

Middle/High School Handbook – Summary of Content Revisions

Overall Summary

Overall, the handbook was updated to improve student safety, align with current state and federal requirements, strengthen operational expectations, clarify student supports, and modernize district procedures.

Attendance & Absences

- Clarified attendance expectations and removed outdated Skyward absence request procedures.
- Added Meredith-Dunbar's unique instructional day and tardy schedule.
- Updated attendance guidance for students receiving Special Education services to align with current ARD/Section 504 requirements.

Extracurricular & Co-Curricular Activities

- Revised language to align with **UIL/TEA No-Pass, No-Play** requirements for extracurricular and co-curricular absences.

Student Safety & Student Conduct

- **NEW:** Prohibited students from selling or distributing food or beverages on campus to improve student safety, reduce disruption, and prevent unauthorized commercial activity.
- Added authority to confiscate items intended for sale and apply disciplinary consequences.

Student Parking

- **Completely revised** student parking procedures.
- Established minimum eligibility requirements (valid driver's license, insurance, and parking permit).
- Defined parking violations and progressive disciplinary consequences.
- Strengthened expectations regarding vehicle operation, parking locations, and campus safety.
- Clarified that parking is a privilege that may be revoked for repeated violations or unsafe behavior.

Health Services

- Updated medication guidelines by removing outdated over-the-counter treatments.
- Revised Student Wellness information to reflect current district wellness procedures.

Section 504 & Student Support

- Updated timelines to reflect the required **15 district business day** response window.
- Clarified pregnancy-related protections under Student Services.
- Added clarification that students requesting paper STAAR assessments may not receive every accommodation available on computer-based testing.

Special Education

- Updated attendance intervention language to ensure ARD/Section 504 committees consider additional evaluations, services, or plan revisions when attendance concerns arise.
- Clarified transportation language when required by a student's IEP.

- Updated referral and support processes for students receiving Special Education services.

Homeless & Foster Care

- Revised language regarding services and supports for students experiencing homelessness.
- Updated Conservatorship (Foster Care) information to reflect current guidance.

Assessment & Credit by Examination

- Updated Credit by Examination procedures and timelines.
- Clarified parent responsibility for examination costs where applicable.
- Updated annual application deadlines.

Fine Arts

- Expanded grading expectations to include **Theatre**.
- Updated Fine Arts participation expectations across programs.

School Nutrition

- Updated Community Eligibility Program information for school meal services.