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**2010-2011
Intermediate School
Student Handbook**

THE SALADO SCHOOL SONG
 Red and white forever
 Firm together stand
 Comrades true and faithful
 Steadily we'll face the world to victory
 And through the years to follow,
 We'll pledge our loyalty
 For red and white with all our might
 We'll fight for victory!
 Go red go white
 Go eagles fight, fight, fight !
 Go white go red
 Go eagles knock them dead!

SCHOOL COLORS Red and White

MASCOT Eagle

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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 can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

The Salado 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 two sections:

Section I—REQUIRED NOTICES AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS—with notices that the district must provide to all parents, as well as other information to assist you in responding to school-related issues. We encourage you to take some time to closely review this section of the handbook; and

Section II—INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS —organized alphabetically by topic for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

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 should become familiar with the Salado ISD *Student Code of Conduct*, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found as a separate document sent home to parents and posted on-line at www.saladoisd.org or available 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 or other rules that affect 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 the student handbook, the provisions of board policy or the *Student Code of Conduct* that were most recently adopted by the board are to be followed.

After reading through the entire handbook with your child, keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact [a teacher, the counselor, or the principal].

Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following required forms that are sent home during the first two weeks of school:

1. Parental Acknowledgment Form;
2. Student Directory Information Form;
3. Release of Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Learning Forms; and
4. Consent/Opt-Out Forms.

[See Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights on page 8

Please note that references to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. A copy of the district’s policy manual is available for review in the school office or online at www.saladoisd.org

SECTION I: REQUIRED NOTICES AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This section of the Salado Student Handbook includes several notices that the district is required to provide to you, as well as other information on topics of particular interest to you as a parent.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Salado does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, 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 legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex: Mr. Billy Wiggins, Superintendent, (254)947-5479
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Mr. Harry Miller, SJHS Principal, (254)947-6900 ext. 4000
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent Mr. Billy Wiggins, (254)947-5479

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Working Together

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

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements of the graduation programs with your child, if your child is entering ninth grade.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting 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 947-1700 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on page 29.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policies at GKG and contact the school counselor.
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: The parent organization at SIS is the PTO [See Salado PTO below.]
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact the Principal.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council, assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at School Health Advisory Council on page 25.]
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

Salado Parent Teacher Organization

- Salado Intermediate School has an active parent-teacher organization that supports school activities, called TAE/SIS PTO. This group often sponsors programs and special projects. Their activities are channeled through the school administration. Information regarding activities or areas of service may be obtained through any officer.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

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

"Opting Out" of Surveys and Activities

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

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing 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. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

Limiting the Display of a Student's Artwork and Projects

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

Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff

You may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers, including whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and 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.

Reviewing Instructional Materials

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

Inspecting Surveys

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

Accessing Student Records

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

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,

- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns, and
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

See Student Records on page 11.

Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student

As a parent, you may grant or deny any written request from the district to make a video or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity; or
- When it relates to media coverage of the school.

Granting Permission to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction

As a parent, if your child is under the age of 14, you must grant permission for your child to receive instruction in the district's parenting and paternity awareness program or your child will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the Texas State Board of Education, is incorporated into the district's health education classes.

Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom

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

Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction

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

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

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

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

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

Excusing a Student from Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the 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. See *Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence* on page 28 and policy EC(LLEGAL).

Excusing a Student from Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence

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

Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct

A noncustodial parent may request in writing that he or she be provided, for the remainder of the school year, a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to your child's misconduct that may involve placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) or expulsion. See policy FO(LLEGAL) and the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Requesting Transfers for Your Child

As a parent, you have a right:

- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the campus principal to be a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the superintendent or designee for information. [See policy FDB.]
- 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. [See the district's (LOCAL) policy on School Safety Transfers.]
- To request the transfer of your child to a neighboring district] if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether that assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. [See the district's (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) policies on School Safety Transfers.]

Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings

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

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parents of 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, see *Special Programs* on page 32 and contact the school 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 the school counselor at 254-947-1700

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, the parent or guardian may request that any other student residing in the household be transferred to the same campus, if the appropriate grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus. [See policy FDB(LOCAL).]

Accommodations for Children of Military Families

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

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

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent related to leave or deployment activities may be excused by the district.

Services for Title I Participants

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is our Communities in Schools representative and may be contacted at 254-947-1700.

Student Records

Both federal and state law 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 the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights. Federal law requires that, as soon as a student becomes 18 or is emancipated by a court, control of the records goes to the student. The parents may continue to have access to the records, however, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes.
- District staff members who have what federal law refers to as a "legitimate educational interest" in a student's records. "Legitimate educational interest" in a student's records includes working with the student; considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities; compiling statistical data; or investigating or evaluating programs. 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.
- Individuals granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll 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.

Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student 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 PO Box 98 Salado, TX 76571

The address(es) of the principals' offices are:

PO Box 98 Salado, TX 76571

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(LOCAL). [See Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences on page 29 and Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns on page 17 for an overview of the process.]

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

Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes

The district often needs to use student information for the following school-sponsored purposes: list school-sponsored purposes as found in your FL(LOCAL).

For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the district would like to use your child’s include only those items listed as directory information for school-sponsored purposes in your FL(LOCAL). This information will not be released to the public without the consent of the parent or eligible student.

Unless you object to the use of your child’s information for these limited purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use this information for the school-sponsored purposes listed.

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 superintendent’s office.

The parent’s or eligible student’s right of access to and copies of student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as 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.

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 a 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/>.

SECTION II: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is conveniently organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact the campus principal.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Students should **not** arrive at school before 7:30 AM. Supervision will start at that time. All students will enter the SOUTH or NORTH entrances.. All students will report to the commons area. The first bell rings at 7:45 AM to go to class. A student that is not in the classroom before the 7:55 AM bell rings is tardy. Students arriving tardy in the morning (after the 7:55 bell) will receive detention on the third tardy and on each additional tardy in that semester. A third tardy will also count against the student's Perfect Attendance Record for award purposes.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Parents **MUST** call the school by 9:00 AM to report the absence of their child on the day of the absence.

Parents may also e-mail the information to: bunny.pierce@saladoisd.org the day of the absence.

Students who are absent part of a day due to medical appointments, such as doctor, dentist or orthodontist, and bring a written notice from the doctor etc., will **not** be considered absent for the missed class time. This is only applicable when the student attends part of the class day.

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

Compulsory Attendance

State law requires that a student between the ages of six and 18 attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 18th 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 trespassing.

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

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

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

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.

If the student is over age 18, the student's parents shall not be subject to penalties as a result of their child's violation of state compulsory attendance law. [See FEA(LEGAL)]

A student in grades 3–8 will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and applicable subject area.

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;

- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Service as an election clerk; and
- Documented health-care appointments, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

In addition, a junior or senior student's absence of up to two days related to visiting a college or university may be considered an exemption, provided the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed.

Attendance for Credit

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

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

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 the reasons listed above at Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance will be considered days of attendance for this purpose.
- 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(LOCAL).

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

Parent's Note After An Absence

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.

Doctor's Note After An Absence for Illness

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than 3 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. [See FEC(LOCAL).]

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

SIS offers technology programs in grades 4, 5, and 6. Admission to these programs is based on grade level only. Courses include: Keyboarding and Technology applications.

Salado ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, which may be accessed at www.saladoisd.org. As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

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

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse, the campus counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp.

The following Web sites might help you become more aware of child sexual abuse:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820>

<http://sapn.nonprofitoffice.com/>

<http://www.taasa.org/member/materials2.php>

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml

Reports may be made to:

The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1 800-252-5400 or on the Web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>).

CLASS SCHEDULES

The first bell will ring at 7:45 AM for the students to enter the halls. The second bell rings at 7:55 AM marking the beginning of first period. School will be dismissed at 3:30 PM.

All students are urged to leave the campus by 3:45 PM, unless other arrangements are made for athletic activities or UIL classes, tutorials or teacher conferences. Students are asked to leave the building and grounds at dismissal time so as not to disturb students and teachers doing extra work.

All students must be out of the building by 4:00 PM unless directly supervised by school officials.

CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

All changes in classroom schedules must be made within 10 days after the school year begins). Schedule changes after 10 days are strongly discouraged. Late changes must receive approval by the administration and be requested by both parent and student in written form. Final decision of schedule changes rests with the principal.

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 on the district's Web site at www.saladoisd.org. 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

Connect-Ed is a computer software program that allows each campus the opportunity to send verbal and e-mail messages to the phones of our parents. Messages can be sent to primary phones only with general information and to all phone numbers provided to the school with emergency information. It is imperative to keep your phone numbers current and correct. Please contact the school should there be any changes in your phone numbers during the school year. We ask that you listen to all messages sent.

Grade-Speed is another program available to our parents. This program is on the network and allows parents to access their child's grades at any time of the school year. There is mandatory training provided during the year and an agreement contract that must be signed by each parent. This tool can be very helpful in monitoring grades to check if work is being done and if students are studying for tests.

Lesson Plans On-Line is also available to all parents. By logging in to www.saladoisd.org and going to the Intermediate School tab, parents can see what their child's assignments are for each day of the week. These are entered each Friday for the upcoming week. Daily work will show in BLACK while tests are listed in RED. Projects due are shown in GREEN. We encourage parents to check this site each Monday to assist your child.

COMPUTER RESOURCES

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these computer resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and 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 and other electronic communications using district computers are not private and will be monitored by district staff. [For additional information, see policies at CQ.]

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 these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the *Student Code of Conduct*, as well as campus and classroom rules. 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, whether on or off school grounds, in conjunction with classes and school-sponsored activities.

Bullying or Taunting Behaviors

Students must not participate, either individually or in a group, in bullying or taunting behaviors toward another student. Such behaviors may include repeated teasing or ridicule, name-calling, threats, theft, gossip and rumors, or physical intimidation of any kind. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense and 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 loud or profane language or any misconduct.
- Interference with the transportation of students in district vehicles.

Cell Phones

Cell phones have become an important communication tool for students and parents. As a result, under certain emergency situations and with permission from the principal, a student may leave a cell phone in the office during the entire school day for use after school hours. Students are not allowed to carry phones on them or leave them in their lockers. If a student's parent wishes him/her to have a cell phone at school, he/she must complete a Cell Phone Permission Form each year. Forms will be completed and signed by parents and on file in the school office.

We want these phones to be used for safety purposes and communication with parents and not to disrupt any part of the school day. Use of a cell phone during a test (i.e. text messaging) will be considered cheating and proper action will be taken. No use of cell phone photographs is permitted during the school day. Also no cell phone photographs are permitted in locker rooms or restrooms at any time.

- Phones at school must be in the OFF (NO POWER) MODE between the time the student arrives at school until 3:30pm.
- Phones must be left in the front office during school hours.

The following guidelines will be implemented to ensure the safety of our students while at the same time avoiding classroom disruptions per Statute 37.082:

If a student is in possession of a cell phone at school, the phone will be confiscated.

First offense: Parent/Student may pick up the cell phone at the end of the school day.

Second offense: Parent must pick up the cell phone after 1 calendar week (7 days) along with a \$10 fee. An after school detention will also be assigned to the student.

Third offense: Parent must pick up the cell phone after 2 calendar weeks (14 days) along with a \$15 fee. Two after school detentions will be assigned to the student and his/her privilege of bringing a cell phone to school will be revoked for the year.

Radios, CD Players, 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 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 items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items. Items may be held for any period of time up to the end of the semester or school year.

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess cell phones; however, cell phones must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing. The use of cell phones in locker rooms or restroom areas at any time while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event is strictly prohibited.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct* and may include confiscation of the device. The school may charge the owner for the release of certain telecommunications devices [See policy FNCE.]

Inappropriate Use of Technology

Students are prohibited from sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be disciplined according to the *Student Code of Conduct* and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

After School Detention

Students may receive an after school detention this year at SIS. When students commit behavioral acts or break rules of the *Student Code of Conduct* to the level where ISS (In-School –Suspension) may be assigned, students will be assigned to after school detention instead. This assignment is mandatory! Students will be given behavioral modification assignments and other work that addresses behavior issues. Campus Service projects may also be required. Hours are Thursdays from 3:45-4:30. Rules for detention will be rigid and if broken additional days may be assigned. This means of punishment will enable students to remain in class during the week for important instruction.

Skateboards, roller blades, skates, bicycles and knives

Students are encouraged to ride bikes to school. Bikes are not allowed on walkways or the track. Violations will result in loss of privilege. Skateboards, roller blades (in-line skates) and roller skates may not be brought onto the school campus at any time. Any such items as listed above will be confiscated and secured. Return time will depend on seriousness and/or number of infractions. This time may extend to the end of the school year. Use of a knife of any kind is not permitted on the school campus unless supervised by a teacher. Students found using or showing a knife will be subject to disciplinary action.

Social Events

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

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

CONTAGIOUS 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 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.

COUNSELING

Personal Counseling

The Coordinator of Student Services/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. A student who wishes to meet with the counselor should contact the office to set a time.

Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment

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. [For more information, refer to FFE(LEGAL) and FFG(EXHIBIT).]

DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

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

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

Dating Violence

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

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

Discrimination

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

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS

School Materials

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, flyers, etc. The school newspaper and the yearbook are available to students. All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

Non-school Materials...from students

Students must obtain prior approval from the campus 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 principal has designated the office notices rack as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing by students. [See policies at FNAA.]

A student may appeal a principal's decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who posts non-school material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. Materials displayed without the principal's 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 policies at GKDA. To be considered for distribution, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the superintendent for prior review. The superintendent will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies at DGBA, 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

Salado ISD believes that proper etiquette, social customs and good grooming are a definite part of the educational process. Our philosophy is that there is clothing appropriate for play and athletics; for special events and for school. To this end, students should wear to school and school functions clothing that is neat, clean and appropriate thus meeting the standards of the district's educational environment. The provisions of the dress and grooming code shall be enforced equally with regard to all students. The school district encourages students, under the supervision of their parents, to maintain high standards of dress, grooming and personal appearance that meet the following standards:

1. Students' hair shall be clean, neat and well groomed and not interfere with, disturb or distract from instruction and/or school activities. Extreme hair colors are not acceptable. Boys' hair must be cut above the eyebrows, off the collar and bottom of earlobe. Curly hair should be no more than 2" in length.
2. Beards, mustaches and other facial hair are not permitted. Students should shave as often as the situation dictates. Sideburns must be trimmed at the bottom of the earlobe and not flared.
3. See through, excessively tight fitting or low cut garments are not acceptable. Straps on sleeveless shirts must be at least 2" wide.
4. Clothing with inappropriate decorations or advertisements is not acceptable. No item worn will call attention to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, the occult, cults, gangs, violence or other offensive themes. Clothing depicting individuals or groups that represent these items is also not acceptable. Double meaning messages are not permitted.
5. The midriff (stomach) must not be exposed when the student goes through the normal activities of a school day such as bending, stretching, or reaching. Girls' blouses or shirts should be long enough to be tucked in at the waist or extend at least 3" below the waistband.
6. Clothing intended to be worn as under garments are not allowed as outer garments. No pajamas.
7. Shorts are permitted. The shorts must have an absolute minimum inseam of 4". [1] A longer inseam is strongly encouraged. No biker shorts or leggings will be allowed as outer garments.
8. Appropriate footwear, such as casual or athletic shoes, is to be worn. Shoes with cleats or rollers are not allowed in the building. Street shoes will not be worn on the gym floor. Shoes worn to school (including basketball shoes) should not be worn on the gym floor. Student footwear for field trips and athletic activities should be safe and appropriate.
9. Hats, caps, head or sweatbands are not to be worn in the building (unless approved by the principal) and are best not brought to school. Confiscated caps will be returned for a \$1.00 fee that will be deposited in the student activity fund.
10. Earrings or other ear adornments may not be worn if they are distracting. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Pierced ornaments may be worn on the ear only. Permanent or temporary tattoos or body art are not permitted. Students are allowed to wear temporary tattoos sold by the school for school spirit. Waist chains or pocketbook chains are prohibited.
11. Only prescription glasses are to be worn in the building. No shades.
12. Skirts and similar garments such as skorts may be no shorter than 4" above the top of the knee. [2]
13. All pants must be worn with the waist at the person's waistline. No hip-huggers, sweat pants or low-rider jeans. Pants may not be oversized, sagged or worn on the hips. Pants may not have holes, frays or tears by accident or by design at any location. Capri pants are acceptable, in regard to length. Pants with extra large legs are not permitted.
14. Dress code violations may not be covered with coats, sweaters, jackets or other outerwear.

The principal, in connection with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in UIL activities. If conflict arises, the principal or assistant principal has sole authority of judgmental decisions.

A student whose clothing violates the dress code will be issued appropriate clothing by the office if parents are not accessible or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to school. This clothing must be returned clean and folded by the student the next school day. Infractions may result in disciplinary actions.

[1] Inseam is midpoint of seam inside the stride to hem of leg of garment.

[2] To measure for code, have student kneel to knees and measure distance from floor to hem. Distance cannot exceed 6" from floor, which includes the 4" rule plus 2" for distance from floor to top of knee when kneeling.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Parents who have established residency in the Salado School District may enroll their children in Salado Schools by providing the following items of documentation:

1. A complete immunization record
2. A copy of the student's birth certificate
3. Transfer information from previous school
4. Social security card
5. Parent's drivers license
6. Proof of residence (2 utility bills)

A temporary ten-day enrollment may be granted without these records. Any student wishing to transfer must submit an application to the superintendent's office.

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)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition, 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 an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a foreign language—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 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 5 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 2 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- A student may not participate while suspended off-campus or placed in an Alternative Educational Program.
- A student must meet attendance guidelines of 90% to participate in UIL activities.

Assignments missed during the time away from class are due on the day the student returns including tests. It is the sole responsibility of the students to request assignments and schedule make-up tests.

- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

A student who is absent from school for any reason will not be allowed to participate in school related activities on that day or evening unless they receive prior approval from the campus administration.

Student clubs and performing groups such as band, choir and athletic teams may establish rules of conduct and consequences for misbehavior that are more strict than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the school shall apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

Athletics - One of the main concerns of the school is the safety of the contest participants. Before practice begins, the student is required to have on file in the school a medical certificate and a permit from his/her parents or guardian granting permission to play in any athletic contest. Athletic activities for this year will include cross-country, football, basketball, track, golf and volleyball.

Band - The principle objective of the band program in Salado is to further the appreciation of good music; to develop cooperation, teamwork, and coordination; to promote individual responsibility; and to instill pride in accomplishments through participation in marching band.

Cheerleaders - Membership to the cheerleading squad is determined by tryouts in the spring for seventh and eighth graders. All details pertaining to this group are outlined in their rules and regulations. The purpose of this organization is to promote school spirit and cooperation and to support

teams at all times. The group gives the students the opportunity to develop leadership and responsibility and, at the same time, share fun in the participation of their many duties.

Future Farmers of America - The Future Farmers of America Chapter is composed of students regularly involved in agricultural activities. The objective of the club is to develop leadership and to strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work. FFA encourages team play and good sportsmanship. It also provides recreational activities for its members and carries out undertakings for the betterment of agriculture in the community.

University Interscholastic League Activities - These activities as set forth in the "Constitution and Rules of the University Interscholastic League" are encouraged. The academic events include modern oratory, oral reading, science, ready writing, spelling, number sense, calculator applications, mathematics, maps, charts and graphs, and dictionary skills and music memory. All students are encouraged to participate in the Interscholastic League events. The rules set forth will be strictly enforced during the year.

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 at FM and FO.]

FEES

Materials that are part of the educational program are provided with state and local funds and are 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
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, yearbooks
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books

FUND-RAISING

Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups occasionally may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the superintendent's office at least 30 days before the event.

Except as approved by the superintendent, fund-raising by non-school organizations is not permitted on school property. [For further information, see policies FJ and GE.]

GANG-FREE ZONES

Certain criminal offenses, including those involving organized criminal activity such as gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. For purposes of the district, a gang-free zone includes a school bus and a location in, on, or within 1000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Arabic numerals will be used to record grades for students in grades three through six at SIS.

Salado Intermediate School recognizes that different students have different needs. The grading policy should reflect these differences.

Grades for all core courses will be determined by:

1. A minimum of 10 grades per grading period distributed throughout the period including a minimum of 2 test grades.
2. Grading guidelines will be distributed by the teacher.
3. No grade over 100 will be given for a six weeks grade or a semester grade.
4. Teachers will record grades from the previous week on Mondays. Grades for projects or lengthy assignments will be recorded two weeks after the assignment is turned in.
5. In order to promote student responsibility, parents will NOT be notified if their child receives a "0" or has a missing assignment. We encourage parents to discuss grades/assignments with their children and to use parent connect to check their child's progress

Retesting Guidelines are as follows:

1. Only one retake per test/assignment
2. Only students who score below a 70 may request a retake
3. 70 is the highest score possible on a retake
4. 1 school day to request (once you have received notification of failure)
5. 3 school days to retake
6. Retests will NOT be offered for academic dishonesty

HARASSMENT

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 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, 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; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; 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 at www.saladoisd.org

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

Reporting Procedures

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

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.

In the event alleged harassment involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited harassment when the allegations, if proven, would constitute "sexual harassment" or "other prohibited harassment" as defined by 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 the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL).

HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

Accidents and Illnesses at School

All accidents to students on the school grounds or in the school building shall be reported immediately to the principal. If treatment for illness or injury requires other than minor first aid attention, a parent or guardian will be contacted immediately. If parents or their designated alternate cannot be reached, the student will be taken to the physician on the Emergency Procedure Card signed by the parent. Students who are ill will need to come to the school office or nurse. Either the school nurse or secretary will call the parent. **Students are NOT allowed to call a parent without checking with the office or nurse first.** No student will be taken home unless permission has been obtained from a parent or guardian.

Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School

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

The district offers 30 minutes per day of PE, recess, or Athletics to students in middle or junior high school to meet district physical education requirements for these grades. For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding elementary, middle, and junior high school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

School Health Advisory Council

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 4 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from the school nurse. [See also policies at BDF and EHAA.]

[See Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction on page 9 for additional information.]

Physical Fitness Assessment

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to the coaching staff or PE teachers to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

Vending Machines

The district has adopted policies and implemented procedures to comply with state and federal food service guidelines for restricting student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines see the superintendent. [See policies at 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 policies at FNCD and GKA.]

Asbestos Management Plan

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the central office. If you have any questions, please contact the superintendent.

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 the Director of Maintenance at 947-5023.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, Kay Matthews at 947-5429.

HOMEWORK

In most cases students have the same number of days that they were absent to complete or make-up homework. Work, including tests, due on the first day absent, will be due on the first return day. All work missed due to UIL events (athletics, academics or agricultural) or personal trips will be due on the day the student returns to school. Students are solely responsible to contact teachers for assignments and times to make up work that is missed.

IMMUNIZATION

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

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

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. 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 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(LLEGAL) and the Department of State Health Services Web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>.]

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Questioning of Students

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

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

Students Taken Into Custody

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

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

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

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

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been 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 for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

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

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Articles found on campus are to be turned in to the school office and any inquiries about lost articles should be made in the office. Also, students are urged to check the LOST & FOUND frequently, if they have lost articles. At the end of the semester, unclaimed items will be disposed of through local charity agencies.

MAKE UP WORK AND LATE WORK

In most cases students will have the same number of days that they were absent to complete makeup work. Work, including tests, due on the day absent will be due on the return day, if the student was present when assigned. Work missed on days out of school for UIL events (athletic, academic or agricultural) or personal trips will be due on the day after the student returns to school. The teacher may assign the student make-up work for any class missed 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 all missed work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. [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.

Late work should never receive full credit. Late work is not makeup work. Each teacher may have individual late work policies regarding the penalty and/or acceptance of late work. Students and parents are responsible to know and abide by these policies to prevent the student from being penalized. Teachers will notify parents of individual late work policies.

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, before the beginning of the next school year, coursework needed to fulfill the student's high school graduation requirements. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the coursework through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The district may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. [See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

Students and their parents are encouraged to discuss options with the teacher or counselor to ensure the student completes all work required for the course or grade level.

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 policies at FFAC, may administer:
 - Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
 - Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container.
 - Nonprescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
 - Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.
- 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 or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to his or her physician or health-care provider and to the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

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

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

Psychotropic Drugs

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

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

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.

One minute of silence will follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. [See policy EC(LEGAL) 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.

PROCESS FOR APPEALS OF COURSE OR GRADES

The first level of appeal will be a meeting with the teacher. For example, if a grade or action concerned an English class, then the first step would be to appeal to the student's English teacher.

The second level of appeal would be the campus administrator.

The third level of appeal would be to the superintendent.

The final decision rests with the school board.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level, the recommendation of the student's teacher, the score received on any criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessment, and any other necessary academic information as determined by the district. To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), if the student is enrolled in a public Texas school on any day between January 1 and April 15 and is a Texas resident during the week that the TAKS is administered the first time.

- In order to be promoted to grade 6, students enrolled in grade 5 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 5 assessment in English or Spanish.

Parents of a student in grades 3-8 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year.

A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policies at EIE.]

Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, counselor, or special education director.

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.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning and 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.

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 6 weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, students will be given a written progress report if their performance in any course is below 80. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject during a grading period, the parent will be mailed the report and may be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. See *Working Together* on page 7 for how to schedule a conference.

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

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

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

Report cards and progress reports do not have to be signed by the parent and returned to the school unless required by the teacher.

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

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

Fire Alert Bell	leave the building
Teacher's Instruction	halt; stand at attention
Principal's Instruction	return to the room

Tornado Drill Bells

Verbal Announce on Intercom	move quietly but quickly to the designated locations
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Verbal Announcement

return to the classroom

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

Parents and children should listen to the news media for bulletins from the superintendent concerning the opening and closing of schools due to severe weather. The closing of school because of inclement weather will be announced over KCEN Ch. 6, KWTX Ch. 10, KXXV Ch. 25, WACO - FM (100), KCKR-FM (95.7), KWTX-FM (97.5), KBRQ-FM (102.5), KWTX-AM (1460), KRZI-AM (1580), KEYR-FM (92.9), and KBCT-FM (94.5)

Information will also be on the Salado web site at www.saladoisd.org. Please do not call school personnel at home.

In the event school is dismissed during the day, parents may pick students up at the school office, if they so desire. Students may not be taken from a school campus at any time without notifying the school office and signing the appropriate forms.

Pest Control Information

The District periodically applies pesticides inside buildings. 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(ren)'s school assignment area may contact the school office.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Use By Students Before and After School

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

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

- Commons Area

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

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. See Office Personnel to apply.

A lunch and breakfast program is maintained in all district schools on self-supporting, non-profit basis as a service to those students who desire to take advantage of it. Prices are subject to change but typically do not change during the school year. Each school will provide parents and students with information on current prices. Meals may be purchased on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30 AM

Charged lunches must be paid at the end of five days before additional charges can be made. Students with excessive charges will not be served a hot meal. Application for the free or reduced lunch program must be made on a year-to-year basis. Information and forms are available upon registration or from the school office. This information is confidential.

Child obesity is at an all time high within Texas, adversely affecting the health of our children. The Texas Department of Agriculture has initiated a new statewide nutrition policy that will be effective August 1, 2004. Middle School policies will be as follows:

There can be NO Food with Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV)- sodas, water ices, chewing gum, and certain candies or Trans Fats where hydrogen is added to vegetable oil to turn it into solid saturated fat such as margarine, crackers, candies, cookies, snack food, and fried foods- until the end of the last lunch period (12:50pm). There can be NO competitive foods during meal times (7:30-7:50am and 11:40am-12:50pm). Competitive foods are food and beverage items that are sold or made available to compete with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This means that parents, teachers or administrators can bring in no food items to the children during meal times. Parents may still send in food for their child as long as it is ONLY for their child. Fries may only be served three times per week and only 3 ozs. per serving. Students may only purchase one serving at a time.

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.]

Food and Drinks in the Building

No food or open drinks are allowed in the gym, hallways, classrooms, etc. Food and drink are limited to the commons area and established areas outside the building. Food and drink within classrooms are only permitted during specified times with prior approval of the principal for each occurrence.

Library

The SIS media center supplements classroom activity and is an integral part of the curriculum. The media center offers enrichment for students and resource materials for the faculty. Computers, periodicals, audio books, and fiction and nonfiction books are available for student use. Courteous behavior is expected at all times. Food and drinks are not allowed and will be confiscated. The media center will be open daily from 7:30am-4:00pm.

The media center is a happy, busy place with excellent opportunities for volunteers. Please consider volunteering in the library as a way to show your child how much you value their education. The librarian is always looking for help with shelving, processing books, and library events.

Students will visit the library with their reading teacher. Upon permission, students may visit the library during the regular school day as well. Students may check out two books at a time for two weeks. If any item becomes overdue, students will not be allowed to borrow additional materials from the library. Overdue notices are sent home monthly. Students may renew books as many times as they wish, as long as the book is not on hold for another patron. Books must be physically brought to the library for the librarian to renew it. Parents are encouraged to visit the media center and may check out books under their own names!

Students and their parents/guardians are held responsible for all resources they check out. Students in grades three and four will not be charged overdue fines. Beginning in grade five, students will be charged \$.05 a day for overdue items. All students will be charged the replacement cost of materials that are lost or damaged. Each student will be notified, in writing, of lost or damaged materials. Please send payment in a marked envelope. Students will not be allowed to check out materials until fines are paid. A receipt will be given to the student upon payment of fines. If a lost book is found within ten (10) days of payment, the student will receive a full refund. All library books must be returned before a student may participate in Field Day activities at the end of the year.

Students found with resources in their possession, which have not been checked out through the automated method, may be fined \$10.00 per item.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker at the beginning of school. Lockers are intended for storage related materials and not considered to be a high security vault; therefore, valuable personal items such as cameras, jewelry, etc. should NOT be placed in your locker or brought to school. No open food or drink containers are to be placed in lockers. The school accepts NO liability for items stolen from lockers. Lockers are the property of the school and will be subject to searches without notification.

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 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 around lockers and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. Searches of classrooms, common areas, or student belongings may also be conducted by trained dogs when students are not present. An item in a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle to which a trained dog alerts may be searched by school officials.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, 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 Principal, or the Coordinator of Student Services/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 the Coordinator of Student Services/Counselor, at 254-947-1700 Ext. 2003.

Gifted and Talented

The provisions of our gifted programs are based upon the beliefs:

1. That education in a democratic society values individual differences
2. That gifted students need and deserve educational experiences beyond that offered through regular grade level curriculums
3. That gifted students should have opportunities to interact with their intellectual peers
4. That it is the schools' responsibility to identify the gifted population and to provide services to develop their gifts.

Teachers, parents or administrators may refer a student. The screening committee will review data which includes the test of cognitive skills, Parent scale, teacher recommendation, grades, and an approved achievement test programs will be provided at all campuses. Students are served through differentiation and compaction.

STAFF SCHEDULES

Teachers will be at school from 7:30AM - 4:00PM. Teachers have a conference period between the hours of 7:50AM and 3:35PM for preparation, grading and communicating with parents. Please honor their time before and after school hours by contacting them at school not at their homes. Support staff has varying hours based on assigned morning duty and/or arrival time.

STEROIDS

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

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

Students participating in UIL athletic competition may be subject to random steroid testing.

TAKS (TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS)

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:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–11
- Reading, annually in grades 3–9
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- English language arts in grades 10 and 11
- Social studies in grades 8, 10, and 11
- Science in grades 5, 8, 10, and 11
- Any other subject and grade required by federal law

[See policy EKB(LEGAL).]

TARDINESS

Students will need to report to the front office and sign in if they arrive after 7:55 am. A student that is not in the classroom before the bell rings is tardy. Students are tardy in the morning if they get to class after 7:55AM. Students will be subject to disciplinary action for habitual tardiness. Upon a student's third tardy and on each additional tardy that semester, he/she will be assigned after school detention. Tardiness records will begin anew each semester. A third tardy will also count against the student's Perfect Attendance Record for award purposes.

TELEPHONES

Telephones in the school offices are for school use only. Students may use the telephones in the office for urgent calls ONLY. A student may not leave class to use the telephone unless they request permission from the teacher or are called to the office.

TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, AND TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT

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. Electronic textbooks and technological equipment may also be provided to students, depending on the course and course objectives. A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return an item in acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or paid for by th

TRANSFERS

Salado schools currently accept transfer students from other districts under various requirements. Contact the administrative office for complete guidelines. Other students living outside of the Salado School District may attend Salado schools under the following criteria: students that move from the district may finish the current semester, school district employees' dependents, and students who had legally transferred into the district under previous guidelines.

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 Danny Agee at 947-5023.

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 school buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest home.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus 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.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus and before crossing in front of the bus.

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

Students must bring a note from a parent to the school office for a pass to ride a bus other than their regular bus. Students that do not normally ride the bus to and from school will not be allowed to ride home with bus riders.

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

First Offense- Verbal and/or written warning

Second Offense- Possible three to five day's suspension of riding privileges.

Third Offense- Possible suspension of riding privileges for the remainder of the semester or year.

Buses on Field Trips

During the course of the school year, many students will board buses for school-sponsored trips. A school employee must be on each bus. Students may be released to their parents upon prior request in writing or confirmed in person. Students will not be released to other students. Students released to other adults must have a written note signed by the student's parent to present to the sponsor. School trips will be arranged through the school office. Students will be required to have on file a signed permission slip from their parent(s) before they will be allowed to make any trip. Sponsors will send information regarding each trip to the parent(s) by way of their child.

Parent volunteers and adult sponsors may ride the bus to events, if there is room available. Students receiving multiple discipline referrals or after school detention may not be permitted to attend school-sponsored activities such as field trips or extracurricular events.

FIELD TRIPS/SCHOOL EVENTS

Parents are encouraged to participate in school parties, events and field trips during the year. Siblings of students that are enrolled in classes in SISD are NOT allowed to attend. Taking siblings from classes would require them to become absent and this is inexcusable. Also, additional children involved can take away from the original intent. Events are created to give a particular grade level a time to commemorate. This does not pertain to pep rallies or awards ceremonies.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials are provided to give additional direct instruction and other assistance for students who are experiencing difficulty succeeding in the regular class. Or for any student that needs help. Any student may attend the tutorial session, but the program is targeted at students scoring below 70 or in danger of scoring below 70 in a course or subject. Intermediate school students are encouraged to attend tutorials. Student may be required to attend tutorials, if assigned.

VANDALISM

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

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 video/audio recordings 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 and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures.

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.

Visitors during lunch will be assigned special seating with their child at an area away from other children.

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

Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

On Career Day the campus invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

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 and equipment 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.

EMERGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE PAMPHLET ON NEXT PAGE

FOR INFORMATION

For information and evacuation site information in the event of an emergency, please use one of the following.

The District website www.saladoisd.org
Call in to the school phone lines and listen to the recording

Tune in to one of the following television or radio stations.

KCEN Ch. 6, KWTX Ch. 10, KXXV Ch. 25,
WACO FM 100, KCKR FM 95.7,
KWTX FM 97.5, KBRQ FM 102.5,
KWTX AM 1460, KRZI AM 1580,
KEYR FM 92.9 OR KBCT FM 94.5

CELL PHONES

Your first impulse may be to call your student on his or her cell phone. If the event of a bomb threat, a cell phone may trigger a bomb. We ask that you refrain from using your cell phone. Please tune in to the stations above for up-to-date information.



SALADO I.S.D. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

Unfortunately disasters and emergencies happen. In the event of an emergency, Salado ISD's primary goal is to ensure the safety of ALL children and staff.

This short manual enumerates the most critical points in our emergency management plan.

**PLEASE READ
CAREFULLY**

**The life of your child
and others
may depend on it.**

POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

NATURAL DISASTERS

Tornadoes, heavy rain or wildfires

MANMADE DISASTERS

Bomb threats, chemical spills

SALADO ISD EMERGENCY

The emergency plan clearly states what the District will do in the event of these emergencies. Training is provided to all staff the school year.

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY ARE IMPORTANT

Our parents and community response is equally important to ensure the safety of our children and staff. Day care centers will evacuate to the same site as Salado ISD. Although you are first as a parent, it is to go to your child and remain with them. If you are not at school, we ask you not to pick up your child. This may create traffic jams when emergency vehicles cannot reach the school or prevent the District from evacuating children to a safe area. School buildings are built to withstand more than many homes, and district staff are trained in how to protect children. Parents may check their child's evacuation site.

EVACUATION SITES

In the event of an emergency, the roads will be patrolled by local or county law enforcement agencies.

OnSite

Evacuation sites may be on campus in the event that the school grounds are safe.

- THOMAS ARNOLD ELEMENTARY Softball field
- SALADO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ball field
- SALADO HIGH SCHOOL Football field

OffSite

If the school campuses and grounds are not safe, but the community is, the District will evacuate to the Salado Civic Center.

If the school campuses and community are not safe, the District will evacuate to the following:

- East**
Holland or Academy ISD
- West**
Florence or Killeen ISD

GLOSSARY

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

ACT 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 sometimes 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*.

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 districtwide 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 passing 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; 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 DAEP. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion. The *Student Code of Conduct* also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

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

UIL refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary nonprofit organization that oversees educational and athletic contests.

Acknowledgment Forms

My child and I have received a copy of the Salado Student Handbook and 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.

Printed name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____

Signature of parent: _____

Date: _____

Please sign and date this page, remove it from the handbook, and return it to the student's school

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

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

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting the information unless the parent or guardian objects to the release of the directory information about the student. If you do not want SALADO ISD to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing.

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.

For school-sponsored purposes SALADO ISD has designated the following information as directory information:

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

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 _____

For all other purposes, SALADO ISD has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student’s name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- E-mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Most recent school previously attended
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports

- Weight and height, if a member of an athletic team
- Enrollment status
- Student identification numbers or identifiers that cannot be used alone to gain access to electronic education records

Parent: Please circle one of the choices below:

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

Parent signature _____

Date _____

