

Bovina ISD
Student Handbook
2025-2026

Table of Contents

PREFACE	1
Accessibility.....	2
SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS	2
Consent to OPT-Out, And Refusal Rights.....	2
Consent Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service	2
Consent to Provide Mental Health Care Service.....	2
Participating in Third-Party Surveys	3
Consent Required Before Student Participation Federally Funded Survey	3
Consent to Period of Prayer and Reading of the Bible for Other Religious Text.....	
"Opting Out" of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screening and Disclosure of Personal Information.....	3
TEACHER AND STAFF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.....	4
RIGHT OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS, CURRICULUM MATERIALS, AND DISTRICT RECORDS/POLICIES.....	4
Parent Review Instructional Materials.....	4
District Review Instructional Materials.....	4
Consent to Display a Student's Original Works and Personal Information.....	4
Opting Out to Advance Mathematics in Grades 6-8.....	5
Student Records – Accessing Student Records	6
Consent to Receive Parenting and Paternity Awareness Instruction if Student is Under Age 14.....	6
Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student When Not Otherwise Permitted by Law	6
Religious and Moral Beliefs	7
REMOVING A STUDENT FROM INSTRUCTION OR EXCUSING A STUDENT FROM A REQUIRED COMPONENT OF INSTRUCTION.....	7
Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction	7
Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction.....	8
Consent to Instruction of Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Trafficking.....	8
Tutoring or Test Preparation.....	9
Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags.....	9
Reciting a Portion of the Declaration of Independence in Grades 3-12	9
Limited Electronic Communication with Students by District Employees	10
Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent	10
Participating in Federally Required State-Mandated, and District Assessments.....	10

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment	10
SafetyTransfers/Assignments.....	11.
PARENTAL ROLE IN CERTAIN CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT	11
Multiple Birth Siblings	11
Students Who Receive Special Education Services with Other School-Age Children in the Home.....	11
Service / Assistance Animal Use by Students	12
Students in Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)	12
Students Who are Homeless	13
Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services	13
Special Education Referrals	14
Contact Person for Special Education Referrals	15
Section 504 Referrals	15
Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals	15
Notification to Parent of Intervention Strategies for Learning Disabilities Provided to Student in General Education.....	15
Texas Driving with Disability Program.....	15
Students With Physical or Mental Impairments Protected Under Section 504.....	16
Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English.....	16
STUDENTS with EXCEPTIONALITIES OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.....	16
Children of Military Families	16
Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records	17
Objecting to the Release of Directory Information.....	19
Objecting to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (Secondary Grade Level Only).....	20
SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS...	20
Absences and Attendance.....	21
Compulsory Attendance.....	21
Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.....	22
Compulsory Attendance - Exemptions	22
Compulsory Attendance –Failure to Comply (All Grade Levels)	23
Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)	24
Official Attendance-Taking Time	25
Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)	25
Doctor’s Note after an Absence or Illness (All Grade Levels).....	25

Driver License Attendance Verification	25
ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.....	26
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test.....	26
AWARDS AND HONORS	26
BULLYING (All Grade Levels)	26
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS (Secondary Only)	28
CELEBRATIONS	29
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN	29
CLASS RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT	33
SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN	33
CLASS SCHEDULES (Secondary Only).....	36
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS and Financial Aid.....	36
COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES.....	37
COMMUNICATIONS - AUTOMATED.....	38
COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS.....	38
CONDUCT (All Grade Levels).....	39
Applicability of School Rules.....	39
Campus Behavior Coordinator.....	39
Deliveries.....	39
Corporal Punishment	39
Disruptions of School Operations.....	39
Social Events	40
COUNSELING.....	40
Academic Counseling	41
Personal Counseling	42
COURSE CREDIT (Secondary Grade Level Only).....	42
CREDIT BY EXAMINATION – If a Student has taken the Course/Subject (Grade 6-12)	42
CREDIT BY EXAM FOR ADVANCE/ACCELERATION – If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject	42
Kindergarten Acceleration.....	43
Students in Grade 1-5.....	43
Students in Grade 6-12.....	43
DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION	43
Dating Violence	44
Discrimination	46

Harassment	45
Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment	45
Retaliation	45
Reporting Procedures	46
Investigation of Report	46
DISCRIMINATION	47
DISTANCE LEARNING	47
All Grade Levels	47
Texas Virtual School Network (TVSN) Secondary Grade Levels	47
DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE, PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS (ALL GRADE LEVELS)	47
School Materials	47
Nonschool Materials- from students	48
Nonschool Materials – from others	48
DRESS AND GROOMING (All Grade Levels)	49
ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (All Grade Levels).....	50
Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones	51
Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices	51
Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices	52
Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources	52
Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources	52
END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS	52
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS	53
Participation.....	54
Standard of Behavior.....	54
Offices and Elections	54
FEES (ALL GRADE LEVELS)	55
FUNDRAISING (ALL GRADE LEVELS)	55
GANG-FREE ZONES (All Grade Levels).....	56
GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT	56
GRADE CLASSIFICATION (Grades 9-12 Only).....	56
GRADING GUIDELINES (All Grade Levels).....	56
GRADUATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	56
Requirements for Diploma	56
Testing Requirements for Graduation	57

Foundation Graduation Program.....	57
Credit Required.....	58
Available Endorsements.....	59
Financial Aid Application Requirement.....	59
Personal Graduation Plans.....	60
Available Course Options for all Graduation Programs.....	60
Certificates of Coursework Completion	61
Students with Disabilities	61
Graduation Activities	61
Graduation Speakers	62
Graduation Expenses	62
Scholarships and Grants	62
HARASSMENT	62
HAZING (All Grade Levels)	62
HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS	63
Student Illness (All Grade Levels).....	63
Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)	63
Diabetes	64
Food Allergies (All Grade Levels).....	64
Head Lice (All Grade Levels).....	64
Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions.....	
Unassigned Epinephrine Delivery Systems.....	
Unassigned Medication for Respiratory Distress.....	
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS	65
Elementary and Junior High/Middle School.....	65
Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education.....	65
SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (SHAC).....	65
Seizures (All Grade Levels).....	65
STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY/WELLNESS PLAN.....	66
OTHER HEALTH- RELATED MATTERS.....	66
Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3-12).....	66
Vending Machines.....	66
Tobacco Prohibited	66
HEALTH-RELATED RESOURCES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES.....	66
Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels).....	66

Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health	67
Asbestos Management Plan	68
Pest Management Plan	68
HOMEWORK	68
IMMUNIZATION (All Grade Levels)	68
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	69
Questioning of Students	69
Students Taken into Custody	69
Notification of Law Violations	70
LEAVING CAMPUS (All Grade Levels)	70
During Lunch	71
At Anytime During the School Day	71
EMERGENT BILINGUAL STUDENTS (Grade Levels)	71
LOST AND FOUND (All Grade Levels)	72
MAKEUP WORK	72
Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)	72
DAEP Makeup Work	72
In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out of School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)	73
MEDICINE AT SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)	73
ASTHMA AND SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS	74
Unassign Epinephrine Auto-Injectors	75
Unassign Medication for Respiratory Distress	75
Unassign Opioid Antagonist	75
NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT	76
NONTRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	77
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (All Grade Levels)	77
Working Together	77
PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS/HEALTH SCREENINGS	78
Athletics Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)	78
Spinal Screening Program	78
Other Examinations and Screening (All Grade Levels)	79
PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE (All Grade Levels)	79
PRAYER (All Grade Levels)	79
PROMOTION AND RETENTION	79
Prekindergarten - Grade 3	80

Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels	80
Repeating Kindergarten, Grade 8 at Parent Request.....	
High School Grade Levels	81
Repeating a High School Credit Course.....	81
Repeating a High School Credit Course	81
RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL	81
REMOTE INSTRUCTION.....	81
REPORT CARDS/ PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES	82
RETALIATION	82
SAFETY (All Grade Levels)	82
Accident Insurance	83
Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs.....	83
Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergenices	83
Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed.....	83
Emergency Medical Treatment and Information	83
Emergency School-Closing Information	84
SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS	84
SCHEDULED CHANGES (Middle School & High School Grade Levels Only)	84
SCHOOL FACILITIES (All Grade Levels)	85
Use by Students Before and After School	85
Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)	85
Use of Hallways During Class Time (All Grade Levels)	85
Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels).....	85
Library (All Grade Levels).....	86
School -sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels).....	87
SEARCHES.....	87
District Property (All Grade Levels)	88
Searches In General (All Grade Levels).....	88
Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Level).....	88
Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels).....	88
Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices	88
METAL DETECTORS	89
DRUG TESTING (Secondary Grade Levels).....	89
SEXUAL HARASSMENT.....	89
SPECIAL PROGRAMS (All Grade Levels)	89
STANDARDIZED TESTING (Secondary Grade Levels)	89

SAT/ACT (Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test)	89
TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment	89
STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness)	90
Grades 3-8.....	90
High School Courses- End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment	90
Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Format (All Grade Levels).....	91
Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs.....	91
Failure to Perform Satisfactory on an EOC.....	91
STEROIDS (Secondary Level Only)	92
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT (All Grade Levels).....	92
STUDENT SPEAKERS (All Grade Levels).....	92
SUMMER SCHOOL (All Grade Levels).....	92
TARDIES (All Grade Levels.....	93
TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.....	93
TRANSFERS (All Grade Levels).....	93
TRANSPORTATION (All Grade Levels).....	93
School-Sponsored Trips.....	93
Buses and Other School Vehicles.....	94
VANDALISM (All Grade Levels).....	95
VIDEO CAMERAS (All Grade Levels).....	95
VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (All Grade Levels).....	95
General Visitors.....	95
Unauthorized Persons.....	96
Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students.....	96
VOLUNTEERS (All Grade Levels).....	97
VOTER REGISTRATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only).....	97
WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL (All Grade Levels).....	97
GLOSSARY	98
APPENDIX I: Freedom From Bullying.....	101
APPENDIX II: Parent Statement Prohibiting Corporal Punishment.....	102
APPENDIX III: Acknowledgment Form - Amendment.....	103
APPENDIX IV: Release Form for Display of Student Work and Personal Information.....	103
Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information.....	105

Exceptions,,,	106
Parent's Objection to the Release of Students Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Learning.....	107
Consent / OPT-Out Form.....	108

PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and other staff members all working together can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

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

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

Section II—OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS—organized alphabetically by topic, and where possible, further divided by applicability to ages and/or grade levels, for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

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

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

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

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

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

Although the Student Handbook may refer to rights established through law or district policy, the Student Handbook does not create any additional rights for students and parents. It does not, nor is it intended to, create contractual or legal rights between any student or parent and the district.

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

Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following forms included in this handbook distributed at the beginning of the year or upon the student’s enrollment.

1. Acknowledgment form;

2. Student Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parents Response Regarding Release of Student Information form;
3. Parents Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education form, if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities; and
4. Consent/Opt-Out form.

Objecting to the release of Directory Information on page 19 and **Consent Required before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation** on page 3 for more information.

NOTE: References to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to board policy. The district's official policy manual is available for review in the district administration office or at www.bovinaisd.org.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the Superintendent's office at 806-251-1336.

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the Superintendent, at 806-251-1336.

SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHTS

This section of the Bovina ISD Student Handbook includes information related to certain rights of parents as specified in state or deferral law.

- Contracting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. See policies at BE and BED for more information.

CONSENT, OPT-OUT, AND REFUSAL RIGHTS

Consent to Conduct a Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluation

Unless required under state or federal law, a district employee or contractor of the district will not conduct a psychological or psychiatric examination, test, or treatment without obtaining prior written parental consent.

Note: An evaluation may be legally required under special education rules or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

Consent to Provide Mental-Health Care Service

The district will not provide a mental health care service to a student or conduct a medical screening of a student as part of the district's intervention procedures except as permitted by law.

The district has established procedures for recommending to a parent an intervention for a student with early warning signs of mental health concerns, substance abuse, or suicide risk. The district's mental health liaison will notify the student's parent within a reasonable amount of time

after the liaison learns that a student has displayed early warning signs and provide information about available counseling options.

The district also established procedures for staff to notify the mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention.

The mental health liaison, counselor and social worker can be reached at 806-251-1336 and can provide further information regarding these procedures as well as curriculum materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on-or-off campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

For further information, see **Mental Health Support** on page 92.

Participation in Third-Party Surveys

Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents certain rights regarding participation in surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

A parent has the right to consent before a student is required to submit to a survey funded by the U.S. Department of Education that concerns any of the following protected areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents.
- 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, doctors, 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.

A parent may inspect the survey or other instrument and any corresponding instructional materials used in connection with such a survey. [For further information, see policy EF(LEGAL).]

“Opting Out” of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screening and the Disclosure of Personal Information

The PPRA gives parent the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing, selling or otherwise disclosing that information. NOTE: This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

A parent may inspect:

- Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The ED provides extensive information about the [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance), <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra-general-guidance>), including a PPRA Complaint Form (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>).

TEACHER & STAFF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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

Bovina ISD employs a full-time nurse and counselor.

RIGHT OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, AND DISTRICT RECORDS/POLICIES

Parent Review of Instructional Materials and Plan

A parent has the 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. Whether instruction is delivered in person, virtually, or remotely.

The district will make instructional materials available for parent review no later than 30 days before the school year begins and for at least 30 days after the school year ends. However, tests that have not yet been administered will not be made available for parent examination.

The district will make instructional materials available for parent review no later than 30 days before the school year begins and for at least 30 days after the school year ends. However, tests that have not yet been administered will not be made available for parent examination.

The district will provide login credentials to each student's parent for any management system or online learning portal used instruction to facilitate parent access and review.

A parent is also entitled to request that the school allow the student to take home instructional materials the student uses. The school may ask the student to return the materials at the beginning of the next school day.

A school must provide printed versions of electronic instructional materials to a student if the student does not have reliable access to technology at home.

Teachers are required to provide a copy of the teacher's instructional plan or course syllabus for each class to the parent of each student enrolled in that class before the beginning of each semester. A parent may obtain additional copies of plan or syllabus by request. [\[](#)

[For information about parental access to any online library catalog and library materials, including records of their child's checked out library materials, see **Library (All Grade Levels)** page 86.]

District Review of Instructional Materials

A parent may request that the district conduct an instructional material review in a math, English Language Arts, science, or social studies class in which the parent's student is enrolled to determine alignment with state standards and the level of rigor for the grade level.

The district is not required to conduct an instructional material review for a specific subject area or grade level at a specific campus more than once per school year.

For more information about requesting an instructional material review, contact the campus principal.

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

Teachers may display students' work, which may include personally identifiable student information, in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement. However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying students' artwork, special projects, photographs taken by students, original videos or voice recordings, and other original works, on district's website, a website affiliated such as a campus or classroom website, and in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other method of mass communication.

Opting Out to Advanced Mathematics in Grades 6-8

The district will automatically enroll a student in grade 6 in an advanced mathematics course if the student performed in the top 60 percent on the grade 5 mathematics STAAR or in the top 40 percent on a local measure that demonstrates proficiency in the student's grade 5 mathematics coursework/limiting.

Enrollment in an advanced mathematics course in grade 6 will enable students to enroll in Algebra I in grade 8 and advanced mathematics in grades 9-12.

The student's parent may opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics course.

Student Records

Accessing Student Records

You may review your child's student records, including:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and school counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns,
- Records relating to school library materials the child obtains from a school library [See **Library (All Grade Levels)** for more information.] child
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child; and
- Teaching materials and tests used in your child's classroom.

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

A student under the age of 14 must have parental permission to receive instruction in the district's Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program

(<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum>); otherwise, the student will not be allowed to participate in the instruction. This program, developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE), is incorporated into the district's health education classes.

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

Texas Education Code SB009 permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when the recording is to be used for:

- School Safety;
- Classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity;

- Media coverage of the school;
- Promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

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

[See **Video Cameras** on page 95 for more information, including a parent's right to request video and audio equipment be placed in certain special education settings.]

Please note that parents and visitors to a classroom, both virtual and in person, may not record video or audio or take photographs or other still images without permission from the teacher or other school official.

Religious and Moral Beliefs

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

REMOVING A STUDENT FROM INSTRUCTION OR EXCUSING A STUDENT FROM A REQUIRED COMPONENT OF INSTRUCTION

See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 7 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 8 for information on a parent's right to remove a student from such instruction.

Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction

Annual Notification

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.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials.
- Remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See campus principal for details.)
- Use the district grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 38 and FNG(LOCAL).

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.

A letter will be sent to the parents regarding the district's curriculum on human sexuality instruction.

[See **Consent to Instruction of Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 8.]

Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the parent must give written consent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

Consent to Instruction of Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking

Before a student receives instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction will begin.

Annual Notification

Students receive instruction related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction.

For further information, see the district's abuse prevention instruction website at www.bovinaisd.org.

In accordance with state law, parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in public domain used in this instruction will be posted on the district's website at the location indicated above.
- Remove his or her child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.

- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 38 and FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 8; **Dating Violence** on page 44; and **Child Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 29.]

Tutoring or Test Preparation

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

In accordance with state law and policy EC, the district must obtain parent permission before removing a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation for more than ten percent of the school days on which the class is offered.

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

[Also refer to policies EC and EHBC, and contact your student's teacher with questions about any tutoring programs provided by the school.] See **Standardize Testing on page 84**.

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 79 and policy EC (LEGAL).]

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

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes to provide the following: Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. 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 any of the following apply: (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(LEGAL).]

Limiting Electronic Communications with Students by District Employees

Teachers and other approved employees are permitted by the district to use electronic communication with students within the scope of the individual's professional responsibilities, as

described by the district guidelines. For example, a teacher may set up a social networking page for his or her class that has information related to class work, homework, and tests. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page.

However, text messages sent to an individual student are only allowed if a district employee with responsibility for an extracurricular activity needs to communicate with a student participating in the extracurricular activity.

The employee is required to include the student's parent as a recipient on all text messages.

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

Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent

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

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

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

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

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

If you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child as a method of student discipline, submit a written statement to the campus principal stating this decision. A signed statement must be provided each year if you do not want corporal punishment to be administered to your child.

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

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

Safety Transfers/Assignments

As a parent, you may:

- Request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the district to have been a victim of bullying, which includes cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the Superintendent for information.
- Consult with district administrators if your child has been determined by the district to have engaged in bullying and the board decides to transfer your child to another classroom or campus. Transportation is not provided for transfer to another campus.

[See **Bullying** on page 26, policy FDB and policy FFI (LOCAL).]

- Request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDE(LOCAL).]
- Request the transfer of your child to another district campus if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. If the victim does not wish to transfer, the district will transfer the assailant in accordance with policy FDE.

PARENTAL ROLE IN CERTAIN CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

Multiple Birth Siblings

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

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

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

Students Use of a Service/Assistance Animal

A parent of a student who uses a service/assistance animal because of the student's disability must submit a request in writing to the principal before bringing the service/assistance animal on campus. The district will try to accommodate a request as soon as possible but will do so within ten district business days.

Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment, to any

student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care).

A student in the conservatorship (custody) of the state and who enrolls in the district after the beginning of the school year will be allowed credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year.

The district will assess the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district.

The district will award proportionate course credit (partial credit) when a student does only pass one half of a two-half course. [For provisions on partial course credit for students who are not in the conservatorship of the state, see EI(LOCAL).]

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

In addition, for a student in the conservatorship of the state who is eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under state law and likely to be in care on the day preceding the student's 18th birthday, the district will:

- Assist the student with the completion of any applications for
- admission or for financial aid;
- Arrange and accompany the student on campus visits;
- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution sponsored
- scholarships;
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a
- military academy;
- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including, subject to the availability of funds, arranging for the payment of any examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS); and
- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students who were formerly in the conservatorship of the state.

If you have any questions, please contact the district's foster care liaison at 806-251-1336.

[See also **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 42, **Course Credit** on page 42]

Students Who Are Homeless

A parent is encouraged to inform the district if his or her child is experiencing homelessness. District staff can share resources that may be able to assist families.

A student who is homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement, if the child is unable to provide previous academic records, or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness;
- Credit-by-examination opportunities
- Assessment of the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district.
- The award of partial credit (awarding credit proportionately when a student passes only one half of a two-half course);
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements

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

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

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

For more information on the services for students who are homeless, contact the district's homeless education liaison at 806-251-1336.

[See also **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 42, **Course Credit** on page 42, and **Students who are Homeless** on page 13 for more information.]

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

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parents may contact the individuals listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or to a district administrative employee of the school district, the district must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district must give the parent prior written notice of whether it agrees or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards*. (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications). If the district agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Note: A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements as well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.

If the district decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student's initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent's written consent. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If the district receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30 due date no longer applies.

Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled *Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*. (https://fw.escapps.net/Display_Portal/publications).

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

The designated contact person regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is the campus principal.

For questions regarding post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district's transition and employment designee is the Special Ed Co-op Director.

Section 504 Referrals

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

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals

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

[See also **Students with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 16.]

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

- Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process
(<https://fw.esc18.net/display/Webforms/ESC18-FW-LandingPage.aspx?DT=G&LID=en>)
- Texas Project FIRST (<http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>)
- Partners Resource Network (<http://prntexas.org/>)
- SPEDTEX: Special Education Information Center (<https://www.spedtex.org/>)
- TEA Special Education Parent and Family Resources
(<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/parent-and-family-resources>)

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

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

Texas Driving with Disability Program

In accordance with state law, the district will provide notification of the Texas Driving with Disability Program to students who have a health condition or disability that impede effective communication with a peace officer and receive special education or are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This notification will be provided annually to an eligible student aged 16 years or older until the student's graduation or 21st birthday and to the student's parents.

The Texas Driving with Disability Program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities that have unique communication needs.

Students with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504

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

[See policy FB.]

See also **Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services** on page 13 for more information.]

Students Who Speak a Primary Language Other than English

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

[See **Emergent Bilingual Student** on page 71, and **Special Programs** on page 89.]

STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Children of Military Families

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (<https://www.dodea.edu/partnership-and-resources/military-interstate-compact>) entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements.
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement.
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Enrollment in virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school.
- Graduation requirements.

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

Additional information may be found at **Military Family Resources at the Texas Education Agency** (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/military-family-resources>).

Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records

A federal law, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, affords parents and eligible students certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is one who is 18 or older or who is attending an institution of postsecondary education. These rights, as discussed in this section as well as at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 19 are:

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

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

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

Inspection and release of student records are primarily restricted to an eligible student or student's parents unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records. A parent's rights regarding access to student records are not affected by the parent's marital status.

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

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

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

the official's professional responsibility to the school and the student; or investigating or evaluating programs.

- To authorized representative of various governmental agencies including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, TEA, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or other child welfare representatives, in certain cases.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, school district/system, or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she is already enrolled.
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or which the student has received.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.
- When the district discloses information it has designated as directory information [see **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 19 for opportunities to prohibit this disclosure].

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

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

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

A parent or eligible student who provides a written request and pays copying costs of ten cents per page may obtain copies. If circumstances prevent inspection during regular school hours and the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the district will either provide a copy of the records requested or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review these records.

You may contact the custodian of records for currently enrolled students at:

The address of the superintendent's office is PO Box 70, Bovina, TX 79009.

The address(es) of the principal's offices are: PO Box 70, Bovina, TX 79009

A parent (or eligible student) may inspect the student's records and request a correction or amendment if the records are considered inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

A request to correct a student's record should be submitted to the appropriate custodian of records. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information in the record is inaccurate. If the district denies the request to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the parent or eligible student has 30

school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record.

Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course or on an examination is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG (LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if the board of trustees determines that, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading policy.

[See FINALITY OF GRADES at FNG (LEGAL), **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 82; **Complaints and Concerns** on page 38 for an overview of the process.]

The district's policy regarding student records found at policy FL is available from the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at www.bovinaisd.org.

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

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information

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

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

The district requests that families living in a shelter for survivors of family violence or trafficking notify district personnel that the student currently resides in such a shelter. Families may want to opt out of the release of directory information so that the district does not release any information that might reveal the location of such a shelter.

As allowed by state law, the district has identified two directory information lists – one for school sponsored purposes and the second for all other requests. For all district publications and announcements, the district has designated the following as directory information: address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of

study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If you do not object to the use of your child's information for these limited school-sponsored purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wished to use the information for the school-sponsored purposes listed above.

For all other purposes, the district has identified the following as directory information address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams. If you do not object to the use of your child's information for these purposes, the school must release this information when the school receives a request from an outside entity or individual.

[Also review the information at Also see **Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records** on page 17.]

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

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

SECTION II: OTHER IMPORTANT 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 organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Where possible, the topics are also organized to alert you to the applicability of each topic based on a student's age or grade level. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact campus principal at 806-251-1336.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

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

The following reasons will be acceptable for an EXCUSED absence with a parent note:

1. any illness or health related absence
2. death of an immediate family member
3. appointment with any court or probation officer
4. teenage parent's childcare or prenatal care
5. other extenuating circumstances as determined by the campus principal

A student who is 17 years of age or older who is pursuing enlistment in the military:

- Paperwork signed by the relevant military branch showing that the student's absence was related to enlistment.

Compulsory Attendance

Age 19 or Older

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

Between Ages 6 and 19

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

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

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

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

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

Compulsory Attendance - Exemptions

All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements, as long as the student makes up all work, for the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Appearing at a government office to obtain United States citizenship;

- Taking part in a US Naturalization oath ceremony;
- Serving as an election clerk;
- Health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services, and mental health appointments.
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, or certification by a physician on the district's form.
- Absences for attendance in a released time course in religious instruction.
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state,
- An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
- Any other court-ordered activity provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.

As listed in Section I at **Children of Military Families**, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments. [See **Children of Military Families** page 16 for that section].

Note: Documented health-care appointments may include telehealth appointments. Students who are physically on campus will not be allowed to participate in telehealth or other online appointments without specific authorization from an appropriate administrator. Students should not use district-issued technology, including wifi or internet, for telehealth appointments because use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and may be monitored by the district. For more information, see **Telecommunication and Other Electronic Devices** on page 88.

Secondary Grade Levels

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

An absence will also be considered an exemption if a student 17 years of age or older is pursuing enlistment in a branch of the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the absence does not exceed four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school and the student provides verification to the district of these activities.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year for a career investigation day to visit a professional at that individual's workplace to determine the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

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

- An early voting clerk, provided the district's board has authorized this policy FEA (LOCAL), the student notifies his or her teachers, and the student receives approval from the principal prior to the absences, and
- An election clerk, if the student makes up any work missed.

An absence of a student in grades 6-12 for the purpose of sounding “TAPS” at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran will also be excused by the district.

Compulsory Attendance – Failure to Comply (All Grade Levels)

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law.

A student who is absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed “accelerated instruction” by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

Students of Disabilities

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

Age 19 or Older

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

Between Ages 6 and 19

When a student between ages 6 and 19 incurs unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of the day within a four-week period, the school will send a notice to the student’s parent, as required by law, to remind the parent that it is the parent’s duty to monitor the student’s attendance and to require the student to come to school. The notice will also inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures and request a conference between school administrators and the parent. These measures will include a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, or referrals to either in-school or out-of-school counseling or other social services. Any other measures considered appropriate by the district will also be initiated.

The truancy prevention office facilitator for the district is the campus principal. If you have questions about your student and the effect of his or her absences from school, please contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

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

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

[See policy FEA(LEGAL).]

Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student in kindergarten – grade 12 must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit or final grade 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 or a final grade for the class.

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

Except for absences due to serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment, all absences, excused or unexcused, may be held against a student's attendance requirement. To determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for any absences, attendance committee will consider:

- Whether the student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course of the subject.
- Whether the student completed makeup work satisfactorily. If the student completes makeup work, absences listed under **Compulsory Attendance – Exemptions** on page 21 and absences for extracurricular activities will be considered extenuating circumstances.
- Whether the student or the student's parent had any control over the absences.
- Any information presented by the student or parent to the committee about the absences.

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

Official Attendance – Taking Time (All Grade Levels)

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

Official attendance is taken every day at 9:11am/11:38 p.m. A student absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

Documentation After an Absence (All Grade Levels)

When a student is absent from school, the student—upon arrival or return to school—must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law. A phone call may be accepted, but the district reserves the right to require a written note.

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

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

A student absent for more than 5 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. Otherwise, the student's absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

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

[See policy FEC (LOCAL).]

Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

The VOE form <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf> is available online.

Further information may be found on the [Texas Department of Public Safety website \(https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-to-apply-texas-driver-license-teen\)](https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/how-to-apply-texas-driver-license-teen).

See **Compulsory Attendance – Exemptions for Secondary Grade Levels** on page 21 for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver's license.

ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW (All Grade Levels)

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

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

This information can be found on the district's website at www.bovinaisd.org. Hard copies of any report are available upon request to the district's administration office.

TEA also maintains additional accountability and accreditation information at [TEA Performance Reporting Division \(https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting\)](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting).

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test

A student in grades 10–12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter. The test shall be offered on [date] at [time] at [location]. TBD

Please contact the principal or counselor for information about this opportunity.

AWARDS AND HONORS (All Grade Levels)

BULLYING (All Grade Levels)

The district strives to prevent bullying, in accordance with the district's policies, by promoting a positive school culture; building healthy relationships between student and staff; encouraging reporting of bullying incidents, including anonymous reporting; and investigating and addressing reported bullying incidents.

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

- Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;
- Is sufficiently severe, or persistent, pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

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

The district is required to adopt policies and procedures regarding:

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately-owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's

educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism.

The district will integrate into instruction research-based content designed to reduce bullying that is appropriate for students' age groups.

Students in elementary grades will participate in:

- Instruction designed so that students can recognize bullying behaviors and how to report them
- Age-appropriate discussions that encourage peers to intervene when they observe bullying occur
- Instruction that characterizes bullying as a behavior that results from the student's need to acquire more mature social or coping skills, not an unchangeable trait

Students in secondary grades will participate in:

- Instruction on the brain's ability to change and grow so the student recognizes bullying behavior can come from a developmental need to acquire more social skills, can change when the brain matures and learns better ways of coping, and is not an unchangeable trait
- Discussions that portray bullying as undesirable behavior and a means for attaining or maintaining social status at school, and that discourage students from using bullying as a tool for social status
- Instruction designed so that students recognize the role that reporting bullying behaviors plays in promoting a safe school

Each campus has a committee that addresses bullying by focusing on prevention efforts and health and wellness initiatives. The committee will include parents and secondary students. For more information on this committee, including interest in serving on the committee, contact the campus principal.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Any district employee aware of a report of a bullying incident will relay the report to an appropriate administrator. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying. A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by going on to the school's website at www.bovinaisd.org.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not meet the definition of bullying.

The district will provide research-based interventions, which may include counseling options, for students who engage in bullying behaviors, students who are targeted by bullying behaviors, and any student who witnessed bullying behaviors.

Any action taken in response to bullying will comply with state and federal law regarding students with disabilities.

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

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parents, the board may transfer the student to another campus in the district. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 11.]

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

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

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 11, **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 43, **Hazing** on page 62, policy FFI, the district's Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The district offers career and technical education programs. Please see the counselor or campus principal for more information.

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

It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities , and provides equal access to the Boys Scouts and other designated youth groups as required as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and the ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

[See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 76 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator].

CELEBRATIONS (All Grade Levels)

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

[See **Food Allergies** on page 64.]

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, NEGLECT, TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN (All Grade Levels)

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, neglect, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. The plan is available at www.bovinaisd.org. Abuse includes physical abuse, including sexual abuse, and mental and emotional abuse. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

Duty to Report

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS). See below for information about how to report and respond to allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Possible Warning Signs of Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Physical Abuse

Possible warning signs of physical abuse include:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations
- Frequent complaints of pain without apparent injury
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of an instrument or human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Extreme fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days
- Unreasonable clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Sexual Abuse

Possible warning signs of sexual abuse include:

- Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases
- Evidence of injury to the genital area
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex
- Sexual comments, behaviors, or play beyond what is considered age-appropriate behavior
- Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for a child's age
- Sexual victimization of other children

Children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** (All Grade Levels) page 43, and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Trafficking** on page 8.]

Emotional Abuse

Possible warning signs of emotional abuse include:

- Over-compliance or low self-esteem caused by scapegoating or verbal abuse by caregivers
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Lag in physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Indicators of a caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love and seems unconcerned about the child's problems
- Significant changes to behavior, such as withdrawal or over-aggression
- Significant changes to weight, such as substantial weight gain or weight loss

Neglect

Possible warning signs of neglect include:

- Obvious malnourished
- Consistent lack of personal hygiene that poses a health risk
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended for long periods of time
- Unaddressed need for dental care or other medical attention

Description and Warning Signs of Trafficking (All Grade Levels)

Child trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services. Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic

partners, family members, mentors, and coaches, although some traffickers contact with victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude;
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology);
- Tattoos or branding;
- Refillable gift cards;
- Frequent runaway episodes;
- Multiple phones or social media accounts;
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone;
- Unexplained injuries;
- Isolation from family, friends, and community; and
- Older romantic partners.

Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

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

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Trafficking** on page 8.]

Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (*All Grade Levels*)

A child who has experienced any type of abuse or neglect should be encouraged to seek out a parent or trusted adult. Children may be reluctant to disclose abuse and may only disclose sexual abuse indirectly. As a parent or trusted adult, it is important to be calm and comforting if your child or another child confides in you. Reassure the child that they did the right thing by telling you.

If your child is a victim of abuse, neglect, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs.

To find out what services may be available in your county, see **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Programs Available in Your County**

([https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention and Early Intervention/Programs Available in Your County/default.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_in_Your_County/default.asp)).

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

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

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (*All Grade Levels*)

The following websites include resources to help increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

- Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf>)
- KidsHealth, For Parents, Child Abuse (<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html>)
- Child Sexual Abuse: A Parent Guide from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (<https://taasa.org/product/child-sexual-abuse-parental-guide/>)
- Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team (<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking>)
- Human Trafficking of School-aged Children (<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking>)
- National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments: Child Labor Trafficking (<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools/child-labor-trafficking>).

Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)** on page 43 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Trafficking** on page 8.

CLASS RANK / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

[For further information, see policies at EIC(LOCAL).]

Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian

At the end of the fifth reporting period, members of the senior class and the 8th grade graduating class will be ranked academically by averaging grades taken from all subjects except PE, Music, and Student Aide (local credit courses). Only students who have been in attendance in Bovina High School (seniors) and Bovina Middle School (8th grade) for two years shall be eligible for scholastic honors. The highest ranking student will be declared Valedictorian and the second

highest ranking student shall be Salutatorian. Other students, depending on final grade point average, may be considered as honor graduates.

If a tie exists for valedictorian, the District shall consider the four year numerical average for high school graduation carried to two decimal places, the number of honors-level courses taken, and the total grade points earned in honors-level courses. If a tie exists after all tie-breakers have been exhausted, co-valedictorians shall be named and no salutatorian shall be honored.

Students are enrolled for instructional purposes into classes, which are Advanced Placement, honors, or standard. A listing of those classifications follows. For the purpose of determining a student's rank in class, AP classes will receive 12 bonus points added per semester and honors courses will receive 10 bonus points per semester.

Students completing graduation requirements in fewer or more than eight semesters will be assigned a class rank based on the relation of the student's numerical average to the numerical averages of the students completing graduation requirements in eight semesters.

Below is a list of Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement courses to be used when determining class rank for seniors. New courses will be evaluated and placed in the appropriate category by the campus principal.

Note: Not all courses shown below are offered every year. Courses not listed in any category will be considered standard.

Standard

English 1,2,3,4

Speech courses

Algebra 1, 2

Financial Math

Math Models

Geometry

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Integrated Physics and Chemistry

Medical Microbiology

Anatomy & Physiology

Environmental Science

Sports Medicine

Principles of Science

Health Science

Practicum Health Science

Sociology

Economics

Computer Science I

College Prep Courses

Theater Arts 1, 2

Art

Psychology

US History

World History

US Government

World Geography

Spanish I, II

Personal Financial Literacy

Accounting I

Business Information Management

Business Computer Info Systems I, II

Multimedia

Welding

Honors

Dual Credit Courses

Pre-Calculus

Computer Science II

Spanish III, IV

Accounting II

Computer Programming

Any Dual Credit Courses will be Honors

Advanced Placement

AP English

AP Calculus

AP Biology

AP Chemistry

AP Economics

AP US History

AP World History

AP Government

AP World Geography

AP Spanish

All courses taught in the Vocational Agriculture, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts Departments will be STANDARD COURSES.

The following courses will not be used in the determination of grade averages:

1. All PE and Athletic courses
2. All Music courses (Band and Choir)
3. All Student Aide courses and local credit courses
4. Diversified Career Preparation
5. Study Hall

For two school years following their graduation, District graduates who ranked in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas. Students and parents should contact the counselor or principal for further information about how to apply and the deadline for application.

[For further information, see policy at EIC.]

Students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year will be under a different graduation program than previous school years. Therefore, class ranking procedures may be adjusted by the district based on the new graduation plan. As these decisions are made, the district will make the information available to the students affected by these changes.

CLASS SCHEDULES (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

[See **Schedule Changes** on page 84 for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS and FINANCIAL AID (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

- Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program [See **Foundation Graduation Program** on page 57; or
- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

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

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

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of students automatically admitted to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. From the summer/fall 2026 term through the spring 2027 term, the University will admit the valedictorian or the top five percent of the high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

As required by law, the district will provide written notice concerning the following:

- Automatic college admission
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid
- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program, which requires a student to provide an official copy of assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required for early graduation under the program
- The Texas First Scholarship Program
- The Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program.

Parents and students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they received this information. Students and parents should

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

[See **Class Rank/Highest Ranking Student** on page 33 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class and **Graduation** on page 56 for more information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)** page 12 for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

- Certain courses taught at the high school campus, which may include courses termed dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college preparatory;
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the virtual or hybrid courses offered by the district or another district or school.
- Enrollment in courses taught in conjunction and in partnership which may be offered on or of campus, see school counselor;
- Enrollment in courses taught at other colleges or universities; and

- Certain CTE courses.

Under the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, a student may be eligible to enroll at no cost to the student in dual credit courses at a participating institution of higher education. The FAST program allows students who are or have been educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four years preceding the student's enrollment in a dual credit course to enroll at no cost to the student. The district will determine eligibility upon the student's enrollment in the dual credit course. See the [high school counselor OR other district official] for more information.

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

A student may be eligible for subsidies based on financial need for AP or IB exam fees. See Fees (All Grade Levels) on page 94 for more information.

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

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

A student may also earn college credit for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. See **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** and **Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)** on page 28 for information on CTE and other work-based programs.

COMMUNICATIONS – AUTOMATED

Parent Contact Information

A parent is legally required to provide in writing the parent's contact information, including address, phone number, and email address.

A parent must provide the contact information to the district upon enrollment and again within two weeks after the beginning of each following school year while the student is enrolled in the district.

If the parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must update the information in writing no more than two weeks after the date the information changes.

A parent may update contact information by calling your child's campus and updating your child's information.

Emergency

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency purpose may include early dismissal or delayed opening because of severe weather or another

emergency, or if the campus must restrict access due to a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number previously provided to the district has changed.

[See **Safety** on page 821 for more information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

Nonemergency

Your child's school will request that you provide contact information, such as your phone number and e-mail address, in order for the school to communicate items specific to your child, your child's school, or the district. If you consent to receive such information through a landline or wireless phone, please ensure that you notify the school's administration office immediately upon a change in your phone number. The district or school may generate automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or e-mail communications that are closely related to the school's mission, so prompt notification of any change in contact information will be crucial to maintain timely communication with you. Standard messaging rates of your phone carrier may apply. If you have specific requests or needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child's principal.

[See **Safety** on page 82 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS (All Grade Levels)

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

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

CONDUCT (All Grade Levels)

Applicability of School Rules

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

Campus Behavioral Coordinator

By law, each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The contact information for each campus behavior coordinator is available on the district's website at www.bovinaisd.org and the coordinator for this campus is listed below:

- Elementary Principal
- Middle School Principal
- High School Principal

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.

Deliveries

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

Disruptions of School Operations

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

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

Social Events

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

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

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

COUNSELING

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

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

The district will make a preview of the program, including all materials and curriculum, available to parents to review during school hours

Academic Counseling

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels

The school counselor will provide information to students and parents about college and university admissions and the importance of planning for postsecondary education and how best to plan for postsecondary education, including appropriate courses to consider and financial aid availability and requirements.

In either grade 7 or 8, each student will receive instruction related to how the student can best prepare for high school, college, and a career.

High School Grade Levels

High school students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn more about course offerings, graduation requirements, and early graduation procedures.

Each year high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year and other information that will help them make the most of academic and CTE opportunities, as well as information on the importance of postsecondary education.

The school counsel will also provide information each year a student is enrolled in high school regarding:

- The importance of postsecondary education;

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

The school counselor can also provide information about entrance examinations and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission, financial aid, housing, and scholarships as these relate to state colleges and universities.

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

[See **Scholarships and Grants** on page 62 for more information.]

Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)

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

If your child has experienced trauma, contact the school counselor for more information.

[See **Mental Health Support** on page 92, and **Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children**, page 29 and **Dating Violence** on page 43.]

COURSE CREDIT (Secondary Grade Level Only)

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

CREDIT BY EXAMINATION—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6-12)

A student who has previously taken a course or subject—but did not receive credit or a final grade for it—may, in circumstances determined by the principal, or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district’s board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include, for example, incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, home schooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to take an examination to earn credit for a course or to be awarded a final grade in a subject after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as “credit recovery”.

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

If a student is granted approval to take an examination for credit, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

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

CREDIT BY EXAMINATION FOR ADVANCEMENT/ACCELERATION—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject

A student will be permitted to take an examination to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction, i.e., for advancement, or accelerate to the next grade level. The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district’s board of trustees. The dates on which examinations are scheduled during the 2019-2020 school year will be published in appropriate district publications and on the district’s website. The only exceptions to the published dates will be for any examinations administered by another entity besides the district or if a request is made outside of these time frames by a student who is homeless or by a student involved in the foster care system. When another entity administers an examination, a student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity. During each testing window provided by the district, a student may attempt a specific examination only once.

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

Kindergarten Acceleration

In accordance with State Board rules, the Board shall approve procedures developed by the Superintendent or designee to allow a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year to be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten. Criteria for acceleration may include:

- Scores on readiness tests or achievement tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel.
- Recommendation of the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended.
- Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student.

- Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and

Students in Grade 1-5

A student in elementary school will be eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if the student meets all of the following requirements: scores at least 80 on each examination in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, a district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated, and the student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement.

Students in Grades 6-12

A student in grade 6 or above is eligible to earn course credit if the student meets one of the following requirements: a passing score of at least 80 on the examination, a scale score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the CLEP, or a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam, as applicable.

A student may take an examination to earn high school course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable examination before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's high school course sequence, the student must complete the course.

DATING VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION (All Grade Levels)

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

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

Dating Violence

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence, see **Reporting Procedures** on page 46.

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, the student's family

members or members of the student's household; destroying property belonging to the student; threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship; threats to harm a student's current dating partner; attempts to isolate the student from friends and family; stalking; or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

In accordance with law, when the district receives a report of dating violence, a district official will immediately notify the parent of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator.

The counselor's office has information about the dangers of dating violence and resources for seeking help.

For more information on dating violence, see:

- Texas Attorney General's office recognizing and responding to dating violence flier (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/papa/session%2010/recocognizing-relationship-violence-en.pdf>)
- The CDC's Preventing Teen Dating Violence (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html>).

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Trafficking** on page 8.]

Discrimination

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

Harassment

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

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, 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.

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

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment

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

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

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

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

Pregnancy or Related Conditions

The district does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy or a related condition.

Please contact the campus principal for pregnancy-related accommodations.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited.

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on 43.]

Required State Assessments

Reporting Procedures

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

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by the FFH series of policies. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine if the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and policy FFI. If the alleged prohibited conduct, also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See **Bullying (All Grade Levels)** page 26.]

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

Investigation of Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISCRIMINATION

See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 43

DISTANCE LEARNING

All Grade Levels

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

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

[See **Remote Instruction** on page 81.]

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

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

Depending on the TXVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [See **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 53.] In addition, for a student who enrolls in a TXVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required, the student must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

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

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

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE, PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS (All Grade Levels)

School Materials

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

The school newspaper, campus newsletters, and the yearbook are available to students.

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

Nonschool Materials

From Students

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

Each school campus shall designate an area as the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing by students. [See policy FNAA.]

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

[See FNG(LOCAL) for student complaint procedures.]

From Others

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

The campus principal has designed the campus office as the location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

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

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

DRESS AND GROOMING CODE (All Grade Levels)

The school's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Dress code violations that present a danger to a student's health, and safety, cause an interference with school work, or create a distraction or disruption will not be allowed. While we respect the students' desire to express themselves in their clothing and grooming styles, it is important to note that there should be a line of reasonable expectation for dress and appearance at school. We are also aware that not everyone will agree as to where that line should be drawn. Therefore, as the authority over the campus, the principal or designee will make final decisions about dress and grooming violations, as well as any other regulation pertaining to dress and/or attire. If the student is out of code he/she will be offered clothing if available or may contact a parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing. If the student can not reach a parent or refuses to put on alternative appropriate clothing, they could go to ISS.

Any items taken in violation of the dress or grooming code may remain in the custody of a school administrator until the end of the school day. Items not picked up by the student or parent within a 30-day period may be discarded.

The administrator of each campus will provide proper notification to students prior to any change in dress and grooming standards.

As soon as students enter school property, they are expected to meet the following guidelines:

REQUIRE DRESS:

- Skirts, shorts, and dresses must be modest in length at the administrator discretion. These items must also be significantly longer than the top being worn. All undergarments must be covered even while bending and sitting.
- No pajamas or nightwear may be worn outside of designated days. All other dress code requirements must be met on these designated days.

- All shirt straps must go over the shoulder (No spaghetti straps.) Shirts must also cover the waistband of the pants worn so that the midriff is not exposed while bending or if arms are raised. The display of any cleavage indicates that the shirt is cut too low or not properly buttoned and should not be worn.
- All students must wear shoes. Closed-toed shoes are preferred. House shoes or soft-soled shoes are prohibited.
- No transparent or see-through clothing may be worn at any time. Undergarments should not be visible at any time.
- All chains, and clothing, or items that have gang or drug related significance, or may be considered a weapon are prohibited. No chains of any kind will be permitted on billfolds, belts, or pants.
- Any writing on clothing deemed inappropriate by the administration will not be allowed. This includes but is not limited to, anything promoting drugs, alcohol, weapons, violence, or any other negative behavior (including sayings with double meanings).
- Headgear: hats, bandanas, sweatbands, etc. are not to be worn in the school building. For students not complying with this policy, teachers may take the item and turn it in to the principal's office. Items will be returned at the end of each day. If not claimed within 30 days, items will be discarded.

REQUIRED GROOMING:

- Hair, including facial hair, is to be kept clean and well-groomed at all times. Any hairstyle considered by administration to be a distraction or that is a safety concern is prohibited
- Extreme hairstyles and/or make-up are prohibited.
- All tattoos deemed to be a distraction by the administration must be covered. Examples of tattoos that will be covered are those that depict drug/tobacco products, offensive, vulgar, obscene, or violent images or language.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside the school building, unless medically prescribed. Physician's instructions must be delivered to the campus administrator or designee.

Teachers are expected to direct students to correct any dress code violation as soon as it is noted and to document the correction to the principal. Students found in violation of the dress code may receive disciplinary consequences and will either be given the opportunity to have someone bring them appropriate clothing and/or be sent to ISS until the violation is corrected. When necessary, the administrator will hand out disciplinary action for dress code violations.

Dress and Grooming for Extracurricular Activities

Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (All Grade Levels)

Sale Use of Technology

The district is committed to ensuring that students use technology safely and will follow all federal and state requirements to protect students from excessive data collection or materials that are considered harmful to minors. The district considers parents as partners in cybersecurity and online safety.

In accordance with state and federal law, the district will:

- Install a filter that blocks and prohibits pornographic or obscene materials or applications, including from unsolicited pop-ups, installations, and downloads, before transferring an electronic device to a student to be used for an educational purpose
- Block or filter students' internet access to pictures that are obscene, contain child pornography or have been determined to be harmful to minors in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software, other than software excluded from the consent requirement by law [See Required State Testing and Standardized Testing.]
- Require direct and informed parental consent for a student's use of software that conducts mental health assessments or other assessments unrelated to education curricula that are intended to collect information about students [See Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation.]

If you want to know more about partnering with the district regarding cybersecurity and online safety, or if you have complaints or concerns about student use of electronic devices, contact **Chris Hill, Technology Director at 806-251-1336.**

[See Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels page 93.)]

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones

Students shall not:

Use a personal communications device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device such as, smartwatch, tablets, earpods, or other Bluetooth devices on school property during the school day and shall store the device in accordance with the method of storage established by the district.[see Glossary]

- The district may authorize the use of a personal communication device for the following reasons:
- To implement an individualized education program (IEP) or for a plan created under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C Section 794) or a similar program or plan;
- With documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or

- To comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the district's safety protocols.

Inappropriate use of a personal communication device during the school day will result in disciplinary action in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

Unauthorized Use and Confiscation

If a student uses a device without authorization or in violation of this policy, the device will be confiscated. Teachers will turn the item in to the principal's office. Consequences are as follows:

- **First and Second Offense:** Device held in the office; parent may retrieve the device upon payment of a **\$15 administrative fee**.
- **Third Offense:** Same \$15 retrieval fee applies, and the student will also be assigned **one day of in-school suspension (ISS)**.
- **Subsequent Violations:** May result in increased disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Privacy and Safety Guidelines

Use of any device capable of taking photographs, recording audio or video, or accessing the internet is strictly **prohibited in all restrooms, locker rooms, and other areas where privacy is expected**, at school or during any school-related or school-sponsored activity.

Important Note: The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

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

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 88 and policy FNF.]

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

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

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

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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

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

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the installation or use of TikTok (or any successor application or service) on a district device, along with any other social media application or service determined by the governor.

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

END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS

[See **Graduation** on page 53, and **Standardized Testing** on page 84.]

Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Form (All Grade Levels)

STAAR and EOC assessments are administered electronically.

A parent or teacher may request that a STAAR or EOC be administered to a student in paper format. The district may grant this request for any single administration for up to three percent of the number of students enrolled in the district. Requests will be granted in the order in which they are received.

Requests for paper format for a fall administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than September 15 each school year.

Requests for paper format for a spring administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than December 1 each school year.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS (All Grade Levels)

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

Participation in some of these activities may result in events that occur off-campus. When the district arranges transportation for these events, students are required to use the transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions to this may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [See **Transportation** on page 93.]

Eligibility for initial and continuing participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization. Students involved in UIL athletic activities and their parents can access the **UIL Parent Information Manual** (<https://www.uil texas.org/athletics/manuals>). A hard copy can be provided by the coach or sponsor of the activity on request.

To report a complaint of alleged noncompliance with required safety training or an alleged violation of safety rules required by law and the UIL, please contact the curriculum division of the TEA at (512) 463-9581 or curriculum@tea.texas.gov.

[See **UIL Texas** (<https://www.uil texas.org/>) for additional information on all UIL-governed activities.]

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

Generally, a student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

However, if a student receives a grade below 70 at the end of the grading period in an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course; or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or language other than English, the student remains eligible for participation in all extracurricular activities.

If a student is enrolled in a state-approved course music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation, and the student receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period, the student may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance, but is ineligible for other extracurricular activities for at least three weeks.

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

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.

- A student is allowed in a school year up to 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.

Participation

Extra-curricular activities are limited to students that are enrolled for and engaged in campus-based education. Bovina ISD does not permit students who enroll only for virtual, synchronous, or asynchronous learning to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students who are enrolled for campus-based education but are temporarily quarantined and engaged in alternative learning other than campus-based education are still eligible to participate in extracurricular activities following their release from quarantine.

Standards of Behavior

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

Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include: Student Council, National Honor Society, and grade level class officers.

FEES (All Grade Levels)

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

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

- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credits that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles** on page 94.]
- A maximum fee of \$50.00 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirements. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN).

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

FUNDRAISING (All Grade Levels)

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. The principal will then present it to the Superintendent and if approved he/she will present it to the Board of Trustees for their approval at the next scheduled meeting.

[For further information, see policies FJ and GE.]

GANG-FREE ZONES (All Grade Levels)

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

GRADE CLASSIFICATION (Grades 9-12 Only)

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

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

GRADING GUIDELINES (All Grade Levels)

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

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 82 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

GRADUATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Requirements for a Diploma

A student must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma from the district:

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

Testing Requirements for Graduation

Students are required, limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and United States History.

A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments. State law and state rules also provide for certain scores on approved national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities to substitute for the requirement to meet satisfactory performance on an applicable EOC assessment should a student choose this option. [See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.]

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

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

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 84 for more information.]

Foundation Graduation Program

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

A **Personal Graduation Plan** will be completed for each high school student, as described on page 60.

State law generally prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement. However, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and student’s parent may request that the student graduate without an endorsement. The district will advise the student and the student’s parent of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement. The student and the student’s parent must then submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement.

A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgments” that will be acknowledged on a student’s transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these

performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

A student is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student's parent of this fact. However, the student and parent should be aware that not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

A school district will permit a student to satisfy the curriculum requirements for graduation under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement, including an endorsement, by successfully completing courses in the core curriculum of a public Texas institution of higher education. Please see your counselor for more information.

Credits Required

A foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

Course Area	Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program	Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3	3
Physical Education	1	1
Language other than English	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Locally required courses	____ credits in____ ____ credits in____	____ credits in____ ____ credits in____
Electives		
TOTAL	____ credits	____ credits

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

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

- **Physical Education.** A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.
- **Language other than English.** Students are required to earn two credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. A student may satisfy one of the two required credits by successfully completing in elementary school a dual language immersion program or a course in American Sign Language. In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

Available Endorsements

A student must specify upon entering grade 9 which endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Service
- Arts and Humanities, or
- Multidisciplinary Studies

Financial Aid Application Requirement

Before graduating from high school, each student must submit an application for financial aid for post-secondary education. Students must complete and submit either a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:

- The student's parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out;
- A student who is 18 years of age or older or legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out; or
- A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause.

Please contact your school counselor for more information.

To confirm that a student has completed and submitted a TASFA, the student must submit one of the following:

- A screen shot that includes the processed date field of the FAFSA ApplyTexas Counselor Suite;
- Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA;
- A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page;

- A screen shot of the TASFA submission acknowledgement page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form);
- An Acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE); or
- A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE.

Personal Graduation Plans

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

Please review TEA's Graduation Toolkit (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/tea-brochures>).

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

Available Course Options for all Graduation Programs

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

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

Certificates of Coursework Completion

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

Students with Disabilities

Admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committees will make instructional and assessment decisions for students with disabilities who receive special education services in accordance with state law.

Upon the recommendation of the ARD committee, a student with a disability may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her individualized education program (IEP) and in accordance with state rules.

A student who receives special education services may earn an endorsement under the foundation program. If the student's curriculum requirements for the endorsement were modified, the student's ARD committee will determine whether the modified curriculum is sufficiently rigorous for purposes of earning the endorsement. The ARD committee must also determine whether the student must perform satisfactorily on any end-of-course assessment instrument required to earn an endorsement.

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

[See policy FMH(LEGAL) for more information.]

Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will include:

- Graduation Ceremony
- Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on exit-level test or end of course assessments will be allowed to participate in graduation activities. However, please keep in mind that participating in the activities and ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating. Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student's completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.
- Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on end-of course assessments will be allowed to participate in graduation activities. However, please keep in mind that participating in the activities and ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating. Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student's completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.

Graduation Speakers

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

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

[For student speakers at other school events, see **Student Speakers** on page 92. [See FNA(LOCAL) and the Student Code of Conduct.]

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Fees** on page 55.]

Scholarships and Grants

- Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the foundation graduation program, may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program, Teach for Texas Grand Program, and Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program or scholarship and grants toward tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. Certain students who graduate early may also be eligible for the Texas First Scholarship Program.
- Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

See College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All grade Levels) on page 36 for more information.

HARASSMENT

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 43.]

HAZING (All Grade Levels)

Hazing is defined by Section 37.151 of the Education Code as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in a student organization if the act meets the elements in Education Code 37.151, including:

- Any type of physical brutality;
- An activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the student's mental or physical health, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement to small spaces, calisthenics, or consumption of food, liquids, drugs, or other substances;
- An activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that violates the Penal Code; and
- Coercing a student to consume a drug or alcoholic beverage in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe the student is intoxicated.

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

[See **Bullying** on page 26 and policies FFI and FNCC.]

HEALTH-Physical and Mental

Illness (All Grade Levels)

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

A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse.

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

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

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

Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)

Please see the district's website at www.bovinaisd.org for information regarding meningitis.

Note: DSHS requires at least one meningococcal vaccination on or after the student's 11th birthday, unless the student received the vaccine at age 10.

Note: Entering college students must show, with limited exception, evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination within the five-year period prior to enrolling in and taking courses at an institution of higher education. Please see the school nurse for more information, as this may affect a student who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course taken off campus.

[See **Immunizations** on page 68 for more information.]

Diabetes

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

Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)

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

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

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) "Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis" found on the DSHS Allergies and Anaphylaxis website <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/allergiesand-anaphylaxis/>. "The district's management plan addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at www.bovinaisd.org.

The complete text of the "Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis" can be found on the DSHS website at Allergies and Anaphylaxis.

[See policy FFAF and **Celebrations** on page 29.]

Head Lice (All Grade Levels)

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread very easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, or nap time and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

The district does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to discuss a plan for treatment with an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student has undergone one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent lice from returning.

The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home \(https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm\)](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm).

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-school-health/skilled-procedures-texas-school-health/managing-head-lice-school>) and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website Head Lice Information for Parents (<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html>).

[See policy FFAA.]

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Elementary School

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA, the district will ensure that students in 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.

For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding elementary school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

Junior High/ Middle School

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and [FFA], the district will ensure that students in middle school will engage in 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters.

For additional information on the district's requirements and programs regarding junior high and middle school student physical activity requirements, please see the principal.

Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education

Students who are temporarily restricted from participation in physical education will remain in the class and shall continue to learn the concepts of the lessons but not actively participate in the skill demonstration.

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 4 meetings. Additional information regarding the district's SHAC is available from the campus principal.

[See policies at BDF and EHAA. See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 8, **Consent to instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Trafficking** on page 8.]

Seizures (All Grade Levels)

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a Seizure Management and Treatment Plan form to the district before the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following a diagnosis of a seizure disorder for the student. For more information, contact the school nurse. (<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/tea-seizure-management-form.pdf>) developed by the Texas Education Agency.

For more information, see “**A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504**” on page 16.

STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY/WELLNESS PLAN (All Grade Levels)

Bovina ISD is committed to encouraging healthy students and therefore has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFC(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement the policy. For questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan, please contact the school nurse.

OTHER HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS (All Grade Levels)

Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3-12)

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 campus principal to obtain the results of his or her child’s physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year by contacting the campus principal.

Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)

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

Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, and Nicotine Products Prohibited (All Grade Levels)

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or any other electronic vaporizing device, while on school property at any time or while attending an off campus school-related activity. With limited exceptions for medication, [see **Medicine at School (All Grade Levels page 73)**] students are also prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity

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

HEALTH-RELATED RESOURCES, POLICIES and PROCEDURES

Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels)

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

- The district’s full-time nurse,
- The district’s full-time school counselor,
- The local public health authority Amarillo Area Public Health District at 806-378-4300,
- The local mental health authority Central Plains Center at 866-896-2726

Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health (All Grade Levels)

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. Local policies on the topics below can be found in the district's policy manual, available at the central administration office and online at www.bovinaisd.org.

- Food and nutrition management: CO, COA, COB
- Wellness and Health Services: FFA
- Physical Examinations: FFAA
- Immunizations: FFAB
- Medical Treatment: FFAC
- Communicable Diseases: FFAD
- School-Based Health Centers: FFAE
- Care Plans: FFAF
- Crisis Intervention: FFB
- Trauma-informed Care: FFBA
- Student Support Services: FFC
- Student Safety: FFF
- Child Abuse and Neglect: FFG
- Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: the FFH series of policies
- Freedom from Bullying: FFI

In addition, the District Improvement Plan details the district's strategies to improve student performance through evidence-based practices that address physical and mental health.

The district has developed administrative procedures as necessary to implement the above policies and plans.

For further information regarding these procedures and access to the District Improvement Plan, please contact school counselor at 806-251-1317.

Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, and is available in the administration office. If you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent of the school, the district's designated asbestos coordinator at 806-251-1336.

Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

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 district's IPM coordinator, Maintenance Director at 806-251-1336.

HOMEWORK (All Grade Levels)

Bovina Schools do require homework from students at all levels. Students are required to turn in homework as directed by their teachers.

IMMUNIZATION (All Grade Levels)

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized.

For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. You may access the DSHS exemption form (<https://dsha.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx>) online or by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347; or online at Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunization or by writing the DSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), PO Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis; polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, 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 TDSHS. 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. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see **Bacterial Meningitis** on page 63.

[See the DSHS's [Texas School & Child Care Facility Immunization Requirements](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm) (<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>) and policy FFAB(LEGAL) for more information.

Please see the school nurse for more information.

[See **Immunization** on page 68.]

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (All Grade Levels)

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview,

including without parental consent if necessary, if it 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 law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation.
 - By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student's identity, where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away.

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

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

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been taken into custody, arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors that occur in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. These personnel will also be notified if the principal has reasonable grounds to believe the student has engaged in certain conduct.
- All appropriate district personnel in regards to a student who is required to register as a sex offender.

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

LEAVING CAMPUS (All Grade Levels)

Student attendance is crucial. Appointments can be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. Except for extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

Parental consent is required before any student leaves campus for any part of the school day. The district has put the following procedures in place in order to document parental consent:

- For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or authorized adult must come to the office and show identification to sign the student out. A campus representative will ask the student to report to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow any unescorted adult to go to the classroom or other area to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.
- The same process applies to students in high school if a parent picks up a student from campus. If the student's parent authorizes the student to leave campus unaccompanied, the parent must submit a note to the main office at least two hours before the student needs to leave campus. A phone call from the parent, in rare occasions, may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note for documentation purposes. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return if the student returns the same day.
- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. Unless the parent directs district personnel to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above.
- If a student is age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the student may sign him-herself out of school. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

During Lunch

Bovina ISD is a closed campus.

General Rules:

- Students may **not** leave campus during school hours.
- School hours are defined as the time when you are assigned classes including breakfast and lunch.
- If the student needs to leave during school hours, the student **must** present a note from his/her parent/guardian. The note **must** be presented **before** the student leaves campus.
- The parking lots are **off limits** during school hours without proper authorization.
- Students are **not** to enter cars during school hours without authorization.

At Any Other Time during the School Day

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

Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Emergent Bilingual Students (All Grade Levels)

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

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

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at **Standardized Testing**, on page 84, may be administered to an emergent bilingual student up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to emergent bilingual student who qualify for services.

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

LOST AND FOUND (All Grade Levels)

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

MAKEUP WORK

Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)

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

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. [For further information, see policy EIAB(LOCAL).]

A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

A student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school. With limited exceptions, all absences count for the 90% percent threshold set in state law regarding attendance for credit or final grade.

[See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** on page 24]

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

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

DAEP MAKEUP WORK

Elementary and Middle / Junior High School Grade Levels

Grades 9-12

A high school student removed to a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete, before the beginning of the next school year, a foundation curriculum course in which the student was enrolled at the time of removal. The district may provide the opportunity to complete the course through an alternative method, including a correspondence course, another distance learning option, or summer school. The district will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the district. [See policy FOCA(LEGAL).]

In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS) Makeup Work (All Grade Levels)

Alternative Means to Receive Coursework

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

Opportunity to Complete Courses

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

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)

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

The District will not purchase nonprescription medication to give a student. In accordance with policy FFAC, authorized employees may administer:

- Only authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:
- Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Nonprescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request. **Note:** Insect repellent is considered a nonprescription medication.
- 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.

An elementary or secondary student may possess and self-apply sunscreen to avoid overexposure to the sun. An elementary student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to the student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and asks for help applying it. If a secondary student needs assistance with sunscreen application, please address the need with the school nurse.

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

Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions

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.

See also **Food Allergies** on page 64.

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

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

Teachers and other district employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they are not permitted to recommend use of psychotropic drugs.

A district employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate. [For further information, see policy FFEB.]

For related information, see:

- **Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation or Provide a Mental Health Care Service** on page 2 for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information;
- **Counseling** on page 40 for the district's comprehensive school counseling program;
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources** on page 66 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and
- **Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health** on page 67 for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health.

Unassign Epinephrine Auto-injectors

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized [*school personnel and/or school volunteers*] who have been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

An “unassigned epinephrine auto-injector” is an epinephrine auto-injector prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the school issued with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector.

Epinephrine auto-injectors include brand-name devices such as EpiPens®.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an epinephrine auto-injector at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The district will ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of [*school personnel and/or school volunteers*] are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during regular school hours and whenever school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector to a person experiencing anaphylaxis [*at an off-campus school event or while in transit to or from a school event*] when an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector is available.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

Unassigned Medication for Respiratory Distress

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained school personnel to administer a medication for respiratory distress on a school campus or at a school-related activity to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress.

The district will provide at each campus school personnel who are trained to administer prescription medication for respiratory distress during regular school hours.

“Unassigned medication for respiratory distress” means, albuterol, levalbuterol, or another medication designated by the executive commission of the Health and Human Services Commission for treatment of respiratory distress, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the district with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of a medication for respiratory distress, and issued by an authorized health-care provider.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

Unassign Opioid Antagonist

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow authorized and trained school personnel at each campus to administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan or Naloxone, to an individual who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

One or more authorized and trained individuals will be present on each campus subject to this policy during regular school hours.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT (All Grade Levels)

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

In accordance with Title IX, the district does not and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (see below), to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or both.

Other federal laws that prohibit discrimination include Title VI, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, the Boy Scouts Act, and Title II.

The district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures are in the FFH series of policies in the district's policy manual, available at www.bovinaisd.net.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or gender-based harassment. Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon the district receiving notice or an allegation of sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly respond in accordance with the process described in the FFH series of policies.

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

- For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Sergio Menchaca, 500 Halsell St. PO Box 70, Bovina, TX 79009, 806-251-1336.
- For all other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent, Sergio Menchaca, 500 Halsell St. PO Box 70, Bovina, TX 79009, 806-251-1336.
- [See policies at FB, the FFH series, GKD.]

NONTRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (All Grade Levels)

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (All Grade Levels)

Working Together

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

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

- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling** on page 41.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 806-251-1336 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. Bovina Elementary School has parent-teacher meetings two times a year (one each semester). Bovina High School has parent conferences two times a year (one each semester). [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports** and **Conferences** on page 82.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and **Volunteers** on page 97.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Athletic Booster Club, Band Booster Club, and Academic Booster Club.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level 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 school principal for campus level teams and the office of the superintendent for district planning team.]
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction, human sexuality instruction, instruction on prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, and other wellness issues
[See policies at BDF, EHA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)** on page 65.]
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contact school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. Regular board meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, at 5:45 pm, Administration Bldg., 500 Halsell, Bovina, Texas.

- An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 72 hours before each meeting.

[See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS

Athletics' Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

This examination is required to be submitted annually to the district.

Students should be aware of the rare possibility of sudden cardiac arrest, which in athletes is usually caused by a previously unsuspected heart disease or disorder. A student may request an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to screen for such disorders, in addition to his or her required physical examination.

[See the UIL's explanation of sudden cardiac arrest (<https://www.uilTEXAS.org/health/info/sudden-cardiac-death>) for more information.]

Spinal Screening Program

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

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, see policy FFAA(LEGAL) or contact the superintendent.

Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted following the most recent, nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards for spinal screening.

Other Examinations and Screenings (All Grade Levels)

[See policy FFAA.]

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE (All Grade Levels)

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. [See **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags** on page 9.]

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

PRAYER (All Grade Levels)

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

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or proficiency. In the subject matter of the course or grade level, the district will consider the following:

- Teacher recommendation
- Grades
- Scores on criterion-referenced or state-mandated assessments
- Any other necessary academic information as determined by the district.

Promotion is based on [See policies at EIE (LOCAL) for information.]

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

Prekindergarten – Grade 3

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat prekindergarten, kindergarten, or grade 1, 2, 3. Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

Elementary and Middle Grade Levels)

Certain students—some with disabilities and some classified as English learners—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting will be convened if a student receiving special education services in grade 5 or 8 fails to meet satisfactory performance after the first STAAR administrations in reading or math. For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

Parents of a student at or above grade level 3 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated examinations 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. Failure of a student to attend those programs may result in violations of required school attendance as well as the student not being promoted to the next grade level.

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student at the middle school or junior high level who did not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment or is determined by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in grade 9. The PGP will be designed and implemented by a school counselor, teacher, or other staff member designated by the principal. The plan will, among other items, identify the student's educational goals, address the parent's educational expectations for the student, and outline an intensive instruction program for the student. [For additional information, see the counselor and policy EIF(LEGAL).] For a student receiving special education services, the student's IEP may serve as the student's PGP and would therefore be developed by the student's ARD committee.

[For information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students, see **Personal Graduation Plans** on page 60.]

High School Grade Levels

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

A student in grades 9-12 will advance a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See **Grade Level Classification** on page 60.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 56 and **Standardized Testing** on page 84 for more information about EOC assessments.]

Repeating a High-School Credit Course

A parent may request in writing that a student repeat a high-school credit course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year unless the district determines that the student has met all requirements for graduation.

Before granting the request, the district may convene a retention committee to meet and discuss the request and will invite the parent to participate.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

[See **Leaving Campus** on page 70.]

REMOTE INSTRUCTION

The district may offer remote instruction when authorized by TEA.

All district policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, and other expectations of student behavior will be enforced as applicable in a remote or virtual learning environment.

REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

(All Grade Levels)

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every 6 weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in any course/subject area or in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. [See **Working Together** on page 77 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the superintendent pursuant to the board-adopted policy and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the district's grading policy. [See policy EIA (LOCAL) and **Grading Guidelines** on page 56.]

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

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

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within 5 days. The district may use an electronic program to communicate academic information about your child, including for report card and progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature of the parent will be accepted by the district, but you are entitled to request the option to provide a handwritten signature of acknowledgement instead.

RETALIATION

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 43.]

SAFETY (All Grade Levels)

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

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, campus behavior coordinator, teachers, or bus drivers.

- Help secure the campus by keeping all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless the door is actively monitored by a district employee.
- Follow instructions from teachers and other district employees regarding classroom doors.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member. A student may be anonymous reports about safety concerns by visiting the school's website.
- 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.

Insurance for Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs

The district may purchase accident, liability, or automobile insurance coverage for students and businesses involved in the district's CTE programs.

Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather 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 need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Students in grades 7–12 will annually be offered instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information, see Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed and Stop the Bleed Texas.

Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed

The district will offer instruction in CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) at least once to students enrolled in grades 7-12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR or AED certification.

The district will annually offer students in grades 7–12 instruction on the use of bleeding control stations to respond to traumatic injury. For more information see:

- [Homeland Security's Stop and Bleed \(https://dhs.gov/stopthebleed\)](https://dhs.gov/stopthebleed);
- [Stop the Bleed Texas \(https://stopthebleedtexas.org/\)](https://stopthebleedtexas.org/).

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

All parents are asked each year to complete a medical care authorization form providing written parental consent to obtain emergency treatment and information about allergies to medications or drugs. Parents should contact the school nurse to update emergency care information (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.).

The district may consent to medical treatment, including dental treatment, if necessary, for a student if all of the following requirements are met:

- The district has received written authorization from a person having the right to consent;
- That person cannot be contacted; and
- That person has not given the district actual notice to the contrary.

The emergency care authorization form will be used by the district when a student's parent or authorized designee cannot be contacted. A student may provide consent if authorized by law or court order.

Regardless of parental authorization for the district to consent to medical treatment, district employees will contact emergency medical services to provide emergency care when required by law or when deemed necessary, such as to avoid a life-threatening situation.

Emergency School-Closing Information

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

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

The district may close schools for a full day or part of a day because of bad weather or emergency conditions. When such conditions exist, the superintendent will make the official decision concerning the closing of the district's facilities. When it becomes necessary to open late or to release students early, school officials will notify the following radio and television stations:

KVII TV Channel 7, Amarillo

KAMR TV Channel 4, Amarillo

KFDA TV Channel 10, Amarillo

KGNC Radio 710, Amarillo

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways - the school's website at www.bovinaisd.org and through the stations listed above.

[See **Parent Contact Information** on page 38, and **Automated Emergency Communications** on page 38 for more information.]

SAT, ACT, AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 84.]

SCHEDULE CHANGES (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

Schedule changes will be done during the first week of each semester with principal approval. After the first week, changes will be done on a case by case basis.

SCHOOL FACILITIES (All Grade Levels)

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 7:30 a.m.

- Cafeteria

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

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

Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

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

Use of Hallways During Class Time (All Grade Levels)

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.

Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels)

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standard set forth in state and federal law.

Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need or household situation. Information about a student's participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student's name and, eligibility status, to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid, or state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent notifies the district that student's information should not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

See administration office to apply for free or reduced priced meal services.

See CO for more information.

Parents are strongly encouraged to continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student will be allowed to continue purchasing meals according to the grace period set by the school board, and the district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment or any outstanding account balance and an application for free and reduced meals.

The following information is published as required by the USDA for participation in the National School Lunch Program: "In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

"Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

"To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

The responsible state agency that administers the program is the Texas Department of Agriculture (<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/Contact-Us>), which can be reached at (800) TELL-TDA (835-5832) or (800) 735-2989 (TTY).

The local agency that administers the program is the district. See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 76 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator, ADA/Section 504 coordinator, and superintendent for other concerns about discrimination.

Library (All Grade Levels)

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

- Monday- Friday 8am – 4pm

The district provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. The district follows the Texas State Library and Archive Commission's standards for school library collection development.

Parents are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material. The district encourages parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the campus principal and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their student.

A parent who wants access to the school's library or any available online catalog should submit a request to the principal.

The district welcomes student and parent feedback on library materials and services. Parents may contact the campus principal. A district employee or parent may request the reconsideration of a library material by contacting campus principal or another administrator or by submitting a reconsideration of library material request on a form available in the District's website and in the District's administrative office.

[For more information, see EFB(LOCA)].

Meetings of Noncurriculum-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)

The district periodically takes students on field trips for educational purposes.

A parent must provide permission for a student to participate in a field trip.

The district may ask the parent to provide information about a student's medical provider and insurance coverage, and may also ask the parent to sign a waiver allowing for emergency medical treatment in the case of a student accident or illness during the field trip.

The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip or cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need. The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

SEARCHES AND INVESTIGATIONS

District Property (All Grade Levels)

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

Students are responsible for any item - found in district property provided to the student - that is prohibited by law, district policy, or the Student Code of Conduct.

Searches in General (All Grade Levels)

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 and investigations.

District officials may conduct investigations in accordance with law and district policy and may question students regarding a student's own conduct or the conduct of others. [For questioning of students by law enforcement officials, see **Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels** page 69).]

District officials may conduct searches of students, their belongings, and their vehicles in accordance with law and district policy. Searches of students will be conducted without discrimination, based on, for example, reasonable suspicion, voluntary consent, or pursuant to district policy providing for suspicion security procedures, including the use of metal detectors.

In accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, students are responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, including items in their personal belongings or in vehicles parked on district property.

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that searching a student's person, belongings, or vehicle will reveal evidence of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a district official may conduct a search in accordance with law and district regulations.

Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student will be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district will contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the district may contact law enforcement officials and turn the matter over to them. The district may contact law enforcement even if permission to search is granted.

Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)

The district will use trained dogs to screen for concealed, prohibited items, including drugs and alcohol. Screenings conducted by trained dogs will not be announced in advance. The dogs will not be used with students, but students may be asked to leave personal belongings in an area that is going to be screened such as a classroom, a locker, or a vehicle. If a dog alerts to an item or an area, it may be searched by district officials.

Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)

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

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

[See policy FNF(LEGAL) and **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources** on page 50 for more information.]

METAL DETECTORS (All Grade Levels)

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

DRUG - TESTING (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

[See **Steroids** on page 92]

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 43.]

SPECIAL PROGRAMS (All Grade Levels)

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, students who are homeless, students in foster care, bilingual students, and migrant students, emergent bilingual students, students diagnosed with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact campus principal.

A student who has or is at risk for dyslexia or a related reading difficulty is eligible to participate in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's [Talking Book Program](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html) (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html>), which provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans with visual, physical, or reading disabilities.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

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

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

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

TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment

Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take a standardized test called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment. The TSI assesses the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that first-year students need to perform effectively as undergraduates in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual-credit course offered through the district as well. Achieving

certain benchmark scores on this assessment for college readiness may also waive certain end-of-course assessment requirements in limited circumstances.

Required State Assessments

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Grades 3–8

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels are required to take the state assessment, called STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–8
- Reading, annually in grades 3–8
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Exceptions may apply for students enrolled in a special education program if the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee concludes the student has made sufficient progress in the student's individual education plan (IEP).

[See **Promotion and Retention** on page 79 for additional information.]

Standardized Testing for a Student Enrolled above Grade Level

If a student in grades 3–8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his or her current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state-mandated assessment only in which he or she is enrolled unless otherwise required to do so by federal law.

A student in grade 3–8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science prior to high school.

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

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

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

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

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

Requesting Administration of STAAR/EOC in Paper Format (All Grade Levels)

STAAR and EOC assessments are administered electronically.

A parent or teacher may request that a STAAR or EOC be administered to a student in paper format. The district may grant this request for any single administration for up to three percent of the number of students enrolled in the district. Requests will be granted in the order in which they are received.

Requests for paper format for a fall administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than September 15 each school year.

Requests for paper format for a spring administration of a STAAR or EOC must be submitted no later than December 1 each school year.

Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs

Certain students — some with disabilities and some classified as emergent bilingual students — may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing.

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

An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee for a student in grades 9-12 receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student's personal graduation plan (PGP). **[See Graduation on page 56.]** STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

Failure to Perform Satisfactory on a STAAR or EOC Assessment

If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in any subject, the district will provide accelerated instruction for the student in the next school year through one of the following:

- Assigning the student to a teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher if one is available in the grade and subject matter of the state assessment on which the student did not perform satisfactorily, or
- Providing supplemental instruction.

A student may be required to attend any assigned supplemental instruction program before or after school or during the summer.

When a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a required state assessment in the same subject area for two or more years, the district shall develop an accelerated education plan. Parents are encouraged to participate in developing this plan.

STEROIDS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

STUDENT SPEAKERS (All Grade Levels)

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce school events: [See policy FNA(LOCAL) at INTRODUCTORY SPEAKERS.] If a student meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above, the student should submit his or her name in accordance with policy FNA(LOCAL).

[See policy FNA (LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities and **Graduation** on page 56 for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies.]

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school may be applicable or necessary for your student if they failed a class. Special summer programs are also available for limited English proficient students in grades K-1. For more information on summer programs, contact the campus principal.

TARDIES (All Grade Levels)

[See the campus principal for the campus level tardy policy.]

TEXTBOOKS, ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER INSTRUCTION MATERIALS (All Grade Levels)

Instructional materials are any resources used in classroom instruction as part of the required curriculum, such as textbooks, workbooks, computer software, or online services.

The district selects instructional materials in accordance with state law and policy EFA.

The district provides approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat instructional materials with care as directed by the teacher.

If the district does not issue graphing calculators for a course requiring their use, a student may use a calculator application with the same functionality as a graphing calculator on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device in place of a graphing calculator.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student failing to return an item in acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage paid for by the parent; however, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

For information on library books and other resources students may access voluntarily, see **Library (All Grade Levels)** on page 86.

TRANSFERS (All Grade Levels)

The Principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments**, on page 11, **Bullying**, on page 26 and **Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504**, on page 13, for other transfer options.]

TRANSPORTATION (All Grade Levels)

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, a coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity may establish procedures related to making an exception to this requirement when a parent request that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent.

[See **School-sponsored Field Trips** on page 87 for more information.]

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school and any students who are homeless. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually, and any subsequent changes will be posted at the school. For safety of the operator of the vehicle and all passengers, students must board busses or other vehicles only at the authorized stops, and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

The district has identified the following areas where hazardous conditions exist for students who live within two miles from the campus.

- All areas within two miles north from Bovina ISD would require students to cross US Highway 60, which is a four lane, heavily traveled roadway and to cross BNSF rail tracks.

Because students in these areas might encounter hazardous conditions when traveling to and from school independently, the district will provide transportation to these students. Please contact the Director of Transportation at 806-251-1336 x 235 for additional information.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact the Director of Transportation at 806-251-1336.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses and other district vehicles remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, including buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle, or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.
- Follow any other rules established by the operator of the vehicle.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; the privilege to ride in a district vehicle, including a school bus, may be suspended or revoked.

VANDALISM (All Grade Levels)

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

VIDEO CAMERAS (All Grade Levels)

For safety purposes, video and audio recording equipment is used to monitor student behavior, including on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video and audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board; may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain self-contained special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which your child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, contact the principal or superintendent, who the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See EHBAF(LOCAL) for more information.

For video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms, see **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on page 6.]

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)

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:

- Request entry to the school at the primary entrance unless otherwise directed by a district employee
- Report to the main office.
- Be prepared to show identification.
- Exit the school at the primary entrance and leave all exterior doors closed, latched, and locked unless actively monitored by a district employee.
- Comply with all applicable district policies and procedures.

If requested by a district employee, a visitor must provide identification such as a driver's license, other picture identification issued by a government entity, or employee or student identification issued by the district. A person who refuses to provide identification and who reasonably appears to have no legitimate reason to be on district property may be ejected from district property.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. Even if the visit is approved prior to the visitor's arrival, the individual must check in at the main office first.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior or violations of student privacy will not be permitted.

[For video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms, see **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on Page 6.]

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and either of the following applies:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person;
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and the person persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL).

[See also Student Code of Conduct.]

Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

Business, Civic, and Youth Groups

The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

Career Day

On Bovina ISD for any special program related to postsecondary opportunities, the district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

VOLUNTEERS (All Grade Levels)

We appreciate so much the efforts of parent and grandparent volunteers that are willing to serve our district and students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact campus principal for more information and to complete an application.

Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, the district requires a state criminal history background check for each volunteer including parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district. The volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

VOTER REGISTRATION (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL (All Grade Levels)

When a student under age 18 withdraws from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal, specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal's office.

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

Please provide the school at least three days' notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.

Glossary

Accelerated instruction, including supplemental instruction, is an intensive educational program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment. Accelerated instruction may be provided by assigning a student to a classroom teacher who is certified as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher or by providing supplemental instruction in addition to regular instruction.

ACT – Aspire refers to an assessment that took the place of ACT-Plan and is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

ACT, or the American College Test, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the American College Test. The test may be a requirement for admission to certain colleges or universities.

ARD is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and his or her parent's members of the committee.

Attendance review committee is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.

CPS stands for Child Protective Services

DAEP stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

DFPS is the Texas Department of Family Protective Services.

DPS stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Emergent bilingual student refers to a student of limited English proficiency. Other related terms include English learner, English language learner, and limited English proficient student.

EOC (end of course) assessments are end-of-course tests, which are state-mandated, and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments will be required for graduation beginning with students in grade 9 during the 2011–2012 school year. These examinations will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and United States History.

ESSA is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

FERPA refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for directory information, unless a student's parent or a student 18 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

IEP is the written record of the individualized education program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts, such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or

support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; accommodations for state or district wide tests; whether successful completion of state-mandated assessments is required for graduation, etc.

IGC – is the individual gradation committee formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

ISS refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the Student Code of Conduct. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

PGP stands for Personal Graduation Plan, which is required for high school students and for any student in middle school who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after he or she begins grade 9.

PSAT – is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT. It also serves as the basis for awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

Safe and Supportive School Team is a team established at each campus that is responsible for conducting a threat assessment regarding individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit harmful, threatening, or violent behavior and determining appropriate intervention, and providing guidance to students and school employees on recognizing harmful, threatening, or violent behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual.

SAT refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test may be a requirement for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

SHAC stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to assist the district in ensuring that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, along with providing assistance with other student and employee wellness issues.

Section 504 is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

STAAR is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments.

STAAR Alternate 2 is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR Spanish is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

State-mandated assessments are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and passing the exit-

level TAKS or STAAR EOC assessments, when applicable, is a condition of graduation. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests if necessary for promotion or graduation.

Student Code of Conduct is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

TAC stands for Texas Administrative Code.

TEA stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

TELPAS stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that emergent bilingual students make in learning the English language and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten–grade 12.

TSI – Assessment – is the Texas Success Initiative assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

TXVSN is the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors, and courses are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

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

APPENDIX I

Freedom from Bully Policy

Note that school board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit www.bovinaisd.org to policy code FFI. Below is the text of Bovina ISD's policy FFI (LOCAL) as of the date this handbook was finalized for this school year.

STUDENT WELFARE: FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

ADOPTED ON 2/20/2012

SEE ATTACHED FFI LOCAL POLICY AT THE END OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK:

APPENDIX II:

Parent Statement Prohibiting Corporal Punishment

A parent has the responsibility of submitting a signed statement to the principal each year if he or she chooses to prohibit the use of corporal punishment with his or her child. A parent may reinstate permission to use corporal punishment at any time during the school year by submitting a signed statement to the principal. Corporal punishment will be administered in accordance with the law, district policy, and the Student Code of Conduct (SCOC). [See FO and the SCOC]

Corporal punishment will be administered as soon as possible after an offense and will not be administered in anger. The principal or a designee may choose not to use corporal punishment even if the parent has requested its use. Any use of corporal punishment will be documented on a district form. The principal or a designee will inform the parent when corporal punishment is used. Paddles used for administering corporal punishment will not be generally displayed and will be under the control of the principal or designee. Corporal punishment will be limited to spanking or paddling and will consist of an appropriate number of strikes based upon the size, age, and the physical, mental, and emotional condition of the student. Before corporal punishment is used, the district may give the student a choice between other disciplinary measures and corporal punishment.

Parent Statement Prohibiting Corporal Punishment:

I have read the information on the use of corporal punishment in Bovina ISD and I prohibit the use of corporal punishment with my child.

This form must be submitted annually and can be revoked by the parent at any time.

Name of parent or guardian: _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Date: _____

Name of student: _____

Campus: _____

Grade: _____

APPENDIX III:
Acknowledgment Form—Amendment

My child and I have received a copy of the Bovina ISD Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for 2024-2025. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. If I have any questions regarding this handbook or the Code, I should direct those questions to the campus principal at 806-251-1336.

**The Bovina Student Handbook & the Student Code of Conduct may be found
electronically at www.bovinaisd.org**

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 your child’s school.”

APPENDIX IV:

Release Form for Display of Student Work and Personal Information

Occasionally, the Bovina ISD wishes to display or publish original student work, which may include personally identifiable student information as defined in the Student Handbook, to promote student academic and extracurricular activities on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district, such as campus or classroom Web site, and in district publications.

Original student work includes, artwork, projects, photos taken by the student or other academic or creative work. This district may also wish to publish or display original video or voice recordings.

The district agrees to use these student works and information only in the manner described above.

Parent: Please circle one of the choices below and check the applicable boxes:

I, parent of _____ (student's name), (**do give**) (**do not give**) my permission for the following to be displayed or published by the district:

- ☐ Original student work
- ☐ Voice recordings
- ☐ Video recordings

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

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

State and federal law require the District to notify parents that you may object to the release of certain information about your child.

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 Bovina ISD to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing within 10 school days of your child's first day of instruction for the school year.

This means that the district must give certain personal information (called "directory information") about your child to any person who requests it, unless you have told the district in writing not to do so. 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.

Bovina ISD has designated the following information as directory information:

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

Parent: Please circle one of the choices below:

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

Parent signature _____ Date _____

EXCEPTIONS

For limited school-sponsored purposes (student recognition activities, yearbook or student newspaper, printed programs for extracurricular activities, news releases to local media), the District has my permission to release the following information.

Parent: Please mark through the items you do not want released.

1. **Name**
2. **Address**
3. **Telephone listing**
4. **Date and place of birth**
5. **Participation in officially recognized activities and sports**
6. **Weight and height of members of athletic teams**
7. **Dates of attendance**
8. **Grade level**
9. **Enrollment status**
10. **Honors and awards received in school**
11. **Most recent previous school attended**

Print name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____

Signature of parent: _____

Date: _____

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

Federal law requires that the district release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, the name, address, and phone number of secondary school students enrolled in the district, unless the parent or eligible student directs the district not to release information to these types of requestors without prior written consent. See **Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education** on page 20 for more information.

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

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

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Consent/Opt-Out Form

Dear Parent:

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

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom the student has a close family relationship;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

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

Following are activities requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out for the 2023-2024 school year. Please note that this notice and authority to consent transfer from the parent to the student when the student reaches 18 or is an emancipated minor under state law.

Surveys concerning private information, Marketing activities, Student-Based Commercial Services, and Opt-out for non-emergency physical exam or screening

To opt out: Please sign below if you do not permit your child to participate in these surveys.

Student's Name

Date

Parent's signature

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information survey, please submit a request to Bovina ISD, PO Box 70 Bovina, TX 79009. Principal will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to your child.