

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

My child and I acknowledge that a copy of the Eastland Middle School Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for 2010-2011 are available online at: www.eastland.esc14.net or a hard copy is available upon request. 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 Code.

Print name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____

Signature of parent: _____

Date: _____

We request a hard copy of the Handbook and the Student Code. YES___ NO___

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PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2010-2011! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together will make this a successful year for our students.

The Eastland Middle School Student Handbook is designed to provide a resource for some of the basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. In an effort to make it easier to use, the handbook is divided into three sections:

Section I—IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS—with information all parents will need about assisting their child and responding to school-related issues;

Section II—CURRICULUM-RELATED INFORMATION—to provide information to students and their parents about graduation programs, required courses, class rank, and extracurricular and other activities; and

Section III—GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS—describing school operations and requirements such as safety procedures, the dress code, and fees that may be charged.

Each section has a Quick Reference component to serve as a guide for day-to-day questions that may arise.

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

Both students and parents must be familiar with the Eastland Independent School Districts Student Code of Conduct, required by state law and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found at: www.eastland.esc14.net or in hard copy form upon request. A copy of the Student

Handbook and the Student Code are available for viewing in the principal's office. The student handbook is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect the student handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters and other communications. In case of conflict between board policy or the Student Code of Conduct and any provisions of student handbooks, the provisions of board policy or the Student Code of Conduct that were most recently adopted by the board are to be followed.

We encourage parents to review the entire handbook with their children and keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact a teacher, the counselor, or the principal. Also, please complete and return the parental acknowledgment, student directory information, and release of information to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, and consent/opt-out forms so that we have a record of your choices. A copy of the district's policy manual is available for review in the school office or online at: www.eastland.esc14.net

SECTION I

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This section of the Eastland Middle School Student Handbook includes information on topics of particular interest to you as a parent.

QUICK REFERENCE:

Where to look when you need information about ...

- Parental involvement page 9
- Grading guidelines page 13
- Report cards/progress reports and conferences page 13
- Medicine at school page 14
- Psychotropic drugs page 14
- Steroids page 15
- Student records page 15
- Student or parent complaints and concerns page 17
- Release of students from school page 17

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Working Together

Both experience and research tell us that a child's education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. Your involvement 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. Ensure that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects. Be sure your child 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. Discuss with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child. If your child is entering ninth grade, review the requirements of the graduation programs with your child. Monitor your child's academic progress and contact teachers as needed.
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 254-631-5040 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
- Becoming a school volunteer.
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Maverick Backers, Eastland Athletic Booster Club and Eastland Band Booster Club.
- Offering to serve 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.
- Offering to serve on the School Health Advisory Council, assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations.

Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights

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.

“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities

As a parent, you also 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 or selling that information.
- 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.

Display of your child's artwork, projects, and other special work products:

As a parent, if you choose that your child's artwork, special projects, photographs, and the like not be displayed to the community on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of communication, you must notify the principal in writing.

As a parent, you also have a right:

- To request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers, including whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and undergraduate and graduate degree majors, graduate certifications, and the field of study of the certification or degree. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.
- To review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum and to examine tests that are administered to your child.

- To inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.
- To review your child’s student records when needed. 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 counselor evaluations,
 - Reports of behavioral patterns, and
 - State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.
- To grant or deny any written request from the district to make a videotape or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a videotape or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:
 - When it is to be used for school safety;
 - When it relates to classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity; or
 - When it relates to media coverage of the school.
- To 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 the Texas Education Agency.
- To request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States 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.
- To request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate

Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity.

- To request in writing, if you are a non-custodial parent, that you be provided for the remainder of the school year a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to misconduct that may involve placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) or expulsion.
- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the principal, to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus.
- To 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.
- To request the transfer of your child to another campus or neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student on the same campus, whether that assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault.

GRADING GUIDELINES

In grades 6-8, achievement is reported to parents as: Numerical grades. Passing level is seventy, (70) or above.

REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

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

Report cards will be handed out to students on these dates: **Oct. 7, Nov. 11, Jan. 6, Feb. 24, Apr. 14, and June 2.**

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period parents will be given a written unsatisfactory progress report if their child's performance in any course (in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal and designed to reflect each student's academic achievement for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy.

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.

****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. Students not attending mandatory tutorials will face disciplinary measures.****

STATE-MANDATED TESTS

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels will take state-mandated tests (such as TAKS: the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) in the following subjects:

- March 1: 7th Writing and 8th Reading
- April 4: 8th Mathematics
- April 5: 8th Reading
- April 26: 6th and 7th Mathematics
- April 27: 6th and 7th Reading
- April 28: 8th Science
- April 39: 8th Social Studies
- May 17: 8th Mathematics (Retest)
- May 18: 8th Reading (Retest)
- June 28: 8th Mathematics (Retest)
- June 29: 8th Reading (Retest)

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

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.
 - 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.
- In certain emergency situations, the district will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only:

- In accordance with the guidelines developed with the district’s medical advisor and
- When the parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the district’s form.

A student with asthma may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma 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 and parents should discuss this with the school nurse or principal if the student has been prescribed asthma medication for use during the school day.

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]

PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS

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

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

STEROIDS

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

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

STUDENT RECORDS

Both federal and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights. For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is one who is 18 or older OR who is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

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

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless parental rights have been legally terminated and if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights. Federal law requires that, as soon as a student becomes 18 or is emancipated by a court, control of the records go to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes.
- District staff members who have what federal law defines as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student’s records. Such persons would include school officials (such as board members, the superintendent, and principals), school staff members (such as teachers, counselors, and diagnosticians), or an agent of the district (such as a medical consultant).
- Various governmental agencies or in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school to which a student transfers or in which he or she subsequently enrolls.

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

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

A parent or eligible student may inspect records during regular school hours. If circumstances prevent inspection during these hours, 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 records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. The address of the superintendent’s office is P.O. Box 31, Eastland, TX 76448

The address of the principals’ office is: P.O. Box 31, Eastland, TX 76448.

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student’s records and request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. If the district refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requestor 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 is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG.

Copies of student records are available at a cost of ten cents per page, payable in advance. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge upon written request of the parent.

Directory Information

The law permits the district to designate certain personal information about students as “directory information.” This “directory information” will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, the parent or an eligible student may prevent release of a student’s directory information. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the child’s first day of this school year.

Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education

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

Please note:

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the district is not in compliance with federal law regarding student records. The district’s policy regarding student records is available from the principal’s or superintendent’s office or at: www.eastland.esc14.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 teachers’ 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.

STUDENT OR PARENT COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the district has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG (LOCAL) in the district’s policy manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained in the principal’s or superintendent’s office or online at: www.eastland.esc14.net.

In general, the student or parent should submit a written complaint and request a conference with 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.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Because class time is important, doctor’s appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time. Students must return a medical note within 48 hours to the attendance clerk to be coded as a medical day.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must follow the campus sign-out procedures before leaving the campus. Otherwise, a student will not be released from

school at times other than at the end of the school day. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the student should receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. **The nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.**

Late Arrival to School

A student who is tardy to class by more than five minutes may be assigned detention or ISS. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action.

Withdrawing from School

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance 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 clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the 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 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor, may withdraw without parental signature.

SECTION II CURRICULUM-RELATED INFORMATION

This section of the handbook contains information on academics and school activities, which is of particular interest to students. Students should take the time to review this information with their parents.

QUICK REFERENCE:

Where to look when you need help with...

- Academic Programs page 18
- Awards and honors page 19
- Backpacks/Book bags page 19
- Bell Schedule page 19
- Class schedules page 19
- Computer resources page 19
- Counseling: academic page 20
- Counseling: personal page 20

- Credit by exam page 20
- Extended Day Tutorials page 21
- Extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations page 22
- Promotion and retention page 22
- Homework page 23
- Special programs page 23
- Summer school page 23
- Textbooks page 24

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The school counselor provides students and their parent’s information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Middle School students will receive acknowledgement for academic honors. Students participating in UIL academics will be recognized at an assembly program.

BACKPACKS/BOOK BAGS

Due to excessive damage to materials, unauthorized contraband, maintenance, safety, and health concerns EMS requires Backpacks/Book Bags to be placed in your locker upon arrival. You may, at the end of the school day, load materials in your bag for transport home.

BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Bell Schedule

Pep Rally Schedule

First Bell	7:55			First Bell	7:57	
1 st period	8:00	8:46		1 st period	8:00	8:45
Break	8:46	8:56		Break	8:45	8:55
2 nd Period	9:00	9:46		2 nd Period	8:59	9:44
3 rd period	9:50	10:38	Announcements	3 rd period	9:48	10:35
4 th period	10:42	11:28		4 th period	10:39	11:24
Homeroom	11:28	11:38		Lunch	11:24	11:54
Lunch	11:38	12:10		5 th Period	11:58	12:43
5 th Period	12:14	1:00		6 th period	12:47	1:32
6 th period	1:04	1:50		7 th period	1:36	2:21
7 th period	1:54	2:40		8 th period	2:25	3:10
8 th period	2:44	3:30		Pep Rally	3:15	

CLASS SCHEDULES

Students will be scheduled for eight of the courses indicated depending on grade level and need. Special programs are offered for identified students in Dyslexia, ESL, and Special Education, as well as, students in need of extra TAKS Preparation.

All students will be enrolled in: Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies.

- Sixth grade students will take Reading, PE, Advanced Studies and Band. After the first semester, students may opt out of Band into STAMP.
- Seventh grade students will take Computer Lit, Band, STAMP, Reading and PE or Athletics.
- Eighth grade students will have Technology Applications, Health/Yearbook, PE or Athletics and may choose one or two of the following Agriculture II, Theater Arts, Art, STAMP, Office Aide or Teacher's Aide.

COMPUTER RESOURCES

To prepare students for an increasingly computerized society, the district has made a substantial investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and their parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and their parents should be aware that e-mail accessed using district computers is not allowed. Please see also the **Eastland Middle School Student/Parent Laptop Handbook and Acceptable Use Policy**.

COUNSELING

Academic Counseling

Students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn about course offerings, the graduation requirements of various programs, and early graduation procedures. Each spring, students in grades 8 will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and vocational opportunities.

To plan for the future, students should work closely with the counselor in order to take the high school courses that best prepare them for attendance at a college, university, or training school, or for pursuit of some other type of advanced education. The counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and deadlines for application, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse.

The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns.

Please note: The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent’s written consent. Parental consent is not necessary when: a psychological examination, test, or treatment is required by state or federal law for special education purposes or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

EXTENDED DAY TUTORIALS

Extended Day Tutorials will be **required** for any student that has a grade below 69.50 during any week of the school year. Teachers of each core subject area will give notice to the student at least one day prior to the tutorial. Failure to attend will result in ISS the following day unless prior notice is received exempting the student from attendance. Scheduled Tutorials: **Monday: Social Studies; Tuesday: Language Arts; Wednesday: Math; Thursday: Science.**

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Participation in school-related 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.

State law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) govern eligibility for participation in many of these activities. The following requirements 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 a class identified as honors or advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local board of trustees—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities 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.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two 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.
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

Please note: 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 local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

[For further information, see policies FM and FO.]

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

Students must pass three of the four core courses (Math, Science, Language Arts (English and Reading), Social Studies) and attain an overall average of 70 or above for promotion to the next grade level. Band, PE, or Athletics will not be calculated for the overall average. Students in the eighth grade are also required to meet the standards of the state achievement tests in Reading and Math (TAKS).

HOMEWORK

Homework may be assigned to extend learning from each day's lesson. Students are expected to complete all work and have all materials and projects ready for each class on the date and time assigned by the teacher.

Late Work Policy- If a student fails to turn in an assignment they will be required to attend a tutorial session to complete the work as necessary. The teacher will decide the final grade assigned for late and missing work.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the 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 referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other support services that are available to all students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the district must decide if the evaluation is needed. If evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for the

evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of his or her rights if the parent disagrees with the district. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards—Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*.

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is at 631-5040.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Eastland Middle School will not have a summer school. However, if a student enrolls and satisfactorily completes an approved summer school at another district we will accept the results.

TEXTBOOKS

State-approved textbooks are provided to students free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school loses the right to free textbooks until the book is returned or paid for by the parent. The student will be provided textbooks for use at school during the school day.

SECTION III

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information regarding school operations and requirements. Included are provisions on student welfare; health and safety issues; fees; the school's expectations for student conduct (other than Student Code of Conduct requirements); use of facilities, such as the cafeteria, library, and transportation services; and emergency closings. For additional information or questions you may have, please see the principal.

QUICK REFERENCE:

Where to look when you need information about...

- Attendance page 26
- Makeup work page 27
- Communicable diseases/conditions page 28
- Health-related matters page 29
- Freedom from discrimination page 30

- Conduct page 32
- Disruptions page 32
- Law enforcement agencies page 33
- Distribution of published materials or documents page 34
- Dress and grooming page 35
- Student fees page 36
- Fund-raising page 37
- Immunization page 37
- Physical examinations/health screenings page 38
- Pledges of allegiance and a minute of silence page 38
- Prayer page 38
- Safety page 38
- Emergency school-closings information page 39
- School facilities page 40
- Searches page 42
- Transportation page 42
- Video cameras page 43
- Visitors to the school page 43

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for the 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 compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit, are of special interest to students and parents. They are discussed in the following sections:

Compulsory Attendance

State law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 18 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction programs, extended year programs, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise legally exempt or excused. A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her eighteenth birthday is required to attend each school day. If a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, however, the district may revoke the student’s enrollment. The student’s presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespass.

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) assigned by the grade placement committee; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her 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 from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

Attendance for Credit

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. Students attending fewer than 90 percent of the days may be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit.

In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the Attendance Committee will use the following guidelines:

- All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, absences for religious holy days and health-care appointments (if a doctor’s note is returned within 48 hours) will be considered days of attendance for this purpose. [See policy FEB.]
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district. For a student transferring into the district after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
- 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.

The student or parent may appeal the committee’s decision to the board of trustees by filing a written request with the superintendent in accordance with policy FNG.

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

When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning 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 18 or older.

MAKEUP WORK

Routine and In-depth Makeup Work Assignments

The teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives 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. [For further information, see policy EIAB.]

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 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.

DAEP or In-school Suspension Makeup Work

A student removed to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete coursework in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and receive guidance counseling.

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete all coursework assigned.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / CONDITIONS

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent suspects that his or her child has a communicable or contagious disease, the parent should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

The school nurse or the principal’s office can provide information from the Department of State Health Services regarding these diseases.

Bacterial Meningitis

State law specifically requires the district to provide the following information:

- What is meningitis?

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

- What are the symptoms?

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

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

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

- How serious is bacterial meningitis?

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

- How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes).

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

- How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85–90 percent). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

- What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?
You should seek prompt medical attention.
- Where can you get more information?
Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Department of State Health Services office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the Web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>.

HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

School Health Advisory Council

Information regarding the District's School Health Advisory Council, including the number of meetings scheduled or held during the year may be obtained from the school nurse, Mrs. Roberts at 631-5077.

Vending Machines

The district has adopted policies and implemented procedures to comply with agency and food service guidelines for restricting student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines see the principal. [See policies CO and FFA]

Other Health-Related Matters

Tobacco Prohibited

The district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco products by students and others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policy GKA.]

Asbestos Management Plan

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the Superintendent's office. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Donald Hughes at 631-5120.

Pest Management Plan

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact Mr. Donald Hughes at 631-5120.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from harassment and that their welfare is best served when they can work free from discrimination. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any 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, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, age, or disability. [See policy FFH] Prohibited 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; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office and in the superintendent's office or online at: www.eastland.esc14.net.

Examples of prohibited discrimination may include, but are not limited to, derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; bullying, threatening, or intimidating conduct; name-calling or slurs, taunting, teasing (even when presented as "jokes"), or rumors; aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property. Examples of prohibited sexual harassment may include 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. However, all romantic and inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Reporting Procedures

Any student (or the student's parent) who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited harassment should immediately report the problem to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other district employee.

Investigation of Reported Harassment

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 will be promptly investigated. The district will notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited harassment by an adult associated with the district, or by another student, when the allegations, if proven, would constitute "sexual harassment" or "other prohibited harassment" as defined by board policy.

If the district's investigation indicates that prohibited harassment occurred, appropriate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken to address the harassment. The district may

take disciplinary action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint did not rise to the level of harassment prohibited by law or policy.

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of prohibited harassment is 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.

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

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, the district makes the following statements:

Eastland ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following district staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex: Mr. Donald Hughes at 631-5120.
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Mr. Donald Hughes at 631-5120.

Services for the Homeless and for Title I Participants

Other designated Staff you may need to contact:

- Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, who coordinates services for homeless students: Mr. Donald Hughes at 631-5120.
- Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs: Mr. Donald Hughes at 631-5120.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Parents of students with learning difficulties or who may need special education services may request an evaluation for special education at any time. For more information contact the middle school office 631-5040.

CONDUCT

Applicability of School Rules

As required by law, the board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus—and consequences for violation of the standards. Students need to be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all students, the Student Code of Conduct and other campus rules will apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with classes and school-sponsored activities. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

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.

Disruptions

As identified by 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 profane language or any misconduct.
- Interference with the transportation of students in district vehicles.

Radios, CD Players, Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices and Games

Students are not permitted to possess such items as pagers, radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, electronic devices or games, or telecommunications devices with text messaging at school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal’s office. The principal will determine whether to return the items at the end of the day for students to take home or whether parents will be contacted to pick up the items.

“Students shall not: Display, turn on, or use a cellular telephone or other telecommunications device on school property during the school day.” Student Code of Conduct, Page 6

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess cell phones that do not have camera and text messaging capabilities; however, cell phones must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during testing (7:30-3:30)

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

There will be a \$15 fine every time a cell phone is collected and students may pick up those phones and pay the fines in the Middle School Office.

[See policy FNCE.]

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Questioning of Students

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

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer voices what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer voices 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 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 voices 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 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 has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated of delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

[For further information, see policy GRA.]

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS

School Materials

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

The school newspaper and the yearbook are available to students.

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

Non-school Materials...from students

Students must obtain prior approval from the principal before posting, circulating, or distributing written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, 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 in two school days.

The student may appeal the principal's decision in accordance with policy FNG (LOCAL). Any student who posts material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without this approval will be removed.

Non-school Materials...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, 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 policy DGBA, FNG, or GF.]

Prior review will not be required for:

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

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

DRESS AND GROOMING

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

- Prohibits pictures, symbols, emblems, or writings that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
- Does not advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or drugs.
- Does not refer to satanic cults or gang activities.
- Dresses, shorts, skirts, culottes must be no shorter than one credit card (lengthwise) above the knee.
- Clothing that has been modified in a revealing manner will not be allowed.
- Bicycle shorts are not allowed.
- A bare midriff is unacceptable.
- The hair shall be clean, well groomed, and not covering the eyes-No geometric or unusual patterns shaved (including Mohawks) or cut in the hair or extreme color variations will be accepted.

- Sideburns shall be kept trimmed so as not to form a beard, and shall not be extreme in fullness.
- Mustaches and beards shall not be acceptable.
- The neck opening of any type shirt or blouse may not exceed the equivalent of the second button below the collar of a dress or blouse.
- Underwear-type shirts such as tank tops or muscle shirts are not acceptable.
- Appropriate undergarments shall be worn at all times.
- Caps, hats, head coverings (bandanas, etc.) will not be allowed.
- Footwear shall be a part of regular attire. The wearing of flip-flops is discouraged.
- Excessive baggy pants shall not be worn to school.
- Body piercing beyond earrings is prohibited.

If the principal determines that a student's grooming violates the dress code, that student shall be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student shall be assigned to ISS for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected.

Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action. The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of extra-curricular activities, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate those standards may be removed or excluded from any activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action.

The principal has final authority. The board delegates to the building principal the authority to make final determinations as to whether clothing or grooming is/is not within Code. The ruling of the building principal regarding compliance/non-compliance with the Dress & Grooming Code may not be appealed beyond the principal.

STUDENT FEES

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

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.

- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when, uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses 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 fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit 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.
- Fees associated with the use and maintenance of school laptops.

Required fees or deposits may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the principal.

FUND-RAISING

Student clubs or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the principal at least 3 days before the event.

Fund raising is not permitted on school property, except as approved by the principal.

IMMUNIZATION

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience only official forms issued by the Department of State Health Services, Immunization Division: can be honored by the district. The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubella (measles), rubella, mumps, tetanus, Haemophilus influenza type B, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. [For further information, see policy FFAB and the Department of State Health Services Web site: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/school_info.shtm]

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS

Exams of vision/hearing and spinal screening will be performed during the school year. Students must have on file a physical exam for any UIL athletic participation.

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE

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

A minute of silence will follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. [See policy EC for more information.]

PRAYER

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.

SAFETY

Student safety on campus and at school-related events 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 should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students 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, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

Accident Insurance

Soon after school opens, 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.

Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

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

Fire Drill Bells

Alarm Activation/Notice; Leave the building according to the Fire Exit Plan for each particular class or area.

Tornado Drill Bells

Alarm Activation/Notice-Follow the exit plans provided in each class or area.

Sit facing the wall-head between your legs-book covering your head.

Stay away from windows. Keep all exterior doors closed.

Parents arriving to take their children-We will request that they stay in the building.

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 would need to have 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

Information may be obtained from local radio and television stations:

Radio-KATX 97.7; KEAN 105.1

Television-Ch. 4, 9, 12.

School website eastland.esc14.net

SCHOOL FACILITIES

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 in coming years- littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to make restitution

for damages they cause and shall be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Use of Facilities by Students Before and After School

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

The following areas are open to students before school beginning at 7:30a.m.

- Cafeteria
- Middle School Students- West side of the building. Stay within the fence area and the back of west end of High School Building.
- No one is to be loitering in front of the school building.

Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing the 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, and unless involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher, students must leave campus immediately.

Conduct Before and After School

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

Use of Hallways during Class Time

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

Cafeteria Services

Our cafeteria is under supervision of competent workers who are striving to give the best possible service to the students. The faculty maintains as little supervision as possible in the cafeteria because as a middle school student you should be mature enough to keep the cafeteria as clean and orderly as you would your dining room at home. All food (break/lunch) will be consumed in the cafeteria and trash will be disposed in proper containers. Students not cleaning up after themselves may be assigned to clean-up duty during part of their lunch period.

The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. Free and reduced-price lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. Please

complete the application for free/reduced lunch and return to the Middle School office. All students wishing to continue Free/Reduced status must have an approved 2010-2011 application on file by September 21, 2010.

The district follows the federal and state guidelines regarding foods of minimal nutritional value being served or sold on school premises during the school day. [For more information, see policy CO.]

Students should follow these guidelines:

1. Get in line quietly without pushing.
2. Cutting in line or saving places are not allowed
3. All food will be eaten in the cafeteria.
4. All trays will be returned to the wash window.
5. Chairs are provided for sitting. Do Not Sit on the Tables.
6. If you spill food or drink on the table or floor, please clean it up. (Mops and cloths are available from cafeteria staff)

PRICES

Student Breakfast	\$2.00	Lunch	\$2.25
Adult Breakfast (Staff)	\$2.50	Lunch	\$3.00
Visitor Breakfast	\$2.75	Lunch	\$3.75

Cafeteria charges are not allowed.

Lunch Period Time for Grades 6-8.....11:38-12:10

LIBRARY

Reading is a joy, a privilege, and the right of every student. As you select the library books you will read, please understand that every book is not the best choice for every student. If a book is unappealing or offensive to you in any way, please return it and select another.

You, the student, know better than we, the library staff, what reading materials best serve you, your standards and beliefs.

The library is open for student use during the following times with a teacher permit:

- Monday-Friday 7:30-3:30

Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups

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.

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

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 cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by board 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.

Vehicles on Campus

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the permission of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

Trained Dogs

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 on lockers and vehicles parked on school property. Trained dog searches in classrooms, common areas, and student belongings may be conducted when students are not present.

TRANSPORTATION

School-Sponsored Trips

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

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 any subsequent changes are posted at the school. Further information may be obtained by calling 631-5022

See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program.

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, 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 bus or van in an orderly manner at the designated stop nearest home.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus, van, 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 bus or van.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

When students ride in a district van or passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

VIDEO CAMERAS

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment may 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.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

General Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the principal's office.

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.

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

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.

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.

Alternative assessment instrument, developed by the state, may be given to students in special education and students identified as limited English proficient.

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's parents are part of the committee.

Attendance Review Committee is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 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 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. Students in the DAEP will be separated from students not assigned to the program. The DAEP will focus instruction on English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and self-discipline, and provide for students' educational and behavior needs, as well as supervision and counseling.

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; modifications to state or district wide tests, etc.

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.

NCLB Act is the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) is required by state law for any student in middle school or higher 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.

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.

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 by an ARD committee to be eligible for special education services, appropriate regular educational services will be provided.

State-mandated tests are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and the grade 11 exit-level test 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 the classroom or campus. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a disciplinary alternative education program. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion, and states whether self-defense is a consideration in suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

TAKS is short for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, the state's current standardized achievement test given to students in certain subjects in grades 3–11.

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary non-profit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

APPENDIX I

NOTICES 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 Eastland ISD to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by September 21, 2010

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. In addition, you have the right to tell the district that it may, or may not, use certain personal information about your child for specific school-sponsored purposes. The district is providing you this form so you can communicate your wishes about these issues.

Eastland 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**

Directory information identified only for limited school-sponsored purposes remains otherwise confidential and will not be released to the public without the consent of the parent or eligible student.

Parent: Please circle one of the choices below:

I, parent of _____ (student's name), **(do give)** **(do not give)** the district permission to use the information in the above list for the specified school-sponsored purposes.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX IV CONSENT/OPT-OUT FORM

*[Note to school administrators: In order to meet district (or campus) obligations under the NCLB Act (see page 6 of the **Model Student Handbook**) you must at least annually at the beginning of the school year notify parents of the specific or approximate dates when the following will occur or are expected to occur:*

- *A survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns student-protected information as described below in Section I. For those surveys that will be funded in whole or in part by U.S. Department of Education funds, the district **must receive** a parent's **consent**. For those surveys not funded by the USDE, the district **must allow** a parent to **opt-out**.*
- *Any planned non-emergency, invasive physical examinations or screenings 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, other than hearing, vision, scoliosis screenings or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. See policies EF and FFAA. The district **must allow** a parent to **opt-out** of these examinations or screenings.*
- *School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from a student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information. Depending on what personal information is being collected, disclosed, or used, the district **must either receive consent or allow** a parent to opt-out of these activities.*

Should any of the above surveys or activities arise during the school year as part of campus or classroom activities, these guidelines should again be used to determine appropriate notices and consent/opt-out forms to be sent to parents before the surveys or activities are conducted.]

To the Parents of _____:

The district is required by federal law to notify you and obtain your consent or denial (opt-out) for your child to participate in certain school activities. The activities include any student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas, known as "protected information surveys."

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;

7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Following are activities requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out for the 2009–2010 school year. Please note that this notice and authority to consent transfer from the parent to the student when the student reaches 18 or is an emancipated minor under state law.

[Include modified text blocks below as appropriate.]

[This sample text may be adapted for any survey concerning the private information listed above.]

Date: On or about _____

Grades: 5 and 6

Activity: ABC Survey of At-Risk Behaviors

Summary: This is an anonymous survey that asks students questions about behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, sexual conduct, violence, and other at-risk behaviors. The survey also asks questions of a demographic nature concerning family makeup, the relationship between parents and children, and use of alcohol and drugs at home.

To consent *[include this paragraph for USDE funded, protected information surveys only]*: A parent must sign and return this consent form no later than [date] so that your child may participate in this survey.

To opt-out *[include this paragraph for any non-USDE funded, protected information survey]*: Contact [school official] at [telephone number, e-mail, address, etc.] no later than [date] if you do not want your child to participate in this activity.

[This sample text may be adapted for school activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from a student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.

For marketing activities limited to “directory information,” the district’s form for directory information in Appendix I satisfies the district’s obligations.

Schools that permit marketing activities, such as the one in the sample below, that collect, use, or disclose both “directory information” and “non-directory information,” may not use an opt-out procedure and must obtain prior written consent in accordance with Subsection 99.30 of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).]

Date: 2009–2010 School Year

Grades: 9–12

Activity: Student-Based Commercial Services

Summary: [School] collects, or allows businesses to collect, use, and discloses personal information on students, including names, addresses, telephone listings, and Social Security numbers. These businesses provide student-based products and services, such as computer equipment, sports clothing, school jewelry, and entertainment products.

To consent: A parent must sign and return the consent form no later than [date] so that your child may participate in this activity.

[This sample text may be adapted for any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. This is not required for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any other screening/exams required by state law.]

Date: _____

Grades: 1–6

Activity: Flu Shots

Summary: The County Department of Public Health Services will administer flu shots for influenza types A and B.

To opt-out: Contact [school official] at [telephone number, e-mail, address, etc.] no later than [date] if you do not want your child to participate in this activity.

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to [school official, address]. [School official] will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

I, _____ (parent's name), give my consent for _____ (child's name) to participate in the following surveys (check those for which you give consent):

- [name or description of survey and approximate date]
- [name or description of survey and approximate date]
- [name or description of survey and approximate date]

Parent's signature

Please return this form no later than [date] to the following school official: [name and mailing address].