the day they return to school, provided the student was made aware of the test. Students will not be able to make up tests during other teachers' class times. It is at the teacher's discretion when a student makes up a test.

DAEP Makeup Work

Grades 9–12

A high school student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal.

The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

In-School Suspension (ISS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL).]

Alternative Means to Receive Coursework

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

Opportunity to Complete Courses

A student removed from the regular classroom to ISS or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the

student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FO(LEGAL) for more information.]

Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

- Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container.
- Nonprescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

Students whose schedules provide for regular time spent outdoors, including for recess and physical education classes, should apply sunscreen before coming to school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For related information, see: • Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service on page 3 for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information; • Counseling on page 56 for the district's comprehensive school counseling program; • Physical and Mental Health Resources on page 108 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and • Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health on page 109 for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health.

Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Alto ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law, in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated

youth groups. In accordance with Title IX, the district does not and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both. Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or gender-based harassment: Tonya Watson, 248 County Road 2429, and at 936-858-7110.

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

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

- For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator: Misty Townsend 244 County Road 2429, and at 936-858-7170.
- For all other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Kelly West at 936858-7101.

[See policies FB, FFH, and GKD.]

Nontraditional Academic Programs (All Grade Levels) Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)

Working Together

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

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.

- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling**.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 936-858-7110 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences**.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and **Volunteers** .]
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. [For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact the principal.]
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)** .]
- Serving on a committee to determine criteria to be used to evaluate the overall performance of the district and each campus in community and student engagement. For further information, please contact the campus principal.
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.

- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p. m. at Alto ISD Administration Building, at 248 CR 2429 Alto, TX 75925. An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 72 hours before each meeting at [Alto ISD Administration Building and online at www.altoisd.org [See policies BE and BED for more information.]

Physical Examinations/Health Screenings

Athletics' Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

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

Spinal Screening Program

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage, when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is noninvasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent, nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards. All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician. For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy FFAA(LEGAL).

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

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags**.]

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning

of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

[See policy EC for more information.]

Prayer (All Grade Levels)

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

Promotion and Retention

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

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

High School Grade Levels

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

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

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** and **Standardized Testing** for more information about EOC assessments.]

Release of Students from School

[See **Leaving Campus**.]

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

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every quarter.

At the end of each grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject area is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If 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. [See **Working Together** for how to schedule a conference.]

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

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

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

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within 2 days. The district may use an electronic program to communicate academic information about your child, including for report card and progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature of the parent will be accepted by the district, but you are entitled to request the option to provide a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.

Progress reports will be sent home on September 10, 2020, October 1, 2020, November 12, 2020, December 10, 2020, February 4, 2021, February 25,2021, April 15, 2021, and May 6, 2021.

Report cards will be sent home on October 22, 2020, January 14, 2021, March 25, 2021, and May 28, 2021 (4 Quarters).

Retaliation

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

Safety (All Grade Levels)

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

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, campus behavior coordinator, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns by contacting the campus principal and counselor.

- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.
- Staff are required to wear an ID badge

Accident Insurance

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies

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

Evacuation Bells

1. 1 bell- Halt and stand at attention
2. 2 bells- Return to the classroom
3. 3 bells- Leave the building

Severe Weather Bells

1. 1 continuous bell- Move quietly but quickly to the designated locations
2. 2 bells- Return to classroom

Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed

The district will annually offer instruction in CPR at least once to students enrolled in in grades 7–12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR certification. The district will annually offer students in grades 7–12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed and Stop the Bleed Texas.

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school may have to rely on previously provided written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to

medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

Emergency School-Closing Information

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

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

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways: KTLV-KWRW 97.7 F.M. (RUSK), CHANNELS 7, 19, and 56 (TYLER), and CHANNEL 9 (LUFKIN).

SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests

[See **Standardized Testing**.]

Schedule Changes (High School Grade Levels)

No schedule changes will be made after the first 3 school days of each semester unless approved by the principal.

Credit will not be awarded after 9 school days of each semester if a student changes a course or enters without having been enrolled in another school.

Changes will be approved only under the following circumstances:

1) Completion of a scheduled course by alternate means. (Credit by Exam, summer school, correspondence courses, and college credit) 2) Level changes.

3) Transferring from Honors to Recommended classes and vice versa.

4) Failure of a course prerequisite to a scheduled course.

5) Change in the senior year to a course required for graduation.

6) Removal of a scheduled course from the school schedule.

7) Exceptional circumstances reviewed by the counselor and approved by the Principal School Facilities

Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

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

The following areas are open to students before school, beginning at 7:25 am.

- Cafeteria

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing an activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

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

Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants. Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing an activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus. Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

Use of Outside area or Hallways During Class Time (All Grade Levels)

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

Food and Nutrition Services (Secondary Levels)

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers to students nutritionally balanced lunches daily.

Alto ISD will be implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) under the in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the school year 2020-2021. Schools that

participate in CEP provide breakfast and lunch each day at no charge for ALL students enrolled in that CEP school during the year.

All students who wish to eat free have to take a complete reimbursable meal in ordered not to be charged for it. Elementary all meal components are served. Middle School and High School will be required to take at least 3 of the 5 food components for lunch and 3 Components for breakfast. Taking one or two components will be considered a' la cart and the student will be charged for those entrees. This program will be re-evaluated on a yearly basis.

Students wishing to have a drink substituted for milk must have a doctor's note requesting such.

In order for the students to receive free breakfast and lunch through our disaster declaration, all students must turn in the 2020-2021 Multi-Use Application for Free and Reduced Lunch form provided to you at registration.

Any questions regarding this program or concerns with your child's meal may be forwarded to AISD Food Service Director, Courtney Stephenson at 936-858-7126.

Library (All Grade Levels)

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use during the regular school day with a teacher permit.

Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)

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

Searches

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

Students' Desks and Lockers (All Grade Levels)

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student.

Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of their assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that their lockers are locked, and that the combinations are not available to others.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable suspicion to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by policy, whether or not a student is present.

The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle parked on district property and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See the Student Code of Conduct.]

Vehicles parked on district property are under the jurisdiction of the district. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable suspicion to do so, with or without the permission of the student. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the student's parent will be contacted. If a search is also refused by the student's parent, the district will turn the matter over to law enforcement. The district may, in certain circumstances, contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student must present a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to be eligible for a parking permit. Students must request a parking permit and pay a fee of $15 to park in a school parking lot. So long as space is available, parking permits may be issued throughout the year.
Students will not be permitted to:

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

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

Use of Vehicles - Vehicles are to be used only for the purpose of getting to and from school. Books, which may be needed during the day, are not to be left in cars. Regulations apply to student drivers as well as their passengers. Any student found in the parking lot during the school day will be expected to show a written pass from a principal or an early dismissal permit or note. Students are not to go to the parking lot during lunch. Upon arrival in the morning, a student should lock his/her vehicle and come directly into the building to wait for the first class. Loitering in the parking lot will not be permitted at any time. Any student leaving campus without permission will be counted as truant and subject to disciplinary action. Vehicles on Campus

Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)

The district will use trained dogs to alert school officials to the presence of prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. At any time, trained dogs may be used around lockers and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. Searches of classrooms, common areas, or student belongings may also be conducted by trained dogs when students are not present. An item in a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle to which a trained dog alerts may be searched by school officials.

Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL).]

Sexual Harassment

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

Special Programs (All Grade Levels)

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, students in foster care, bilingual students, migrant students, English language learners, students

diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact Tonya Watson at 936-858-7110.

Standardized Testing

Secondary Grade Levels

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

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

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

TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment

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

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

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

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

- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- Biology

- U.S. History

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

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

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

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

Students who do not pass one or more EOC assessments may be placed in an OdysseyWare or Accelerated Instruction class to work on targeted intervention.

[See **Graduation** for additional information.]

Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

Students in Foster Care (All Grade Levels)

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

Please contact Tonya Watson who has been designated as the district's foster care liaison, at 936-858-7110 with any questions.

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

Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events:

assemblies, sporting events, and graduation. If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above, the student should submit his or her name in accordance with policy FNA(LOCAL).

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

Summer School (All Grade Levels)

Summer school will be STAAR remediation and credit recovery for students. Students who do not pass a STAAR EOC test or fail a course resulting in the loss of credit will be required to attend. Credit recovery students will only be allowed to miss two days. A third absence will result in dismissal from the summer school program. Three tardies will result in one absence.

Students remaining on campus failing to report to class are truant, and truancy will result in removal from the summer school program.

Students are to comply with the AHS regulations and the Student Code of Conduct. Students shall be removed from summer school for two or more reported incidents of classroom disruptions and/or other violations including failure to complete assignments.

Tardies (All Grade Levels)

A student is tardy to class if the student is not in class when the bell rings. If a teacher or other school official is responsible for a student being late, that person will provide documentation for the student to be admitted to class without being cited for an unexcused tardy offense. *An accumulation of 3 unexcused tardies per period will result in an absence for exemption purposes ONLY.

Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)

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

Transfers (All Grade Levels)

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

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

Transportation (All Grade Levels)

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, a coach or sponsor an exception to this requirement will be made under the following circumstances: 1) the student may travel with the parent or guardian after an event. Paperwork must be completed prior to the event for students to travel with parent or guardian.

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students.

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

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact Kim Bradshaw at 936-858-7104.

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

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

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle.

- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; the privilege to ride in a district vehicle, including a school bus, may be suspended or revoked.

Parent's Responsibility

It is the parent's responsibility to notify the bus driver if a student is to get off the bus at another stop than the assigned stop. For the safety of the child, a parent should escort the child to and from the bus stop and remind them constantly about safety and proper behavior on the bus. Cars should not enter or leave the bus parking lot at the high school while buses are loading and unloading. Cars should not block or park in Bus Stop areas at ANY school when students are being loaded and unloaded.

Videotaping of Students

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

The principal will review the tapes routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. A parent who wants to view a videotape of the incident leading to the discipline of his or her child may request access in accordance with policy FL.

Vandalism (All Grade Levels)

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

Video Cameras (All Grade Levels)

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

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

Upon request of a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member, or a board member, state law requires the district to place video and audio recording equipment in a classroom in which the student spends at least 50 percent of his or her instructional day, referred to in the law as a self-contained classroom. The majority of students in this type of classroom must also be students who receive special education services. Before the district places a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which your child receives special education services, the district will provide notice to you. Please speak directly with the principal for further information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment. [See EHBAF(LOCAL).]

Visitors to the School (Secondary Levels)

General Visitors

Parents and other relatives of students are welcome to the high school campus with approval by the principal or superintendent. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification.

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

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted. Failure to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct will result in the individual being banned from the high school campus and facilities.

Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

On certain dates of the year, the district invites representatives from colleges, universities, other higher education institutions, prospective employers, military recruiters, local community members, and mentor groups to present information to interested students.

Volunteers (All Grade Levels)

We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the high school office at 936-858-7110 for more information and to complete an application.

The district does not require state criminal history background checks for volunteers who are parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district. Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, other volunteers will be subject to a state criminal history background check, and the volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

Withdrawing from School (All Grade Levels)

When a student under the age of 18 withdraws from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal, specifying the reason for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Please provide at least three days' notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared. The parent may obtain a withdrawal form from the principal's office.

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book and equipment clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the school counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student, and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record.

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

Glossary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IEP is the written record of the individualized education program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP

contains several parts, such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; accommodations for state or districtwide tests; whether successful completion of state-mandated assessments is required for graduation, etc.

IGC is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

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

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

PSAT is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

Appendix I: Freedom from Bullying Policy

Note that school board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/282?filename=FFI(LOCAL).pdf. Below is the text of Alto ISD's policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date that this handbook was finalized for this school year.

Policy FFI(LOCAL) adopted on 02/24/2012

BULLYING PROHIBITED
The District prohibits bullying as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

DEFINITION

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and 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; or

2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

This conduct is considered bullying if it:

1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and

2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

EXAMPLES: Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

RETALIATION

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

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

FALSE CLAIM

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

TIMELY REPORTING

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

STUDENT REPORT

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee.

EMPLOYEE REPORT

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

REPORT FORMAT

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

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

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

INVESTIGATION OF REPORT

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

CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION

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

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

NOTICE TO PARENTS

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

DISTRICT ACTION BULLYING

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

DISCIPLINE

A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.

The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

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

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

COUNSELING

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

IMPROPER CONDUCT

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

CONFIDENTIALITY

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

APPEAL

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. RECORDS RETENTION Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).

Appendix II: Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances(FNG)

COMPLAINTS

In this policy, the terms “complaint” and “grievance” shall have the same meaning.

OTHER COMPLAINT PROCESSES

Student or parent complaints shall be filed in accordance with this policy, except as required by the policies listed below. Some of these policies require appeals to be submitted in accordance with FNG after the relevant complaint process:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, disability, or religion shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.

2. Complaints concerning dating violence shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.

3. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted in accordance with FFH.

4. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted in accordance with FFI.

5. Complaints concerning failure to award credit or a final grade on the basis of attendance shall be submitted in accordance with FEC.

6. Complaints concerning expulsion shall be submitted in accordance with FOD and the Student Code of Conduct.

7. Complaints concerning any final decisions of the gifted and talented selection committee regarding selection for or exit from the gifted program shall be submitted in accordance with EHBB.

8. Complaints concerning identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504 shall be submitted in accordance with FB and the procedural safeguards handbook.

9. Complaints concerning 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 EHBAE, FOF, and the procedural safeguards handbook provided to parents of all students referred to special education.

10. Complaints concerning instructional resources shall be submitted in accordance with EF.

11. Complaints concerning a commissioned peace officer who is an employee of the District shall be submitted in accordance with CKE.

12. Complaints concerning intradistrict transfers or campus assignment shall be submitted in accordance with FDB.

13. Complaints concerning admission, placement, or services provided for a homeless student shall be submitted in accordance with FDC.

INFORMAL PROCESS

The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. Informal resolution shall be encouraged but shall not extend any deadlines in this policy, except by mutual written consent.

FORMAL PROCESS

A 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 "minitrial" at any level.

FREEDOM FROM RETALIATION

Neither the Board nor any District employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any student or parent for bringing a concern or complaint.

FILING

Complaint forms and appeal notices may be filed by hand-delivery, by electronic communication, including e-mail and fax, or by U.S. Mail. Hand-delivered filings shall be timely filed if received by the appropriate administrator or designee by the close of business on the deadline. Filings submitted by electronic communication shall be timely filed if they are received by the close of business on the deadline, as indicated by the date/time shown on the electronic communication. Mail filings shall be timely filed if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline and received by the appropriate administrator or designated representative no more than three days after the deadline.

SCHEDULING CONFERENCES

The District shall make reasonable attempts to schedule conferences at a mutually agreeable time. If a student or parent fails to appear at a scheduled conference, the District may hold the conference and issue a decision in the student's or parent's absence.

RESPONSE

At Levels One and Two, "response" shall mean a written communication to the student or parent from the appropriate administrator. Responses may be hand-delivered, sent by electronic communication to the student's or parent's e-mail address of record, or sent by U.S. Mail to the student's or parent's mailing address of record. Mailed responses shall be timely if they are postmarked by U.S. Mail on or before the deadline.

DAYS

"Days" shall mean District business days. In calculating time lines under this policy, the day a document is filed is "day zero." The following business day is "day one."

REPRESENTATIVE

"Representative" shall mean any person who or organization that is designated by the student or parent to represent the student or parent in the complaint process. A student may be represented by an adult at any level of the complaint.

The student or parent may designate a representative through written notice to the District at any level of this process. If the student or parent designates a representative with fewer than three days' notice to the District before a scheduled conference or hearing, the

District may reschedule the conference or hearing to a later date, if desired, in order to include the District's counsel. The District may be represented by counsel at any level of the process.

CONSOLIDATING COMPLAINTS

Complaints arising out of an event or a series of related events shall be addressed in one complaint. A student or parent shall not file separate or serial complaints arising from any event or series of events that have been or could have been addressed in a previous complaint.

UNTIMELY FILINGS

All time limits shall be strictly followed unless modified by mutual written consent.

If a complaint form or appeal notice is not timely filed, the complaint may be dismissed, on written notice to the student or parent, at any point during the complaint process. The student or parent may appeal the dismissal by seeking review in writing within ten days from the date of the written dismissal notice, starting at the level at which the complaint was dismissed. Such appeal shall be limited to the issue of timeliness.

COSTS INCURRED

Each party shall pay its own costs incurred in the course of the complaint.

COMPLAINT AND APPEAL FORMS

Complaints and appeals under this policy shall be submitted in writing on a form provided by the District.

Copies of any documents that support the complaint should be attached to the complaint form. If the student or parent does not have copies of these documents, copies may be presented at the Level One conference. After the Level One conference, no new documents may be submitted by the student or parent unless the student or parent did not know the documents existed before the Level One conference.

A complaint or appeal form that is incomplete in any material aspect may be dismissed but may be refiled with all the required information if the refiling is within the designated time for filing.

LEVEL ONE- Complaint forms must be filed:

1. Within 15 days of the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint or grievance; and

2. With the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged problem.

In most circumstances, students and parents shall file Level One complaints with the campus principal.

If the only administrator who has authority to remedy the alleged problem is the Superintendent or designee, the complaint may begin at Level Two following the procedure, including deadlines, for filing the complaint form at Level One.

If the complaint is not filed with the appropriate administrator, the receiving administrator must note the date and time the complaint form was received and immediately forward the complaint form to the appropriate administrator.

The appropriate administrator shall investigate as necessary and schedule a conference with the student or parent within ten days after receipt of the written complaint. The administrator may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the administrator shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the administrator may consider information provided at the Level One conference and any other relevant documents or information the administrator believes will help resolve the complaint.

LEVEL TWO

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level One or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee to appeal the Level One decision.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level One response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level One response deadline.

After receiving notice of the appeal, the Level One administrator shall prepare and forward a record of the Level One complaint to the Level Two administrator. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level One record.

The Level One record shall include:

1. The original complaint form and any attachments.
2. All other documents submitted by the student or parent at Level One.
3. The written response issued at Level One and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the Level One administrator in reaching the Level One decision.

The Superintendent or designee shall schedule a conference within ten days after the appeal notice is filed. The conference shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level One. At the conference, the student or parent may provide information concerning any documents or information relied upon by the administration for the Level One decision. The Superintendent or designee may set reasonable time limits for the conference.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the student or parent a written response within ten days following the conference. The written response shall set forth the basis of the decision. In reaching a decision, the Superintendent or designee may consider the Level One record, information provided at the Level Two conference, and any other relevant documents or information the Superintendent or designee believes will help resolve the complaint.

Recordings of the Level One and Level Two conferences, if any, shall be maintained with the Level One and Level Two records.

LEVEL THREE

If the student or parent did not receive the relief requested at Level Two or if the time for a response has expired, the student or parent may appeal the decision to the Board.

The appeal notice must be filed in writing, on a form provided by the District, within ten days of the date of the written Level Two response or, if no response was received, within ten days of the Level Two response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the Board meeting at which the complaint will be on the agenda for presentation to the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board the record of the Level Two appeal. The student or parent may request a copy of the Level Two record.

The Level Two record shall include:

1. The Level One record.
2. The notice of appeal from Level One to Level Two.
3. The written response issued at Level Two and any attachments.
4. All other documents relied upon by the administration in reaching the Level Two decision.

The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered at Level Two, except that if at the Level Three hearing the administration intends to rely on evidence not included in the Level Two record, the administration shall provide the student or parent notice of the nature of the evidence at least three days before the hearing.

The District shall determine whether the complaint will be presented in open or closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and other applicable law. [See BE]

The presiding officer may set reasonable time limits and guidelines for the presentation, 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. The Board shall hear the complaint and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the decisions at the preceding levels.

In addition to any other record of the Board meeting required by law, the Board shall prepare a separate record of the Level Three presentation. The Level Three presentation, including the presentation by the student or parent or the student's representative, any presentation from the administration, and questions from the Board with responses, shall be recorded by audio recording, video/audio recording, or court reporter.

The Board shall then consider the complaint. It may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, the lack of a response by the Board upholds the administrative decision at Level Two.