

Summary of Major Handbook Changes/Edits

This summary highlights the main updates made to the 2026 - 2027 KCTC Student Handbook. Overall, the changes focus on improving clarity, tightening up expectations, updating language for consistency across programs, and making policies easier to understand and apply.

Change #1: ADA Accessible Calendar Added

An ADA-accessible version of the 2026 - 2027 calendar was added right after the main calendar to improve readability and accessibility.

It includes:

- A clear breakdown of school days, PD days, and no-school days by month
 - Full 2026 - 2027 school year layout
 - Updated totals:
 - 182 teacher days
 - 5 PD days
 - 177 student days
-

Change #2: Absences Section Expanded

The absences section now gives a more complete list of what counts as an excused absence.

Updates include:

- Clearer definitions for things like illness, medical appointments, funerals, court dates, religious holidays, and approved family vacations
 - Requirement that absences be confirmed by parent/guardian communication
 - Added detail about documentation when needed (like doctor notes after extended illness)
 - Reminder that some pre-approved vacations may still require students to complete work
-

Change #3: Make-Up Work Expectations Updated

This section was simplified and made more consistent.

Key updates:

- Removed the old “2 days per absence” rule
 - New expectations:
 - Work assigned before an absence is due the first day back
 - Work assigned during an absence is due within one week of returning
 - Clarified that some lab-based work may not be able to be made up depending on the course
-

Change #4: Grading Structure Clarified

The grading section was cleaned up to clearly separate the two grading systems used at KCTC.

Updates include:

- Clear distinction between Points-Based Grading and Evidence-Based Grading (EBG)
 - Clear semester grading breakdown when no semester evaluation is used:
 - 50% Quarter 1 / 50% Quarter 2 (or Q3/Q4 depending on semester)
-

Change #5: Evidence-Based Grading (EBG) Added

A full new section explains how EBG works.

Main points:

- Grades are based on what students can actually demonstrate, not just points
 - Each course has 5 - 6 defined skills in the syllabus
 - Students are scored using a 4 - point scale:
 - 4 = Advanced
 - 3 = Proficient
 - 2 = Developing
 - 1 = Beginning
 - Focus is on growth, feedback, and showing learning over time
 - Final skill scores determine the overall semester grade
-

Change #6: Return Policy Updated

Eligibility for returning students was made more specific and measurable.

Updates include:

- Attendance limits:
 - No more than 9 absences in Semester 1
 - No more than 5 absences in Quarter 3
 - Must earn at least 74% (Proficient) in Semester 1 and Q3
 - Out-of-school suspensions may impact eligibility
 - Removed vague language about “poor performance” and appeals
-

Change #7: Enrollment Process Updated

This section was expanded to better explain how returning enrollment works.

Updates include:

- Clear options for returning students (same program, advanced placement, or different program)
 - Enrollment is not guaranteed if seats are limited
 - Lottery system added when demand is higher than available spots
 - Waitlist process clarified
 - End-of-year review process added for students who improve
 - Clear expectations for students who still don't meet requirements by the end of Semester 2
-

Change #8: Safety Devices & Clothing Added

A new safety section was added.

It requires:

- Student ID badges worn and visible at all times
 - Required safety gear (glasses, protective clothing, etc.) when applicable
 - Staff can remove students from unsafe situations if safety rules aren't followed
-

Change #9: Wireless Device Use Policy Replaced Cell Phone Policy

The old cell phone policy was replaced with a more updated wireless device policy.

Key updates:

- Broader definition of wireless devices
 - Clear definition of instructional time and school grounds
 - Devices generally not allowed during instructional time, with specific exceptions:
 - Medical needs
 - IEP/504 accommodations
 - District-issued or instructional use
 - Teacher permission
 - Emergencies
 - Stronger language around privacy areas like locker rooms and restrooms
 - Clear consequences, including confiscation procedures and discipline
-

Change #10: Teacher/CTES Responsibilities Removed

This entire section was removed, including:

- Teacher responsibility statements
- Sign-off lines for teachers, parents, and students
- Duplicate policy enforcement language

This helps streamline the handbook and reduce repetition.

Change #11: Child Find & Section 504 Added

A new support services section was added.

It explains:

- Child Find requirements for identifying students who may need support
- How KCTC works with resident districts for evaluations
- What Section 504 is and who may qualify
- How families can request evaluations
- Assurance that IEP and 504 accommodations will be followed at KCTC

Change #12: Student Code of Conduct Updated

The conduct table was slightly updated to:

- Expand language around tobacco, nicotine, and vaping violations
- Clean up and align disciplinary language with updated policies

Change #13: Notice of Non-Discrimination Updated

The Notice of Non-Discrimination section was updated to:

- Revise the Title IX Coordinator designations by making Bryndan Arnold the Primary Designated Title IX Coordinator
- Update coordinator roles and contact information to reflect current administrative responsibilities

Overall Summary

Overall, these updates:

- Make policies clearer and easier to follow
- Tighten up expectations for attendance, grades, and enrollment
- Modernize the cell phone policy into a broader tech/device policy
- Add stronger structure around return eligibility and enrollment decisions
- Improve consistency across programs and reduce vague language