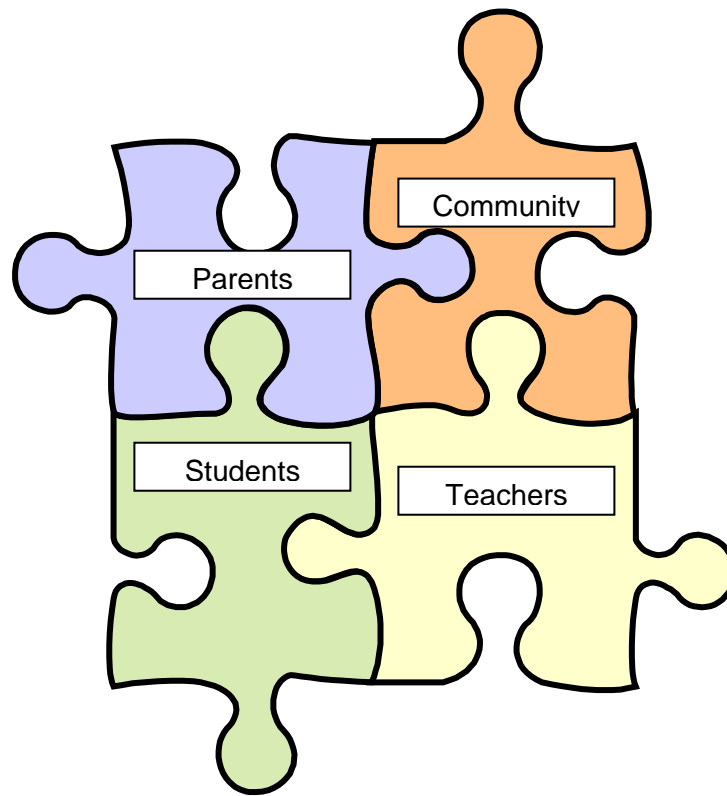


# TEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Parent and Student Handbook 2011-12



*" Each one is unique, but together we grow. "*

The Teague Elementary School Parent and Student Handbook 2011-12 can be located on the Teague ISD website:

[www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org) (schools)

**2011-12 Teague Elementary Parent and Student Handbook**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dear Student and Parent:

We urge you to read this publication thoroughly and to discuss it with your family. If you have any questions, we encourage you to ask for an explanation from the student's teacher or campus administrator.

**The student and parent MUST sign this page in the space provided below, and then return the signed page to the principal's office. Thank you.**

Carol Ann Dawley, Principal

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**DISTRIBUTION** – The TES Parent and Student Handbook shall be made available on the District's website at the beginning of the school year to students, parents, teachers, administrators and other interested parties. Hard (paper) copies shall be provided upon request.

We acknowledge that we understand that students and parents will be held accountable under the requirements outlined in the Parent and Student Handbook and TISD Board Policies.

Print name of student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

**Signature of student:** \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of parent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

**Signature of parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and sign this page: then return it to the principal's office* A copy of the Parent and Student Handbook can be found on the TISD website: [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org).

A paper copy of the Parent & Student Handbook may be requested at any time from the campus office. See reverse side of this page for optional request.

## Optional

I request a hard (paper) copy of the 2011-12 Teague Elementary Parent and Student Handbook.

Printed Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

-----

For Campus Office Use Only

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition of document request: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Teague Elementary School**

# **Parent and Student Handbook**

## **2011-12**

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## PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2011-12! 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 Teague Elementary Parent and Student Handbook is designed to provide a resource for some of the basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. In an effort to make it easier to use, the handbook is divided into two sections:

**Section I—PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**—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 for quick access when searching for information on a specific issue.

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

Both students and parents should become familiar with the Teague ISD *Student Code of Conduct*, which is a document adopted by the board and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The *Student Code of Conduct* may be found as a separate document along with this handbook on the Teague ISD website a [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org).

The student handbook is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the *Student Code of Conduct*. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy or other rules that affect student handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters and other communications.

In case of conflict between board policy or the *Student Code of Conduct* and any provisions of the student handbook, the provisions of board policy or the *Student Code of Conduct* that were most recently adopted by the board are to be followed.

After reading through the entire handbook with your child, keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact the principal, Carol Ann Dawley, at 739-2611.

**Also, please complete and return to your child’s campus the following required forms included in the folder you receive at the beginning of the year or upon registration:**

1. Parental Acknowledgment Form;
2. Student Directory Information Form and Release of Student Information Form
3. Consent/Opt-Out Forms.

[See **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights** on page 2 and **Directory Information** on page 8 for more information.]

Please note that references to policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current board policy. A copy of the district’s policy manual is available for review in the school office or online at the TISD website: [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org).

**TEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PERSONNEL  
2011-12**

**PRINCIPAL:** Carol Ann Dawley

**COORDINATOR OF INTERVENTION SERVICES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS:** Patti Gauntt

**SECRETARY:** Anna Pruett

**COUNSELOR:** Teri Knight

**NURSE:** Kella Redic

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN:** Kathy Steed, Beverley Jones

**KINDERGARTEN:** Terri Collins, Leslie Pickett, Angie Rogers, Leslie Sims, Kristin Skinner, Monette White

**GRADE ONE:** Gayle Burleson, Debbie Dillon, Christi Hill, Kathy Hull, Mary Lee, Theresa Minchew, Kim White

**GRADE TWO:** Michele Gonzales, Daina Hayworth, Allyson Holmes, Julie Paris, Stephanie Teer, Janet Watson, April Welch

**GRADE THREE:** Hillary Chandler, Colinda Greer, Crista Payne, Jan Perales, Bernie Posey, Andrea Turner

**READING INTERVENTION TEACHER:** Felecia Williams

**MATH INTERVENTION TEACHER:** Keitha Whitaker

**FINE ARTS:** Joclyn Ewers

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Christi Meggs

**SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE:** Janet Remmers

**EARLY CHILDHOOD:** Beverley Jones

**LIFE SKILLS:** Linda Ponder

**ESL:** Janet Watkins

**SPEECH THERAPY:** Lana Satterwhite

**TEACHER AIDES:**

**COMPUTER LABS:** Jaclyn Weeks, Jeri Gore

**SP. ED.** Barbara Persons

**LIBRARIAN AIDE:** Leah Stansbury

**SP. ED.** Perla Zamora

**KINDERGARTEN** Carolyn Nanny

**ESL** Magda Cuevas

**FIRST GRADE** Felicia Hancock

**TRANS. FIRST GRADE** Alma Brooks

**SECOND GRADE** Sharon Henderson

**PE** Stacy Gomez

**THIRD GRADE** Nancy Petty

**PRE-K** Tanya Tarbala

**SP. ED** Amy Hearn

**SP. ED.** Dianne Horton

**READ RIGHT** Denise Guerrero

**SP. ED.** Delores Gilbert

## **SECTION I: PARENTAL RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

### ***PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT***

#### **Working Together**

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

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child attends school in accordance with state attendance laws and arrives at and departs school on time.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed.
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 739-2611 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 33.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policies at GKG and contact Carol Ann Dawley at 739-2611.]
- Participating in the campus parent organizations - Teague Elementary PTO.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees, assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact Carol Ann Dawley at 739-2611.
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council, assisting the district in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction. [See policies at BDF, EHAA, FFA, and information in this handbook at **School Health Advisory Council** on page 26.]

- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]

### **Parent Involvement Coordinator**

The Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is Terri Knight and may be contacted at 739-2611.

## ***PARENTAL RIGHTS***

### **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights**

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

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

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

### **“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities**

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

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions

are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

### **Inspecting Surveys**

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

### **Displaying of a Student's Artwork and Projects**

Teachers may display students' work 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, and the like on the district's Web site, in printed material, by video, or by any other method of mass communications.

### **Requesting Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Staff**

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

### **Reviewing Instructional Materials**

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

### **Accessing Student Records**

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

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and counselor evaluations,

- Reports of behavioral patterns, and
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

[See **Student Records** on page 7.]

### **Granting Permission to Video or Audio Record a Student**

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

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

### **Removing a Student Temporarily from the Classroom**

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

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

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 32 and policy EC(LEGAL).]

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

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

### **Requesting Limited or No Contact with a Student through Electronic Media**

Teachers and other approved employees are permitted by the district to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual's

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

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

If you prefer that your child not receive any one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee, please submit a written request to the campus principal stating this preference.

### **Requesting Notices of Certain Student Misconduct**

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

### **School Safety Transfers**

As a parent, you have a right:

- To request the transfer of your child to another classroom or campus if your child has been determined by the school board or its designee to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the superintendent or designee for information. [See policy FDB.] [See *Bullying* on page 13 and policy FFI (Local)]
- To request the transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the district if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds. [See policy FDD(LOCAL).]
- To request the transfer of your child to another campus or a neighboring district if your child has been the victim of a sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether that assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for that assault. [See policies FDD(LEGAL) and (LOCAL).]

### **Requesting Classroom Assignment for Multiple Birth Siblings**

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

## **Parents of Students with Disabilities**

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

## **Request for the Use of a Service Animal**

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

## **Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education**

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students including a process based on Response to Intervention. The implementation of Response to Intervention has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of school districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the district must decide if the evaluation is needed. If the evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide informed written consent for the evaluation. The district must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the district receives the written consent. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with prior written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parents of their if the parent disagree with the district. The district is required to give parents the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards—Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*. Additional information regarding the IDEA is available from the school district in a companion document *A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

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

*Texas Project First*

*Partners Resource Network*

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is Carol Ann Dawley at 739-2611.

## **Parents of 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 accommodation or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

## **Accommodations for Children of Military Families**

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

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

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent related to leave or deployment activities may be excused by the district. The district will permit no more than 5 excused absences per year for this purpose.

Additional information may be found at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/mil/>.

## **Student Records**

Both federal and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents 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 requesting information.

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

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless the school is given a copy of a court order terminating parental rights or the right to access a student's education records.
- District school officials who have what federal law refers to as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student's records. School officials would include trustees and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals; teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff; a person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a particular service or function (such as attorney, consultant, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or volunteer); a parent or student serving on a school committee; or a parent or student assisting a school official in the performance of his or her duties. “Legitimate educational interest” in a student's records includes working with the student; considering

disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, or an individualized education program for a student with disabilities; compiling statistical data; reviewing an educational record to fulfill the official's professional responsibility; or investigating or evaluating programs.

- Various governmental agencies.
- Individuals granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school or institution of postsecondary education to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which he or she subsequently enrolls.

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

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

Records may be inspected by a parent during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. The address of the superintendent's office is 420 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Teague, TX 75860.

The address of the principal's offices is:

400 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Teague, Texas 75860

A parent may inspect the student's records and request a correction 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 superintendent. 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 is handled through the general complaint process found in policy FNG(LOCAL). A grade issued by a classroom teacher can be changed only if, as determined by the board of trustees, the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or inconsistent with the district's grading policy. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 33 and **Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns** on page 15 for an overview of the process.]

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

The district's policy regarding student records found at FL(LOCAL) is available from the principal's or superintendent's office or on the Teague ISD website at [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org).

The parent's 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 of student.

**Please note:**

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the district is not in compliance with federal law regarding school records. The complaint may be mailed to:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5901

**Directory Information**

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

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

**Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes**

The district often needs to use student information for school-sponsored purposes. For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the district would like to use your child's student information. This information will not be released to the public without the consent of the parent or eligible student. Unless you object to the use of your child's information for these school purposes, the school will not need to ask your permission each time the district wishes to use this information for the school-sponsored purposes.

## **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 conveniently organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact Carol Ann Dawley, principal at 739-2611.

### ***ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE***

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

#### **Compulsory Attendance**

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

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

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

#### **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance**

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

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearance;
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;

- Documented health-care appointments, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student's return to campus.

### **Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance**

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction (termed "accelerated instruction" by the state) assigned by a grade placement committee and basic skills for ninth graders; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student:

- Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

### **Attendance for Credit**

To receive credit in a grade, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the grade level is offered may receive credit for the grade 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 who attends fewer than 75 percent of the days the grade is offered or has not completed a plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit, if appropriate. [See policies at FEC]

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

- All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, absences for the reasons listed above at **Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance** will be considered days of attendance for this purpose. [See policies at FEB.]
- A transfer or migrant student begins to accumulate absences only after he or she has enrolled in the district.
- In reaching a decision about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.

- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the grade level.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

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

### **Attendance Probation**

Students may be placed on *Attendance Probation* by the Attendance Committee due to excessive absences during the previous school year. The term *excessive absences* is defined as being in attendance less than 90% of the school year. Parents of these students will be required to call the school office by 8:30 a.m. to report the reason for the student's absence; document the absence in a note sent to school with the student the day he/she returns to school; and provide a doctor's note if the student has been out more than one day due to illness.

### **Parent's Note After an Absence**

When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note, signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. The note must be received within 3 school days following the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted.

### **Doctor's Note (After an Absence for Illness)**

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than three 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.

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. [See policy FEC (LOCAL)]

### **Arrival and Departure**

The safety of all children is of utmost importance. Therefore, parents should abide by the following rules regarding students' arrival and departure.

The doors are unlocked at 7:30 a.m. each morning and personnel are on duty at that time. Parents should not drop off students before that time. Students should report to the cafeteria if eating breakfast, and if not, they should report to their respective hallway.

School dismisses at 3:00 p.m. and personnel are on duty until 3:15 p.m. each day. **No students will be released through the office after 2:45 p.m. each day. Parents should not go directly to the classroom to pick up their child.** Instruction continues until 3:00 each day, and students leaving early are missing learning opportunities and chance not meeting academic objectives for the year. If it is necessary to pick up a student early due to a doctor's appointment, please check them out in the office before 2:45 p.m.

## **Tardiness**

It is the responsibility of the parent to see that students arrive on time to school. The tardy bell rings at 8:05 a.m. and students should be in their seats by this time. Parents of a student who is tardy more than three times in a six weeks period, will be required to meet with the principal to try to resolve the problem. Chronic or excessive tardy problems may be referred to the proper authorities.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Honor Roll awards are presented at the end of each six weeks for students in Grades 1-3, with the exception that First Graders can qualify starting the Second Six Weeks. In order to make the "A" Honor Roll, a student must have an A average in all the core subjects (Reading, Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies). To make the "A-B" Honor Roll a student must make no more than 2 B's and the rest A's in the core subjects.

An awards program is held at the end of each year to honor those students with perfect attendance, those who have made the "A" Honor Roll all year, and those who have had excellent conduct. In addition, students may receive awards in the Accelerated Reader program and UIL competitions, as well as classroom awards.

## **BULLYING**

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expressions or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the student or the student's property, places a student in fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.

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

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or another district employee. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and will take appropriate disciplinary action if an investigation indicates that bullying has occurred.

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, which may be accessed at FFH Local. As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental,

emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

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

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

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

<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention and Early Intervention/Programs Available In Your County/default.asp>

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

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

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

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

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml>

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml>

Reports may be made to:

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

## **COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS**

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

the principal's or superintendent's office or on the district's website at [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org).

In general, the student or parent should submit a written complaint and request a conference with the campus principal. If the concern is not resolved, a request for a conference should be sent to the superintendent. If still unresolved, the district provides for the complaint to be presented to the board of trustees.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Communication between school and home will primarily be done through notices sent home with the student in their take-home folder. Parents should check their child's folder on a daily basis for notices from the office or notes from the teacher. In addition, quarterly newsletters are sent home from the principal and from the counselor. Notices are also placed on the Teague ISD website: [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org). Upon accessing the website, click on the "Elementary" button on the left side of the screen for information specific to Teague Elementary. There will be posted a calendar of activities for the month, as well as important announcements, documents, and forms.

Important information is also posted on the sign in front of the school. As a parent, you may also request to be a friend on the Teague Elementary Facebook page. This is a fan page, which means the school will post important information and announcements, and you may access it. However, you do not have the capability to respond, ask questions, etc.

Please feel free to call the school office at any time for further questions or information. The number of the school is 254-739-2611.

## **CONDUCT**

### **Applicability of School Rules**

As required by law, the board has adopted a *Student Code of Conduct* that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus—and consequences for violation of these standards. The district has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the *Student Code of Conduct*, as well as campus and classroom rules. The *Student Code of Conduct* is available on the Teague ISD website [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org) at the beginning of the school year for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other interested parties. Hard (paper) copies will be provided upon request. [See the *Acknowledgement Form* in the forms folder sent home with your child at the beginning of the year or upon registration.]

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all students, the *Student Code of Conduct* and other campus rules will apply whenever the interest of the district is involved, whether on or off school grounds, in conjunction with classes and school-sponsored activities.

### **Corporal Punishment**

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

## **Disruptions of School Operations**

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

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

## **Pocket Knives**

Knives of any kind or size, including pocket knives, are prohibited on the Teague Elementary campus.

## **Toys**

Students are not permitted to possess toys, athletic equipment, or games at school. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the principal for special occasions. Teachers will collect these items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return these items at the end of the day. For chronic offenders, items may be held to the end of the school year.

## ***ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES***

### **Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Games**

Students are not permitted to possess such items as cell phones, pagers, radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, electronic devices or games at school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal or designee. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct* and may include confiscation of the device until the end of the current school year. [See policy FNCE.]

### **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes. 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 (located in the forms section of the enrollment folder) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and their parents should be aware that e-mail sent or received using district owned computers is not private and will be monitored by district staff. [For additional information, see policies at CQ.]

### **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

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

## ***CONTAGIOUS DISEASES / CONDITIONS***

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

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

As a general rule, students who have fever may not return to school until they have been free of fever for 24 hours.

## ***COUNSELING***

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. A student may be referred to the counselor by a teacher, other school employee, or parent. A student may also make a personal request. Contact Terri Knight, counselor, at 739-2611.

## **Psychological Exams, Tests, or Treatment**

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

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

## ***DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION***

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

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

### **Discrimination**

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

### **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. A copy of the district's policy is available in the superintendent's office and on the district website at [www.teagueisd.org](http://www.teagueisd.org).

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 or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes, or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee, volunteer, or another student is prohibited. Examples of prohibited 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 conversation of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

### **Retaliation**

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

Retaliation of a student might occur when a student receives threats from another student or an employee or when an employee imposes an unjustified punishment or unwarranted grade reduction. Retaliation does not include petty slights and annoyances from other student or negative comments from a teacher that are justified by a student's poor academic performance in the classroom.

### **Reporting Procedures**

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

### **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 discrimination, harassment,

and retaliation, will be promptly investigated. The district will notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct by an adult associated with the district.

In the event prohibited conduct involves another student, the district will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by policy.

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

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

## ***DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS***

### **School Materials**

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

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

[See **Directory Information for School-Sponsored Purposes** on page 9.]

### **Non-school Materials...from students**

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

The principal has designated the front lobby as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing by students. [See policies at FNAA.]

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

### **Non-school Materials...from others**

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any district premises by any district employee or by persons or groups not associated with the district, except as permitted by policies at GKDA. To be considered for distribution, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy,

include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the 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, FNG, or GF.]

Prior review will not be required for:

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

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

## ***DRESS AND GROOMING***

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

- Girls and boys will be permitted to wear shorts to school but they must be as long as the middle fingertip when the arm is extended at the side of the body.
- The midriff should be covered even when arms are extended over the head. Shirts should cover the torso and shoulders. (i.e. no spaghetti straps or halter tops.)
- Girls' dresses must be at least "fingertip" in length (see #1 above). Shorts must be worn under dresses for PE classes.
- NO FLIP FLOPS should be worn to school at any time. Shoes or sandals of a good and reasonable type must be worn during regular school activities.
- Roller-shoes and shoes with cleats will not be permitted.
- Tennis shoes are required for P.E.
- Clothing which desecrates the flag of the United States or contains obscene or disruptive symbols and/or language may not be worn for any school activity.
- Clothing which exhibits gang signs/symbols may not be worn for any school activity.
- Boys' hair must be clean, neat, off the shoulders and out of the eyes.
- Boys' and girls' hair should be a natural hair color and styles should not be distracting or extreme.

- Boys will not wear earrings.
- Neatness and cleanliness will be insisted upon at all times.
- Caps will not be worn indoors.

## ***EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS***

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

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 inter-district competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

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

## ***FEES***

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Voluntarily purchased class shirts.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures or yearbooks.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books or textbooks.
- A fee not to exceed \$50 for costs of providing an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit because of absences and whose parent chooses the program in order for the student to meet the 90 percent

attendance requirement. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.

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

## ***FOOD SERVICES***

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily. Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. See the forms section of the enrollment folder for an application form. The district follows the federal and state guidelines regarding foods of minimal nutritional value being served or sold on school premises during the school day. (For more information, see policy CO(LEGAL)).

### Breakfast

Serving times are 7:30-7:55 a.m. Students arriving after 7:55 a.m. will not be served unless they were riding a bus that was delayed.

Cost: Student Breakfast - \$1.00, Student Reduced Breakfast - \$.30, Adult Breakfast - \$1.00

### Lunch

Cost: Student Lunch - \$1.25, Student Reduced Lunch - \$.40, Adult Lunch - \$3.00

Student Milk - \$.35, Adult Milk - \$.35

Students with numerous charges may be served an alternate meal until the charges have been paid. Students bringing their lunches to school are required to eat in the cafeteria along with their regular classes. **Parents are encouraged to come and have lunch with their children. Parents may bring in a lunch for their own child, but may not bring lunches for other children, per the National School Lunch Program.** Tables are available for parents to sit with their children individually. Other students should not join them.

Parents who wish to bring a special snack for a child's class to celebrate a birthday should first check with the child's teacher to set up the best time.

## **FUND-RAISING**

Students, faculty, and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school or charitable purposes only. An application for permission must be made to the principal at least 30 days before the event. [For further information, see policies at FJ and GE.]

## **GANG-FREE ZONES**

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

## **GRADING GUIDELINES**

In grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, achievement is reported to parents as a list of skills that are mastered. In grades 1-3, achievement is reported to parents in numerical or letter grades on a report card. Progress reports are provided at 3 weeks for all students who are failing. Six weeks reports are sent home with all students. (See *Promotion and Retention, p. 30*)

## **Students with Disabilities**

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal committee, a student with disabilities may be promoted under the provisions of his or her individualized education program (IEP).

## **HARASSMENT**

[see **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 18-19]

## **HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS**

### **Bacterial Meningitis**

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

- What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious, long-term complications. It is an

uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

- What are the symptoms?

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

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

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

- How serious is bacterial meningitis?

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

- How is bacterial meningitis spread?

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

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

- How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

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

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

- What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

- Where can you get more information?

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Department of State Health Services office to ask about a meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the Web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>.

### **Physical Activity for Students in Elementary and Middle School**

In accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, and local policy, the district will ensure that students in kindergarten 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

### **School Health Advisory Council**

During the preceding school year, the district's School Health Advisory Council held 1 meeting. Additional information regarding the district's School Health Advisory Council is available from Bryan Clemmons, at 739-3071 [See also policies at BDF and EHAA.]

The duties of the SHAC range from recommending curriculum to developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing school health service, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, and employee wellness. [See policies at BDF and EHAA]

### **Other Health-Related Matters**

#### **Physical Fitness Assessment**

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grade 3. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to the principal to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

#### **Vending Machines**

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

#### **Tobacco Prohibited**

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

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the Director of Maintenance office. If you have any questions, please contact 739-5222.

### **Pest Management Plan**

The district applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact the Director of Maintenance at 739-5222.

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS**

For more information on services for homeless students, contact the district's Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, Bryan Clemmons at 739-3071.

### **HOMEWORK**

Students can expect to have homework nightly, Monday through Thursday.

### **IMMUNIZATION**

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

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

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

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

### **Questioning of Students**

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

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

### **Students Taken Into Custody**

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

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

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

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

### **Notification of Law Violations**

The district is required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or was adjudicated for delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

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

## ***LIBRARY***

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazine, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for independent student use from 8:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m. with a teacher permit.

## ***LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS***

A student with limited English proficiency (LEP) 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 a LEP student.

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-L, as mentioned at Standardized Testing, below, may be administered to a LEP student. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to LEP students who qualify for services.

If a student is considered LEP and receives special education services because of a qualifying disability, the student's ARD committee will make these decisions.

## ***MAKEUP WORK***

### **Makeup Work Because of Absence**

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).] Generally, students are allowed a day to make-up work for each day of absence. (i.e. 3 days absence = 3 days to make-up the work after returning to school.) Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the principal.

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

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

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

## **MEDICINE AT SCHOOL**

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

- Only authorized employees, in accordance with policies at FFAC, may administer:
  - Prescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent, along with a written request.
  - Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container.
  - Nonprescription medication, in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
  - Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.
- In certain emergency situations, the district will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only:
  - In accordance with the guidelines developed with the district's medical advisor; and
  - When the parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the district's form.

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school or school-related events only if he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician

or other licensed health-care provider. The student must also demonstrate to his or her physician or health-care provider and to the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

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

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

### **Psychotropic Drugs**

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

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

## ***NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT***

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Teague ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following district representatives have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender: Ned Burns, Superintendent, 420 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Teague, Tx. 254-739-3071.
- ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Ned Burns, Superintendent, 420 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Teague, Tx. 254-739-3071.

- All other concerns regarding discrimination: Ned Burns, Superintendent, 420 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Teague, Tx. 254-739-3071.

### ***PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / HEALTH SCREENINGS***

Periodic health screenings will be conducted to include, but not limited to, sight, hearing, and head lice.

### ***PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE***

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

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

### ***PRAYER***

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

### ***PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM***

Teague ISD offers a half-day pre-kindergarten program for eligible students. To be eligible for enrollment in Pre-K, a child must be 4 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year and must meet at least one of the following criteria:

To be eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class, a child must be at least three years of age and:

- is unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or
- is educationally disadvantaged (as determined by the guidelines of the federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program); or
- is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1143a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child; or
- is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or

- is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
- is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code.
- Is eligible to attend based on the special education testing process for the district. In addition, a three year-old child who is ineligible for Pre-K based on the above criteria, but who is eligible as a student with a disability according to TEA eligibility criteria, may be eligible for the Pre-K program if the ARD committee recommends Pre-K placement.

### ***PROMOTION AND RETENTION***

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the grade level. To earn credit in a grade, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on grade-level standards.

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, students must attain an average of 70 in both reading and math. They must also attain an average of 70 when all core subjects are averaged together: reading, math, language arts (spelling, English, writing), science, and social studies. In addition, other data may be considered such as STAAR scores in Reading and Math (third grade only), achievement test scores, Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI) end-of-year benchmark scores, STAR reading levels, AIMSweb end-of-year math and reading benchmark scores, and attendance. For kindergarten students, promotion will be based on mastery of grade-level skills, as outlined in the Kindergarten TEKS. Also considered will be the AIMSweb and TPRI end-of-year reading benchmark scores, achievement test scores, and the Test of Early Numeracy scores. The Light's Retention Scale may also be considered.

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

### ***RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL***

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning and the parent should sign the student out in the office before leaving the campus. Otherwise, a student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day. Unless the principal has granted approval because of

extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day. No students will be released during the last 15 minutes of the day.

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

## **REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES**

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

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will be given a written progress report if their child's performance 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**, page 1, for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal and are designed to reflect each student's academic achievement for the grading period or semester. 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 22.]

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 should be returned to the school within three days.

## **RETALIATION**

[See **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation on page 18-19**]

## **SAFETY**

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

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

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

### **Accident Insurance**

Please note that Teague ISD does not provide medical insurance for student injuries, however, voluntary student insurance is available. Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

### **Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies**

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

#### **Fire Drill Bells**

Fire Alarm buzzer and lights	leave the building
“Halt” announcement	halt; stand at attention
“All Clear” announcement	return to the classroom

#### **Tornado Drill Bells**

Emergency alert signal	move quietly but quickly to the designated locations
“All Clear” announcement	return to the classroom

#### **Security Alert Levels**

**Green** – Standard Security Measures; no known immediate threats

**Yellow** – Standard Security Measures with increased awareness of visitors and general conditions within/without the campus; police radio is monitored by office staff.

**Orange** – Increased Security Measures: all outside doors locked; all students moved inside the main building; all students in locked classrooms with classes continuing as usual. Adult staff stationed by one or more doors to allow entry of approved personnel; police radio is monitored by office staff.

**Red – Lock Down Security Measures:** All outside and inside doors locked; shelter-in-place; only designated adult staff to be allowed in the hallways and/or campus; measures remain in place until lifted by principal or designee; police radio is monitored by office staff.

## **Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school may have to rely on written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an ***Emergency Care Consent Form***. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school office to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know. Also please keep address and phone numbers current with the office.

Please note that Teague ISD does not provide medical insurance for student injuries, however, voluntary student insurance is available. [See **Accident Insurance**, p. 34]

## **Emergency School-Closing Information**

Each year, parents are asked to complete emergency contact information on the registration form to provide contact information in the event that school is dismissed early because of severe weather or another emergency.

When conditions of inclement weather, icy roads or lack of adequate heat or other environmental conditions exist, the superintendent will make the official decision as to the closing of the campus, either for a full day or part of a day. The official announcement will be made on the following radio and television stations:

KNES~99.1 radio Fairfield  
[www.texas99.com](http://www.texas99.com) (see weather/school information)

KWTX –TV Channel 10, Waco  
[www.kwtx.com](http://www.kwtx.com) (see closings & cancellations)

KCEN – TV Channel 6, Waco  
[www.kcentv.com](http://www.kcentv.com) (see weather closings)

You may also access the Teague Elementary page on Facebook for important announcements. You must request to be a friend of Teague Elementary and be approved before you can access information in this manner.

## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

### **Use of Facilities By Students Before and After School**

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where they are assigned.

Unless the teacher on duty gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

After dismissal of school in the afternoon, and unless involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher, students must leave campus immediately.

### **Conduct Before and After School**

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the *Student Code of Conduct*.

### **SEARCHES**

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

#### **Electronic Devices**

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

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

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

#### **Students' Desks and Lockers**

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

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

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

#### **Trained Dogs**

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

## **Metal Detectors**

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

## ***SPECIAL PROGRAMS***

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact the principal at 739-2611.

## ***STANDARDIZED TESTING***

### **STAAR (State Assessments of Academic Readiness)**

#### **Grades 3-8**

In addition to routine tests and other measures of achievement, students at certain grade levels will take state-mandated assessments, such as the STAAR, in the following subjects:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3-8
- Reading, annually in grades 3-8
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- Science in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies in grade 8

Successful performance on the reading and math assessments in grades 5 and 8 is required by law in order for the student to be promoted to the next grade level. For the 2011-12 school year only, this requirement will be waived. See Promotion and Retention on page 32 for more additional information.

STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate, for students receiving special education services, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR-L is a linguistically accommodated assessment that is available for certain limited English proficient (LEP) students, as determined by the student's Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).

Additional information will be provided to students and parents prior to the spring 2012 administrations.

## ***SUMMER SCHOOL***

Summer school is offered for ESL students who are completing Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten. In addition, summer school may be offered for other students as

determined by the administration. Contact the principal at 739-2611 for more information.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

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

## **TRANSFERS**

[See **School Safety Transfers**, on page 6, and **Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education**, on page 6 for other transfer options.]

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Buses and Other School Vehicles**

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school. Further information may be obtained by calling Chris Skinner at 739-2532.

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

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus or van in an orderly manner at the designated stop nearest home.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus, van, or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus or van.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco on school buses.

- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

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

### **Changes in Transportation**

It is very important that the school be advised of any changes in how a student is to get home in the afternoon. The safety of the child is our utmost concern and therefore we cannot accept changes on the child's word or by phone.

**If it is necessary for a student to ride a different bus home than their usual one, or if they are to be picked up by car instead of riding the bus, the parent needs to send a note that morning to the child's teacher.** If it is a change in buses, the note should indicate the alternate bus number, the address of where the child is to be delivered, and whether this is a temporary or permanent change. The student will be issued a "bus note" which they will give to the bus driver upon loading the bus. The bus driver will not accept a student who does not normally ride that bus without a bus note from the office.

### **School-Sponsored Trips**

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

### **Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up by Car**

To ensure the safety and protection of our young students, students should not be dropped off before 7:30 a.m., when the doors are unlocked and staff members are on duty. Students are required to remain in their cars with their parents until the doors are unlocked. Students should only unload on the curb side of the car to ensure safety.

School dismisses at 3:00 p.m. Parents picking up students by car should remain in their cars and pull up along the front sidewalk. Parents are asked to pull forward to the yellow pole so that as many cars as possible may be loaded or unloaded at one time. This makes the process go faster for everyone. Parents should not pass other cars in line.

Parents may park in the parking lot and walk across the traffic to pick up their child. However, we ask that you pick up your child at the gate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade playground. Please notify your child's teacher that you want to walk up and get your

child and we will have them at that gate. Please do not walk up to the front door to pick up your child, because this hinders us from getting the children out of the building in a timely manner. This policy is also to protect your child from being picked up by an unauthorized person.

**IMPORTANT:** For safety reasons, children will not be released to walk across to parents sitting in cars in the parking lot. Rationale: Students would be crossing traffic to get to the car, and school personnel cannot be sure that the person in the car is authorized to pick up the child.

### **Students Walking/Riding Bicycles To and From School**

Students may walk or ride their bicycles to and from school with written permission from their parent. Students should watch carefully for traffic and only cross at the crosswalk where the school resource officer or duty person is stationed.

### **VANDALISM**

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

### **VIDEO CAMERAS**

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment may be used to monitor student behavior on buses and in common areas on campus. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the video/audio recordings routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

### **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

#### **General Visitors**

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the principal's office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. Visitors will be issued a visitor's badge to be worn while on the campus, including the lunchroom.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct and observe the school dress code as outlined on page 16. Disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

### ***WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL***

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school only by a custodial parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. All textbooks and library materials must be returned to the school prior to withdrawal. The parent may obtain a withdrawal form from the principal's office.

## **GLOSSARY**

**Accelerated instruction** is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level.

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

**ARD** is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student's parents are part of the committee.

**Attendance Review Committee** is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit lost because of absences.

**DAEP** stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students in the DAEP will be separated from students not assigned to the program. The DAEP will focus instruction on English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and self-discipline, and provide for students' educational and behavior needs, as well as supervision and counseling.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as for directory information, unless a student's parent or a student 18 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** is the written record of the Individualized Education Program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts, such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services to be provided, and program modifications or support by school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; modifications to state or district-wide tests, etc.

**ISS** refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the *Student Code of Conduct*. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a DAEP, ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

**LAT** stands for Linguistically Accommodated Testing, which is an assessment process for recent immigrant English language learners who are required to be assessed in certain grades and subjects under the NCLB Act.

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

**Section 504** is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and

participation in activities. Unless the student is determined by an ARD committee to be eligible for special education services, appropriate regular educational services will be provided.

**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.

**STAAR** is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments, effective beginning with certain students for the 2011-12 school year.

**STAAR Alternate** 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 Modified** 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 Linguistically Accommodated (STAAR-L)** is an alternative state-mandated assessment with linguistic accommodations designed for certain recent immigrant English language learners.

**State-mandated tests** are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance sometimes is a condition of promotion, and passing the grade 11 exit-level test or end-of-course 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; identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from the classroom or campus. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion, and states whether self-defense is a consideration in suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion. The *Student Code of Conduct* also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

**TELPAS** stands for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, which assesses the progress that English language learners make in learning the English language, and is administered for those who meet the participation requirements in kindergarten-grade 12.

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