



BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES 2023-2024

Table of Contents

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONTACT INFORMATION	3
SUPERINTENDENT WELCOME	4
IMPORTANT DATES	5
ASCENDER PARENT PORTAL	6-7
ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024	8
NUTRITION PROGRAM	9
SOCIOECONOMIC FORM	10
DRESS CODE	11
ATTENDANCE	12
ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LETTER	13-14
TARDY POLICY	15
STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT	16-18
TEXAS FIRST DIPLOMA	19-21
STAY CONNECTED	22
TABLET FORM.....	23





3333 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON TEXAS 77057
713-784-6345

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

[BISSONNET](#)

8440 Bissonnet St.
Houston, TX 77074
713-988-5339
713-270-0076

[MANGUM](#)

4515 Mangum
Houston, TX 77092
713-688-0505

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

[DISCOVERY](#)

6400 Westpark Dr., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77057
713-954-9528
Fax: 713-785-1014

[DISCOVERY AT NEHEMIAH](#)

5015 Fannin
Houston, TX 77074
713-526-5015
Fax: 713-526-8687

HIGH SCHOOLS

[EMPOWERMENT](#)

6400 Westpark, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77057
713-954-9528
Fax: 713-785-1014

[PHOENIX](#)

6400 Westpark Drive, Suite 480
Houston, TX 77057
346-571-6061



Dear Parents and Students:

We are delighted to welcome you to Southwest Public Schools, where we believe that the possibilities for your child's success are limitless. Our primary goal is to foster an environment where students can thrive academically and personally, and we recognize that this requires a collaborative effort between parents, educators, and students.

To pave the way for academic excellence and a successful future, we have developed the Course Selection Guide. This comprehensive guide outlines the courses and programs of study available to your child during their high school years. It emphasizes the critical link between high school preparation and future career choices. The decisions your child makes now will have a significant impact on their opportunities in college or the workplace, and we strongly encourage them to challenge themselves by enrolling in the most rigorous courses available.

The Course Selection Guide is not merely a document; it is your child's personal roadmap for the next four years and beyond. We hope that they will use it to set goals, track their achievements, and envision their future accomplishments. During this selection process, our counselors, administrators, and teachers are here to provide the necessary information and guidance to ensure your child makes the best choices for their unique journey.

At Southwest Public Schools, we firmly believe that there are no boundaries to what your son or daughter can achieve. Together, let's plan wisely and provide the support they need to pursue their dreams and aspirations successfully.

As our students embark on their high school journey, we extend our best wishes to each one of them. With determination, dedication, and a collaborative spirit, we are confident that they will make the most of their time here and build a strong foundation for a fulfilling future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Felicia Adams

Dr. Felicia S. Adams
Superintendent



IMPORTANT DATES

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

August 16, 2023

LAST DAY OF FIRST SEMESTER

December 14, 2023

FIRST DAY OF SECOND SEMESTER

January 3, 2024

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

May 23, 2024



REPORT CARD DATES

October 2, 2023

November 13, 2023

January 5, 2024

February 20, 2024

April 12, 2024


May 30, 2024

[2023-2024 Calendar](#)

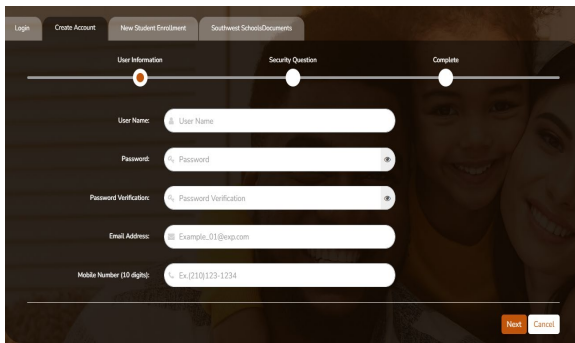
At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, students will receive a progress report that includes the current averages for all their classes. Progress reports will be available to families in the **Ascender Family Access Portal**.

ASCENDER PARENT PORTAL ACCOUNT SETUP

1. Link to the Parent Portal:
<https://portals04.ascendertx.com/ParentPortal/login?distid=101838>
2. Click Create Account




3. The Create Account-User Information page opens.



4. Create a username to identify you in Ascender Parent Portal with a combination of letters from your first and last name.
5. Create a password that you will use when you log on to Ascender ParentPortal.
6. Password Verification- Re-enter your password to verify that you typed it as intended.
7. Type your email address. You cannot enter an address that is already in use.
8. Type your ten-digit mobile number. You cannot enter a number that is in use.

Click Next.

Security Question



The screenshot shows a web interface for creating a new student account. At the top, there are four tabs: 'Login', 'Create Account', 'New Student Enrollment', and 'TEXAS EDO Documents'. Below the tabs is a progress bar with three steps: 'User Information', 'Security Questions', and 'Complete'. The 'Security Questions' step is currently active, indicated by a yellow dot. Below the progress bar, there is a text prompt: 'This information will assist you in resetting a lost password.' Underneath, there is a 'Select Question' dropdown menu with the option 'What was the name of your first pet?'. Below that is an 'Answer' input field with the text 'Answer' inside. At the bottom right, there are three buttons: 'Back', 'Next', and 'Cancel'.

9. Select a security question. If you need to reset your password, you will be asked this question.

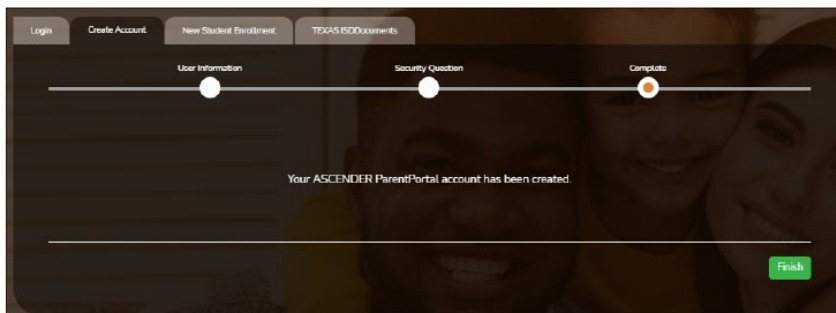
Click Next

License Agreement

Review and accept the End User Agreement (EULA) for Ascender. This agreement must be accepted to proceed.

10. Select Accept.

Click Next



The screenshot shows the completion of the account creation process. At the top, there are four tabs: 'Login', 'Create Account', 'New Student Enrollment', and 'TEXAS EDO Documents'. Below the tabs is a progress bar with three steps: 'User Information', 'Security Questions', and 'Complete'. The 'Complete' step is currently active, indicated by a yellow dot. Below the progress bar, there is a text message: 'Your ASCENDER ParentPortal account has been created.' At the bottom right, there is a green 'Finish' button.

11. Click Finish.

Your campus will provide you with a portal ID which links your student to your account.



Academic Calendar Year 2023 - 2024

23 July 2023 - (E-0 S-0) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	August 2023 - (E-23 S-12) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2023 - (E-19 S-18) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
October 2023 - (E-20 S-20) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	November 2023 - (E-17 S-16) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	December 2023 - (E-11 S-10) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
24 January 2024 - (E-21 S-19) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 2024 - (E-19 S-18) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	March 2024 - (E-14 S-14) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April 2024 - (E-22 S-22) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May 2024 - (E-22 S-17) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	June 2024 - (E-0 S-0) S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Instructional Days 156 Full + 10 Half = 166 Total Minutes 77,940 KEY E- # =Employee Days S- # =Student Days New Teacher In-Service Days Teacher In-Service Days District Welcome Back First and Last day of School Holidays Early Dismissal for Students Professional Dev. Days (No Students) End of Six Weeks Teacher Prep. Days (No Students) First day of Second Semester	HOLIDAYS Labor Day September 4, 2023 Fall Holiday September 25, 2023 Fall Break October 6-9, 2023 Thanksgiving November 20-24, 2023 Winter Break December 18-29, 2023 New Year Break January 1, 2024 MLK Day January 15, 2024 Mid-Winter Break February 16-19, 2024 Spring Break March 11-15, 2024 District Observance of Chavez/Huerta Day March 28, 2024 Spring Holiday March 29, 2024 Memorial Day May 27, 2024 Juneteenth June 19, 2024	Report Cards Dates October 2, 2023 November 13, 2023 January 5, 2024 February 20, 2024 April 12, 2024 May 30, 2024
SIGNIFICANT DATES First Day for all Teachers August 1, 2023 New Teacher Orientation August 7, 2023 First Day of School August 16, 2023 Last Day of First Semester December 14, 2023	SIGNIFICANT DATES First Day of Second Semester January 3, 2024 Last Day of School May 23, 2024 Last Day for Teachers May 31, 2024	SEMESTER DATES First Semester August 16, 2023-December 14, 2023 Second Semester January 3, 2024-May 23, 2024
Six Weeks Grading Periods Cycle I 08/16/2023-09/22/2023 27 Days Cycle II 09/26/2023-11/03/2023 26 Days Cycle III 11/06/2023-12/14/2023 23 Days	Six Weeks Grading Periods Cycle IV 01/03/2024-02/09/2024 26 Days Cycle V 02/12/2024-04/05/2024 30 Days Cycle VI 04/08/2024-05/23/2024 34 Days	Six Weeks Grading Periods Cycle IV 01/03/2024-02/09/2024 26 Days Cycle V 02/12/2024-04/05/2024 30 Days Cycle VI 04/08/2024-05/23/2024 34 Days

Instructional Days: 166

Employee Work Days: 188

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM



Southwest Public Schools is dedicated to student success and to support that mission, the Child Nutrition Program's (CNP) goal is to improve the health and well-being of children by serving attractive, nutritious meals at all campuses. Our mission is to provide outstanding menu choices and promote nutrition education among our students, families, and staff.

CONTACT

Melissa Nowicki

Executive Director of Business Services

mnowicki@swschools.org

Southwest Public Schools is proud to announce we will continue our policy to operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

Southwest Public Schools wants to continue to provide necessary support for our students. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in our efforts to collect the socioeconomic status of each of our students. This information is used as a performance indicator for student achievement and for use in disbursement of multiple federal education funding programs. It is important that families complete this socioeconomic form to assist in the collection of this data. We would like to assure you that this information is not shared with outside agencies. For more information, please contact your student's campus.



SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION FORM

Complete and return one form to each school where you have a child enrolled. Print using a pen.

CONFIDENTIAL

Southwest Charter School is required to collect the socioeconomic status of each student as a performance indicator for student achievement (TEC § 39 for Texas state requirements and ESEA §§ 1111 and 1116 for U.S. Department of Education requirements) and for use in disbursement of federal funds (ESEA § 1113). This information is not shared with outside agencies.

It is very important that families complete this socioeconomic form in order for schools to receive Title I and State Compensatory Education funding. This funding will directly benefit your child's school. Title I and State Compensatory Education funding can be used to hire personnel, provide tutoring services, order technology, and provide professional development for teachers. We want to continue to provide these necessary learning supports, but without your assistance we may not be able to.

Campus ECO Code: _____
For office use only

STEP 1 (List all Southwest Charter School students in the household)

Student ID (office use only)	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date of Birth	School Name	Grade Level

STEP 2

Do you receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If you answered YES on either of the above, skip Step 3 and continue to Step 4.

If you answered NO on both of the above, you must complete Steps 3 and 4.

STEP 3 (Complete only if all answers in Step 2 are NO)

How many total members are in the household (include all adults and children)? _____

TOTAL YEARLY INCOME BEFORE DEDUCTIONS OF ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS _____

Include wages, salary, welfare payments, child support, alimony, pensions, Social Security, worker's compensation, unemployment, and all other sources of income (**before any type of deductions**)

STEP 4 (Check one of the following two boxes as appropriate and sign below.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) no student shall be required, as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without the prior written consent of the adult student, parent or legal guardian.

- ☐ I certify that all the information on this form is true. I understand the school will receive Federal funds and will be rated for accountability based on the information I provide.
- ☐ I choose not to provide this information. I understand that the school's disbursement of Federal funds and accountability may be affected by my choice.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



2023-2024 DRESS CODE

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, minimize safety hazards, and maintain a positive learning climate. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following during instructional time:

- District-issued student identification badges shall be worn by all students.
- Hair
 - Hair must be neat, clean and well groomed. Hair style/color must not create disruptions or distraction.
 - Head sweatbands, hair rollers, or long handled combs may not be worn in the hair.
 - Facial hair, while allowed, must be neatly groomed and a natural color.
 - No type of head covering, cap or hat is to be worn or brought to school except as otherwise permitted by district policy (i.e., religious purposes).
- Dress
 - Any form of dress or grooming that attracts undue attention, disrupts school, is considered gang related, or detracts from the learning process is unacceptable.
 - No sleepwear is to be worn at school.
 - Dresses, skirts, fashion slits, and holes higher than mid-thigh are not permitted.
 - Spaghetti straps, tube tops, leotards and halter-tops are not to be worn as outer garments.
 - Excessively loose or tight garments are not acceptable; all clothing should be appropriately fit.
 - Shirts must be worn so as not to expose the bare chest. Male students may not wear shirts without sleeves, and tank tops or undershirts are not to be worn as outer garments. The midriff must not be exposed when a student goes through the normal activities of a school day (i.e., bending, stretching, reaching, etc.)
 - Garments with inappropriate decorations or advertisements are not acceptable. The American flag is not to be worn as an article of clothing. A depiction of the American flag on clothing, in a respectful manner, is acceptable.
 - Sunglasses are not allowed to be worn in the school building.
 - Revealing garments are not permitted.
 - Shoes are to be worn. Steel-toes shoes, house slippers, cleats and roller/wheeled shoes are not permitted. Additionally, at elementary level campuses, heels over ½ inch and flip flops are not permitted.
 - Any garment or accessory that could be used in a threatening or menacing manner is prohibited.
- Make-up is not permitted at the elementary level.
- Tattoos must be covered.
- Piercings.
 - Students may wear earrings.
 - No other piercings are allowed.

Exceptions to the Southwest Public Schools dress code due to medical reasons must be approved by the campus principal. If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school and return to the classroom. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the principal will work with the student and parents to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct



ATTENDANCE

State law requires that a student be in attendance 90% of the school year to be promoted at the end of the year, this **includes excused and unexcused absences**. An absence is an absence no matter if it is excused. Each time a student misses a day of school the student must bring a note that provides:

1. The full name of the student
2. The date of the absence(s)
3. Date the note was written
4. The reason for the absence
5. A daytime contact number for the parent(s)
6. The signature of the parent or guardian

If a written note is not received within three (3) school days, the absence remains '**unexcused**' and any and students may not receive credit for classwork missed. Students are required to complete all assignments that were missed due to absence(s). If students miss more than three (3) consecutive days, they are required to bring a doctor's note.

Parents will be notified by letter after a student has missed three (3) days of school. After a child misses five (5) days of school, the child is considered truant and the parent/guardian is required to follow a **Student Attendance Behavior Improvement Plan (SABIP)**. Parental involvement will be required including mandatory scheduled meetings with the truancy team and attending the truancy program afterschool with your child. Beyond five (5) absences, the truancy prevention measures will escalate to meetings and support from school administration, district truancy tribunal court, and Harris County Justice of The Peace, Precinct 5 Court





Annual Attendance Letter
2023-2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Southwest Public Schools is making a special effort to ensure all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. Students who attend school regularly feel better about school and themselves by not falling behind in their schoolwork. Learning right from the start that going to school on time, each and every day is not only important and beneficial, but it builds good habits of participation, learning, and accountability for future success while in high school, college, and career opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (about 18 days) increases the chances that your student will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

We miss your student when they are absent, and we value their contribution to our school. We are asking you to help ensure that your student attends school regularly and is successful in school. If your student misses school, a note indicating the reason for the absence needs to be sent to the Attendance Clerk on the day your child returns to school. Only three parent notes will be accepted for student illness. After the third parent note, the school may only accept a doctor's note for illness.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Southwest Public Schools realizes that there are a wide variety of reasons that students are absent from school, from health concerns to transportation challenges. There are many people in our buildings prepared to help you if you or your student face challenges in getting to school regularly or on time. We promise to track attendance daily, to notice when your student is missing from class, communicate with you to understand why they were absent, and to identify barriers and supports available to overcome the challenges you may face in helping your student attend school.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND STATE LAWS

It is important that you understand our district attendance policies, as well as Texas State Law, to ensure your child is successful in school. Texas law requires students ages 6-19 to attend school each day that instruction is provided. Compulsory attendance also applies to students younger than six who have previously been enrolled in first grade and to students below the age of six who are voluntarily enrolled in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten. For students over the age of 19, truancy may result in revocation of enrollment in certain circumstances per Tex. Educ. Code §§25.085-.086. A parent/guardian may be referred to truancy court if the student is absent 10 or more days within a six-month period per Tex. Educ. Code §25.095.



UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

If a student has unexcused absences on three days or parts of days within a four-week period, the district will send a warning notice to inform you that the student is subject to truancy prevention measures (TPMs). Your student could be put on a *Student Attendance Behavioral Improvement Plan, referred to complete community service, required to attend tutorials after school, or referred to the Tribunal process which includes, but is not limited to, a meeting with a committee to determine the root causes of the excessive absences*. If the truancy prevention measures do not correct the attendance problem for the student, you and your student may be referred to juvenile court services in Harris County.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Students who are absent due to illness are excused when a note is sent by the parent. Southwest Public Schools will accept three parent notes for illness per semester. Upon the fourth absence, and all other absences due to illness, only a note from a doctor's office will excuse the absence.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AND 90% RULE

Students earn course credits and promotion rights by meeting the course requirements **AND** attending classes 90% of the time, whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Your student may not earn credit or be promoted to the next grade level if they are not meeting the 90% rule. In order to receive credit for a final grade for a class, the student must go through the Attendance Recovery Process at the campus he/she attends.

If a student attends school or a class less than 75% of instructional days, the student will automatically fail the class, regardless of grade, and there is no appeal through the Attendance Recovery Process.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Take advantage of the transportation services offered by the District. Your student will not be tardy!
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Don't let your student stay home sick unless they are truly sick. The benchmarks used at Southwest Public Schools are vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and pink eye. A complaint of a headache or stomachache could be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Keep track of your student's absences. If you think an absence has been incorrectly marked, contact the campus Attendance Clerk.
- Make sure you have a Southwest Public Schools' calendar. Our calendar varies slightly from surrounding school districts, and it is very important to follow the Southwest Public Schools' calendar.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.

The Southwest Public Schools District requires annually this signed attendance agreement stating that you agree with the importance of daily attendance.

Your signature below indicates you have read and understand the attendance policies and procedures at Southwest Public Schools.

Signature _____ Date _____



TARDY POLICY

If a child arrives at school past 7:40 AM for students attending an elementary school and 7:45 AM for students attending a middle or high school, the parent must accompany the student to the front desk and sign the log acknowledging the tardy arrival. Parents may not accompany students to their classrooms. Frequent late arrivals interrupt classroom instruction and create a difficult transition for the tardy student.

Please Note: Excessive absences and/or tardy contribute to chronic absenteeism. If late arrivals or absences become excessive, Truancy Prevention measures will begin. If the measures are not effective at improving attendance and on-time arrival, the student will be placed on an attendance contract and may be ultimately removed from Southwest Public Schools.

Elementary students who arrive after 9:50 AM and secondary students who arrive after 9:30 AM without verification of a doctor's appointment will be marked absent for that day.

EARLY DEPARTURES

Parents may only pick up their child(ren) early from school if there is a family emergency, if the student is ill, or if the student has a medical appointment that could not be scheduled during non-school hours. School must be notified as soon as possible if a student needs to be picked up early for medical appointments. The school must receive a doctor's note upon return. Parents must report to the front office and indicate the reason for requesting their child's early dismissal.



STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT

Kris Page, Director of Outreach & Community Engagement.

“My mission and goal are to promote a safe and accessible way of improving relationships between students, parents, the community, and local organizations while increasing the number of opportunities for involvement in the educational process; to provide information on services available to eligible students and families; convey information regarding school and/or district activities and procedures; and refer families to other agencies.

My focus is to develop and implement outreach activities, campaigns, and strategies to cultivate community awareness and build relationships with students, parents, and the community of Southwest Public Schools. I ensure that ideas evolve into action through community engagement and research to align with district policy.”



CONTACT

Kris Page

Director of Outreach & Community Engagement

gpage@swschools.org



CONTACT

Marcela Guajardo

Director of Health & Wellness

mguajardo@swschools.org

Marcela Guajardo, Director of Health & Wellness.

“I lead students, faculty, and staff district wide to guide, support and advocate for optimal health and wellness. I assist students and their families to have access to health care, offer guidance in obtaining insurance and health care coverage, facilitating medical, mental, and dental appointments. My team works closely with campus leadership to offer students and families resources for mental care, food insecurities, rental assistance, clothing, collaborate with agencies to assist families with resources in their communities. Our goal is to help every student achieve academic success at Southwest Public Schools, by removing barriers that impedes their success.



CONTACT
Helen M. Vega
Social Worker
hvegaperez@swschools.org

Helen M Vega, Social Worker.

“My primary role as School Social Worker is to ensure all students are getting the social, emotional, and/or mental health support they need to be successful. We strive to establish strong connections with our students and their families, staff, and leadership to ensure that our students receive the necessary support for their academic success. These support services can help with concerns such as mental health, suicide prevention, family or home life, financial hardship, food insecurity, homelessness, truancy, and bullying, among others.”

Leticia Gil, Social Worker.

“My primary goal is to focus on identifying the factors that may interfere with students’ ability to learn and finding ways to resolve issues that may lead to emotional, behavioral, or social problems. Serving as an advocate for the student, family, school, and community resources to enable the student to learn as effectively as possible.”

CONTACT
Leticia Gil
Social Worker
Bissonnet Elementary
Mangum Elementary
Lgil@swschools.org



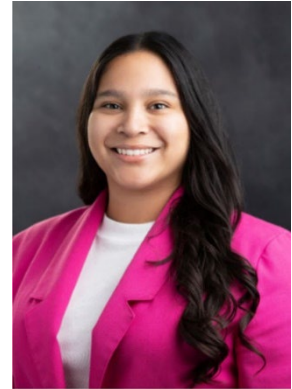
CONTACT
Tosha Washington
School Counselor
tfelder@swschools.org

Tosha Washington, School Counselor.

“As the school counselor I will work to maximize student success, promoting access and equity for all students. As a vital member of the school leadership team, I will also foster a school culture of success for all students. Through Individual Student Planning, I will be able to guide each student in planning, monitoring, and managing their educational, career, personal, and social/emotional development. Lastly, I will act as a liaison between parents and teachers to ensure student success.”

After school programs at:
Mangum EM
Empowerment HS
Discovery MS
Register by using the link below:
[Registration required.](#)

CONTACT
Carmen Villanueva
After School Coordinator
cvillanueva@swschools.org



CONTACT
Tiffany Washington
Clinic Aide
twashington4872@swschools.onmicrosoft.com

Tiffany Washington, Clinic Aide.
“My role is to provide basic first aid for minor injuries, illnesses, and chronic health conditions according to the district policy. I am here to help provide the best care for the students and staff. Health is wealth!”

Fast Track Your Path to Texas Universities

Texas First Diploma

We're excited to introduce the **TEXAS FIRST DIPLOMA**. This prestigious opportunity enables you to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement AND receive a scholarship for college.

As one of Texas' top students, you may be eligible to accelerate your path to college and receive a scholarship for one or two semesters at one of these Texas universities:

- Texas A&M University
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas
- The University of Texas at San Antonio

For more information, scan the QR code below!



Talk to your counselor today to see if this exciting new opportunity is the right path for you!

THE FINE PRINT

Here are the eligibility requirements:

- Texas residency
- FAFSA completion
- At least 22 high school credits and a final GPA equivalent to 3.0 or higher
- Additional academic requirements, including college readiness test scores, STAAR exam participation, and demonstration of mastery in various subjects

Scan the QR code above for a detailed list of eligibility requirements.

If you graduate two or more semesters early, you'll receive a two-semester scholarship, worth several thousand dollars, to a participating university.

If you graduate one semester early, you'll receive a one-semester scholarship to a participating university.

You may also be eligible for additional financial aid at most of these institutions!

The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission for students. Consult your counselor for guidance on whether your grade point average at graduation qualifies you for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law.

You can apply to any college or university you choose. However, the scholarship will only apply toward participating universities, listed above.

Use it or lose it! The scholarship offer will expire at the end of the first academic year following your graduation, so we encourage you to attend college directly after high school.

Don't forget to talk to your counselor to see if this is the right path for you!

THECB

Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD



Statute	THECB Administrative Rules (19 TAC Chapter 21, Subchapter D)
<p>Sec. 28.0253. TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM.</p> <p>(a) In this section:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher education that is designated as a research university or emerging research university under the coordinating board's accountability system. (3) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003. (4) "Program" means the Texas First Early High School Completion Program established under this section. <p>(b) The agency, in coordination with the coordinating board, shall establish the Texas First Early High School Completion Program to allow public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school. The purpose of the program, in conjunction with the Texas First Scholarship Program established under Subchapter K-1, Chapter 56, is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high performing students at eligible institutions.</p> <p>(c) The coordinating board, in consultation with the agency and eligible institutions, shall by rule establish standards for use in the program regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the specific competencies that demonstrate a student's mastery of each subject area for which the coordinating board and the commissioner have adopted college readiness standards; (2) the specific competencies that demonstrate a student's mastery of a language other than English; and (3) acceptable assessments or other means by which a student may demonstrate the student's early readiness for college with respect to each subject area and the language described by Subdivision (2), subject to Subsection (d). <p>(d) The assessments or other means the coordinating board establishes under Subsection (c)(3) must be equivalent to the assessments or other means eligible institutions commonly use to place students at the institutions in courses that may be credited toward a degree requirement.</p> <p>(e) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may issue a high school diploma to a student under the program if, using the standards established under Subsection (c), the student demonstrates mastery of and early readiness for college in each of the subject areas described by that subsection and in a language other than English, notwithstanding any other local or state requirements.</p> <p>(f) A student who earns a high school diploma through the program is considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program adopted under Section 28.025. The student is not guaranteed admission to any institution of higher education or to any academic program at an institution of higher education solely on the basis of having received the diploma through the program. The student may apply for admission to an institution of higher education for the first semester or other academic term after the semester or other academic term in which the student earns a diploma through the program.</p> <p>(g) On a student's initial enrollment in high school in a grade level below grade 12 in a school district or open-enrollment charter school, the district or school shall provide to the student and the student's parent or guardian information regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the requirements to earn a high school diploma under the program; and (2) the Texas First Scholarship Program established under Subchapter K-1, Chapter 56. <p>(h) The agency and the coordinating board shall jointly prepare and post on their respective internet websites a publication that includes the information required to be provided under Subsection (g) in a form that enables a school district or open-enrollment charter school to reproduce the publication for distribution under that subsection.</p>	<p>Sec. 21.50 Authority and Purpose</p> <p>(a) Authority. The authority for this subchapter is Texas Education Code §28.0253, establishing the Texas First Early High School Completion Program to allow public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school.</p> <p>(b) Purpose. The purpose of the Texas First Early High School Completion Program, in conjunction with the Texas First Scholarship Program established under Texas Education Code, Chapter 56, Subchapter K-1, is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high performing students at eligible institutions within the state of Texas.</p> <p>Sec. 21.51 Definitions</p> <p>The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) "Coordinating board" means the agency, including staff, known as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher education that is designated as a research university or emerging research university under the coordinating board's accountability system. (3) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Texas Education Code §61.003. (4) "Program" means the Texas First Early High School Completion Program established under this section. (a) Authority. The authority for this subchapter is Texas Education Code §28.0253, establishing the Texas First Early High School Completion Program to allow public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school. <p>Sec. 21.52 Eligibility for Texas First Diploma</p> <p>(a) Notwithstanding any other state or local law, a student is entitled to early high school graduation under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program if the student meets the criteria established in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection. A student who achieves a required score on an assessment to meet the requirement of any one of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, shall be allowed to use that same assessment to meet the requirement of another section if the student's score meets the required minimum for each section.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The student has met the following minimum criteria at the time of graduation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Earned at least twenty-two (22) high school credits by any permissible method, including credit by examination; (B) Earned a final Grade Point Average equivalent to 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; (C) Earned an overall scaled score in at least the 80th percentile on one or more of the following assessments: ACT, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, TSIA/TSIA2, or GED, or alternatively, has a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's current class during the current or semester prior to the counselor's or administrator's verification under subsection (b) of a student's eligibility for early graduation under the Program; and (2) Completed the requirement for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness End-of-Course (STAAR EOC) examinations for English I or II, Algebra I, and Biology by one of the following methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) If the student has taken the STAAR EOC for English I or II, Algebra I, and Biology, the student has achieved the satisfactory level of performance as defined by the Commissioner of Education; or (ii) If the student has not taken the required STAAR EOC assessment for English I or II, Algebra I, or Biology, the student has satisfied the STAAR EOC requirement by achieving a passing score on a substitute assessment for that subject area authorized under Title 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 101, Subchapter DD, §101.4002(b). <p>(b) The student has demonstrated the student's mastery of each subject area of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and a language other than English through assessments or other means eligible institutions commonly use to place students in courses that may be credited toward degree program requirements. A student may demonstrate mastery of each subject area, as applicable, by meeting one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Earning a score on the STAAR EOC assessment that meets the college readiness standards set out in Title 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, §4.54; (B) Credit earned in a course in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education in which the student received at least a C; or (C) Meeting the standards on the assessments set out in Figure 1. Attached Graphic <p>(c) A counselor or administrator at the public school of a student who is eligible for early graduation under the Program must verify that the student meets the requirements in subsections (a)(1) and (2) of this section, prior to issuing a diploma to the student under this Program. A student is responsible for providing the official copy of the assessment results to their counselor or administrator to verify these requirements.</p> <p>(d) A school that issues a diploma under the Program shall require the minimum number of assessments to demonstrate that the student meets the criteria established in subsections (a)(1) and (2) of this section and may not require a student to take any other STAAR End-of-Course assessment to graduate under the Program, except as required by this section.</p> <p>Sec. 21.53 Diploma Equivalency</p> <p>A student who graduates early through the Program is considered to have earned a diploma with a distinguished level of achievement under Texas Education Code §28.025. The school district must provide each student who earns a Program diploma with a designation of distinguished level of achievement on the student's diploma.</p> <p>Sec. 21.54 Notice to Students</p> <p>For the 2022-2023 school year, each high school must provide a written notification to each high school student and the student's parent or guardian listing the eligibility criteria for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and Texas First Scholarship Program. After the 2022-2023 school year, the school must provide the notice to each student and the student's parent or guardian upon the student's initial enrollment in high school. The notice must include information about the requirement that a student must provide an official copy of their assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required to receive early graduation from the Program.</p> <p>Sec. 21.55 Satisfaction of Other Requirements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A student who meets all Program requirements according to Title 19 Texas Administrative Code §21.52 has met the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative according to Texas Education Code Chapter 51. (b) A student who meets all Program requirements according to Title 19 Texas Administrative Code §21.52 has met the initial eligibility requirements of the TEXAS Grant program, as authorized by the Toward Excellence, Access, and Success Grant Program under the Texas Education Code §56.3041.

Figure: 19 TAC §21.52(a)(2)(C)

TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM

Subject Area Assessments and Benchmarks

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA	MS	MATH SUBJECT AREA	MS	SCIENCE SUBJECT AREA Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or other science	MS	SOCIAL STUDIES SUBJECT AREA History, Government, Economics, Psychology, or other social studies	MS	LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA World language or Computer Science	MS
SAT	EBRW	480	Math	530	SAT ST	700	SAT ST	690	SAT ST	730
ACT	English	18	Math	22	Science	23	Reading	22	--	--
PSAT/NMSQT	EBRW	460	Math	510	--	--	--	--	--	--
ACT – Plan	English	19	Math	19	Science	20	Reading	18	--	--
AP	English	3	Math	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3
CLEP	English	50	Math	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50
IB	Language/Literature	4	Math	4	Sciences ST	4	Individuals and Societies ST	4	Language Acquisition ST	4
TSIA	Reading	351 +4E	Math	450	--	--	--	--	--	--
TSIA2	ELAR	945 +5E	Math	950	--	--	--	--	--	--
GED	English	165	Math	165	Science	165	Social Studies	165	--	--

Gray Column indicates **minimum score (MS)**

ST = Subject Test

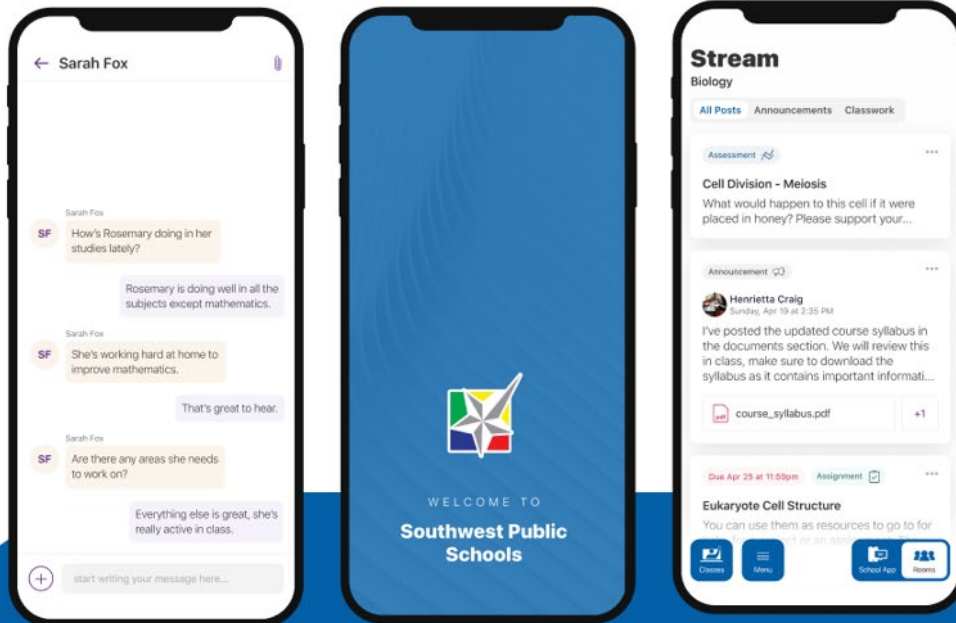
E= Essay

STAY CONNECTED

Download Southwest Public Schools to your phone!

- ✓ Stay up to date!
- ✓ Never miss an event
- ✓ Two-way messaging

Say “hello” to **Parent-Teacher Chat**



Download the **Southwest Public Schools** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.



FREE TABLET & INTERNET

Southwest Public Schools is working with Public Wireless to provide no cost tablets and internet to as many of our student's families as possible.

All students who participate and are currently enrolled in "Reduced or Free Lunch" programs are automatically eligible.

TABLETA Y INTERNET GRATIS

Southwest Public Schools está trabajando con Public Wireless para proveer tabletas e internet sin costo a la mayoría de las familias de nuestros alumnos como sea posible. Todos los alumnos que participen y estén inscritos en programas de "Almuerzo Reducido o Gratuito" son automáticamente elegibles.

Permission to apply to Public Wireless to receive Free Tablet.

Permiso para presentar una solicitud a Public Wireless para recibir una tableta gratuita.

Student's name: _____

Nombre del alumno: _____

Parents' full name: _____

Nombre completo de los padres: _____

Parent Date of birth: _____

Fecha de Nacimiento del padre: _____

Submit copy of ID/passport: _____

Presentar copia del ID/pasaporte: _____

Email address: _____

Dirección de correo electrónico: _____

Phone #: _____

Teléfono: _____

School name: _____

Nombre de la escuela: _____

I grant permission to Southwest Public Schools to apply on my behalf for my child to receive a free tablet through Public Wireless.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Yo autorizo a Southwest Public Schools a solicitar en mi nombre que mi hijo reciba una tableta gratuita a través de Public Wireless.

Firma del Padre: _____ Fecha: _____



