

Kress High School / Junior High

Student Handbook

2022–23 School Year



If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact the district at

(leah.zeigler@region16.net and 806-684-2651)

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INTRODUCTION KRESS SCHOOL HISTORY

About the year 1891, a Baptist preacher named Wright had a post office, a general store, and a school near what was to become the town of Kress. The original schoolhouse was about two miles east of his store, and here Preacher Wright held church services as well as conducted classes. In 1906 the railroad came through, and a depot was located on Skipworth land. The town that grew around the rail line was named Kress for the conductor on the first train to come through the new town. By 1907 a larger school was built on the site of the present high school building. This new school had two rooms on the main floor and an auditorium on the second floor. Bill Brocton was the teacher for the first students who began the school year. However, by Christmas that year the enrollment had jumped to nearly 100 and Mr. Brocton required some help. Allene Skipworth was hired to teach the first through the fourth grades; Mr. Brocton taught the fifth through eighth grades, although students were not actually placed according to grade or age but more by the judgment of the teacher.

A brick school building was built in 1915, and in 1922, wings were added to make it almost twice as large. Students could attend through grade eleven. The gym was built in 1936. The Home Economics and Vocational building were added in 1939. This building is now the science building. In 1940 the school cafeteria was opened in a room in the old schoolhouse, but the next year a building was moved in for it just east of the old building. During 1948 a barracks building was added to the school campus for vocational agriculture. This building has since been replaced. Also added in 1948 was the first football field that Kress High School had. About this same time the school acquired the old skating rink for the school bus barn. This building is also used for the Kress Stock Show and Judging Barn.

The present high school building, including the auditorium, was built in 1950. Five years later the elementary school, cafeteria, and new gymnasium were constructed. Shortly after, the old gym was torn down. In 1961 the junior high school and tax assessor's office were added to the high school building. The football field was completed in time for the 1962-63 seasons. In 1964 the I.A. and Agriculture Building, Band Hall and Choir Room were added to the campus. The girl's dressing room in the gym was remodeled and the weight room was added in 1983.

SCHOOL SONG

For Ole Kress High We'll Do Our Best
We'll Hold Our Colors High.
We'll Sing Our Praises Loud and Clear
We'll Shout Our Battle Cry.
We'll Back the Team in Every Way,
For Kangaroos are the Best.
We'll Salute the Black and Gold for E'er
For Kress Senior High!

SCHOOL COLORS & MASCOT

The school colors are black and gold.
The school mascot is the kangaroo.

MISSION STATEMENT

“Excellence in Education with a Personal Touch”

2022-2023

Kress HS/JR. High Bell Schedule

Bell Schedule

1 st Bell	7:55 am
1 st Period	8:00-8:45
2 nd Period	8:50-9:43
3 rd Period	9:47-10:32
4 th Period	10:36-11:21
5 th Period Jr High 5th Period High School	11:25-12:10 11:25-12:15
Jr high lunch	12:10-12:40
Hs lunch	12:15-1:11
RTI	12:44-1:11
6 th Period	1:15-2:00
7 th Period	2:04-2:49
8 th Period	2:53-3:38
Tutorials	3:42-4:12
Buses Run	3:47

Friday Football Pep Rally Schedule

Periods 1-5, Lunch and RTI stay the same

6 th Period	1:15-1:50
7 th Period	1:54-2:28
8 th Period	2:32-3:07
Pep Rally	3:11-3:38

Semester test

8:00 to 9:00

9:05 to 10:05

10:10 to 11:10

11:15 to 12:15

Preface Parents and Students:

Welcome to the new school year!

Education is a team effort. Students, parents, teachers, and other staff members working together will make this a successful year.

The Kress Jr. Sr. High School Student Handbook is a general reference guide that is divided into two sections:

Section One: Parental Rights describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students is organized alphabetically by topic. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, the term “parent” refers to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of a student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to align with law, board-adopted policy, and the Student Code of Conduct, a board-adopted document intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. The Student Handbook is not meant to be a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules in any given circumstance.

In case of conflicts between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any Student Handbook provision, the district will follow board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Therefore, parents and students should become familiar with the Kress Jr. Sr. High School Student Code of Conduct. To review the Code of Conduct, visit the district's website at www.kressonline.net. State law requires that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed or made available for review at each campus.

The Student Handbook is updated annually; however, policy adoption and revisions may occur throughout the year. The district encourages parents to stay informed of proposed policy changes by attending board meetings and reviewing newsletter and other communications explaining changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions. The district reserves the right to modify the Student Handbook at any time. Notice of revisions will be provided as is reasonably practical.

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

A hard copy of either the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook can be requested at High School Office,

Note: References to board policy codes are included for ease of reference. The hard copy of the district's official policy manual is available for review in the Superintendent's Office and an unofficial electronic copy is available at [_www.kressonline.net](http://www.kressonline.net).

Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook

The policy manual includes:

- Legally referenced (LEGAL) policies that contain provisions from federal and state laws and regulations, case law, and other legal authorities that provide the legal framework for school districts.
- Board-adopted (LOCAL) policies that articulate the board's choices and values regarding district practices.

For questions about the material in this handbook, please contact:

Phil Zolman
Principal
200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052
phil.zolman@region16.net
806- 684-2652

Complete and return to the student's campus the following forms (provided in the forms packet distributed at the beginning of the year or upon enrollment):

- Acknowledgment Form
- Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information,
- Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education (if you choose to restrict the release of information to these entities), and
- Consent/Opt-Out Form for participation in third-party surveys.

[See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 15 and **Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey** on page 17 for more information.]

Accessibility

If you have difficulty accessing this handbook because of a disability, please contact:

Phil Zolman
Principal
200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052
phil.zolman@region16.net
806- 684-2652

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (All Grade Levels)

Working Together

- Both experience and research tell us that a child's education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. 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 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.
 - Reviewing the requirements of the graduation programs with your child, if your child is entering ninth grade.
 - Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See Academic Counseling on page 30.]
 - 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 806-684-2652 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 48.]
 - Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policies at GKG and contact Phil Zolman, 806 684-2652.
 - Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Action.
 - 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 Leah Zeigler, Superintendent, 806 684-2652.
 - 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 43.]
 - Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. [See policies at BE and BED for more information.]
- The Parent Involvement Coordinator; who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs is Phil Zolman and may be contacted at 806-684-2652.

Section One: Parental Rights

This section describes certain parental rights as specified in state or federal law.

Consent, Opt-Out, and Refusal Rights

Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation

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

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

Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction

Annual Notification

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for course materials.

State law requires that the district provide written notice before each school year of the board's decision to provide human sexuality instruction.

State law also requires that instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS):

1. Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
2. Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
3. Emphasize that abstinence, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
4. Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
5. If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

Per state law, here is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

Human sexuality is addressed in our science and health classes. The emphasis is on abstinence as the preferred choice of behavior in relationships outside of marriage. Abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity

A parent is entitled to review the curriculum materials. In addition, a parent may remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties. A parent may also choose to become more involved with the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC. (See the campus principal for details.)

[See **Consent to Instruction of Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 12.]

Consent Before Human Sexuality Instruction

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

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

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

Annual Notification

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

Kress ISD is in the process of updating materials for the instruction of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. Information will be posted when the materials become available. Questions should be directed to the Superintendent or High school principal.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials. As required by law, any curriculum materials in the public domain used in this instruction will be posted on the district's website at the location indicated above.
- Remove his or her child from any part of this instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.
- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 48 and FNG for information on the grievance and appeals process.

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 11; **Dating Violence** on page 53; and **Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 41]

Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service

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

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

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

The district has also established procedures for staff to notify the mental health liaison regarding a student who may need intervention. Staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid, which includes training on increased awareness, knowledge of signs and symptoms, and appropriate steps to take when concerns arise.

The mental health liaison can be reached at:

Kimberely Couch
School Counselor
200 E 5th street Kress Texas 79052
kimberely.couch@region16.net
806-684-2652

The mental health liaison can provide further information regarding these procedures as well as educational materials on identifying risk factors, accessing resources for treatment or support on and off campus, and accessing available student accommodations provided on campus.

[See **Mental Health Support** on page 81.]

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

Teachers may display a student's work in classrooms or elsewhere on campus as recognition of student achievement without seeking prior parental consent. These displays may include personally identifiable student information. Student work includes:

- Artwork,
- Special projects,
- Photographs,
- Original videos or voice recordings, and
- Other original works.

However, the district will seek parental consent before displaying a student's work on the district's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the district (such as a campus or classroom website), or in district publications, which may include printed materials, videos, or other methods of mass communication.

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

A student under age 14 must have parental permission to participate in the district's [Parenting and Paternity Awareness Program](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum) (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/parenting-and-paternity-awareness-papa/papa-educators/papa-curriculum>). This program was developed by the Office of the Texas Attorney General and the State Board of Education (SBOE) to be incorporated into health education classes.

Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law

State law permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission when it:

- Is to be used for school safety,
- Relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity,
- Relates to media coverage of the school, or
- Relates to the promotion of student safety as provided by law for a student receiving special education services in certain settings.

In other circumstances, the district will seek written parental consent before making a video or voice recording of a student.

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

Prohibiting the Use of Corporal Punishment

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

However, in accordance with law, the district may not administer corporal punishment if a student's parent submits a signed, written statement prohibiting its use.

A parent who does not want corporal punishment administered to his or her child must return the form included in the forms packet. This signed statement must be submitted each school year. A parent may revoke this prohibition at any time during the school year by providing a signed statement to the campus principal.

Note:

- District personnel may use discipline methods other than corporal punishment if a parent requests that corporal punishment not be used.
- If the district knows that a student is in temporary or permanent custody of the state (through foster care, kinship care, or other arrangements), corporal punishment will not be administered, even when the student's caregiver or caseworker has not submitted a signed statement prohibiting its use.

Limiting Electronic Communications between Students and District Employees

The district permits teachers and other approved employees to use electronic communications with students within the scope of professional responsibilities, as described by district guidelines.

For example, a teacher may create a social networking page for his or her class to relay information regarding class work, homework, and tests. A parent is welcome to access such a page.

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

The employee is required to include his or her immediate supervisor and the student's parent as recipients on all text messages.

A parent who does not want his or her child to receive one-to-one electronic communications from a district employee should contact the campus principal.

Objecting to the Release of Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, permits the district to disclose appropriately designated "directory information" from a student's education records without written consent.

"Directory information" is information that, if released, is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Examples include:

- A student's photograph (for publication in the school yearbook);
- A student's name and grade level (for communicating class and teacher assignments);
- The name, weight, and height of an athlete (for publication in a school athletic program);
- A list of student birthdays (for generating schoolwide or classroom recognition),
- A student's name and photograph (posted on a district-approved and -managed social media platform); and
- The names and grade levels of students submitted by the district to a local newspaper or other community publication (to recognize the A/B honor roll for a specific grading period.)

Directory information will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

However, a parent or eligible student may object to the release of this information. Any objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the student's first day of instruction for this school year.

[See Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information, included in the forms packet.]

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

As allowed by state law, the district has identified two directory information lists—one for school sponsored purposes and a second for all other requests. For district publications and announcements, the district has designated the following as directory information: For all other purposes, the district has identified the following as directory information:

1. Admissions data, personal and family data, including certification of date of birth.
2. Standardized test data, including intelligence, aptitude, interest, personality, and social adjustment ratings.

3. 3. All achievement records, as determined by tests, recorded grades, and teacher evaluations.
4. 4. All documentation regarding a student's testing history and any accelerated instruction he or she has received, including any documentation of discussion or action by a grade placement committee convened for the student.
5. 5. Health services record, including:
 - a. The results of any tuberculin tests required by the District.
 - b. The findings of screening or health appraisal programs the District conducts or provides. [See FFAA]
 - c. Immunization records. [See FFAB]
6. Attendance records.
7. Student questionnaires.
8. Records of teacher, counselor, or administrative conferences with the student or pertaining to the student.
9. Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns.
10. Copies of correspondence with parents and others concerned with the student.
11. Records transferred from other districts in which the student was enrolled.
12. Records pertaining to participation in extracurricular activities. 13. Information relating to student participation in special programs.
13. Records of fees assessed and paid.
14. Records pertaining to student and parent complaints. 16. Other records that may contribute to an understanding of the student Honor roll,

If a parent does not object to the use of his or her child's information for these school-sponsored purposes, the school will not ask permission each time the district wants to use the information for these purposes.

The district has identified the following as directory information. If a parent objects to the release of the student's information included on the directory information response form, this objection also applies to the use of that information for school-sponsored purposes, such as:

6. School newspaper,
7. Yearbook,
8. Recognition activities,
9. News releases, and
10. Athletic programs.

Note: Review **Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records** on page 20.

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

Unless a parent has advised the district not to release his or her student's information, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the district to comply with requests from military recruiters or institutions of higher education for the student's:

- Name,

- Address, and
- Telephone listing.

Military recruiters may also have access to a student's district-provided email address, unless a parent has advised the district not to release this information.

[See **Parent's Objection to the Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education**, included in the forms packet.]

Participation in Third-Party Surveys

Consent Required Before Student Participation in a Federally Funded Survey

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

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

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent; or
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility for a program.

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

"Opting Out" of Participation in Other Types of Surveys or Screenings and the Disclosure of Personal Information

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

- Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from the child for the purpose of marketing, selling, or otherwise disclosing that information to others.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student.

Exceptions are hearing, vision, or spinal screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA for more information.]

A parent may inspect:

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

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

Removing a Student from Instruction or Excusing a Student from a Required Component of Instruction

See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 11 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 12 for information on a parent's right to remove a student from such instruction.

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

State law designates the week of September 17 as Celebrate Freedom Week and requires all social studies classes to provide:

- Instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution; and
- A specific recitation from the Declaration of Independence for students in grades 3–12.

Per state law, a student may be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence if:

- A parent provides a written statement requesting that his or her child be excused;
- The district determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation; or
- A parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the U.S. government extends diplomatic immunity.

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

Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags

A parent may request that his or her child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be made in writing.

State law, however, requires that all students participate in one minute of silence following recitation of the pledges.

[See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 95 and policy EC(LEGAL) for more information.]

Religious or Moral Beliefs

A parent may remove his or her child temporarily from the classroom if a scheduled instructional activity conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs.

The removal may not be used to avoid a test and may not extend for an entire semester. The student must also satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by state law.

Tutoring or Test Preparation

A teacher may determine that a student needs additional targeted assistance for the student to achieve mastery in state-developed essential knowledge and skills based on:

- Informal observations;
- Evaluative data such as grades earned on assignments or tests; or
- Results from diagnostic assessments.

The school will always attempt to provide tutoring and strategies for test-taking in ways that prevent removal from other instruction as much as possible.

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

Under state law, students with grades below 70 for a reporting period are required to attend tutorial services—if the district offers these services.

[For questions about school-provided tutoring programs, contact the student's teacher and see policies EC and EHBC. See **Standardized Testing** on page 110 for information regarding required accelerated instruction after a student fails to perform satisfactorily on certain state-mandated tests.]

Right of Access to Student Records, Curriculum Materials, and District Records/Policies

Instructional Materials

A parent has the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered, whether instruction is delivered in-person, virtually, or remotely. The district will provide login credentials to each student's parent for any learning management system or online learning portal used in instruction to facilitate parent access and review.

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

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

Notices of Certain Student Misconduct to Noncustodial Parent

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

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

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a parent may request information regarding any federal, state, or district policy related to his or her child's participation in required assessments.

Student Records

Accessing Student Records

A parent may review his or her child's 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 school counselor evaluations;
- Reports of behavioral patterns;
- Records relating to assistance provided for learning difficulties, including information collected regarding any intervention strategies used with the child, as the term "intervention strategy" is defined by law;
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to the child; and
- Teaching materials and tests used in the child's classroom.

Authorized Inspection and Use of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding student education records.

For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is anyone age 18 or older or who attends a postsecondary educational institution. These rights, as discussed here and at **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 15, are the right to:

- Inspect and review student records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access;
- Request an amendment to a student record the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of FERPA;

- Provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and
- [File a complaint](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint) (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>) with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with FERPA requirements.

Both FERPA and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and eligible students certain rights of privacy.

Before disclosing personally identifiable information from a student's records, the district must verify the identity of the person, including a parent or the student, requesting the information.

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

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

Federal law requires that control of the records goes to the student as soon as the student:

- Reaches the age of 18;
- Is emancipated by a court; or
- Enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution.

However, the parent may continue to have access to the records if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and, under limited circumstances, when there is a threat to the health and safety of the student or other individuals.

FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records without written consent of the parent or eligible student when school officials have what federal law refers to as a "legitimate educational interest" in a student's records.

Legitimate educational interest may include:

- 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.

School officials may include:

- Board members and employees, such as the superintendent, administrators, and principals;
- Teachers, school counselors, diagnosticians, and support staff (including district health or medical staff);

- A person or company with whom the district has contracted or allowed to provide a specific institutional service or function (such as an attorney, consultant, third-party vendor that offers online programs or software, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, school resource officer, or volunteer);
- A person appointed to serve on a team to support the district's safe and supportive school program;
- 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.

FERPA also permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information without written consent:

- To authorized representatives of various governmental agencies, including juvenile service providers, the U.S. Comptroller General's office, the U.S. Attorney General's office, the U.S. Secretary of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's office, and Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or, in certain cases, other child welfare representatives.
- To individuals or entities granted access in response to a subpoena or court order.
- To another school, district/system, or postsecondary educational institution to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or in which the student already is enrolled.
- In connection with financial aid for which a student has applied or has received.
- To accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions.
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.
- When the district discloses directory information-designated details. [See **Objecting to the Release of Directory Information** on page 15 to prohibit this disclosure.]

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

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

A parent or eligible student who wants to inspect the student's records should submit a written request to the custodian of records identifying the records he or she wants to inspect.

Records may be reviewed in person during regular school hours. The records custodian or designee will be available to explain the record and to answer questions.

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

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

Phil Zolman
Principal
200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052
phil.zolman@region16.net
806- 684-2652

You may contact the custodian of records for students who have withdrawn or graduated at:

Leah Zeigler
Superintendent
200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052
Leah.zeigler@region16.net
806- 684-2652

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

A request to correct a student's record should be submitted to the appropriate records custodian. The request must clearly identify the part of the record that should be corrected and include an explanation of how the information 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 after the hearing the records are not amended, the parent or eligible student has 30 school days to place a statement in the student's record.

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

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 98, **Complaints and Concerns** on page 48, and Finality of Grades at policy FNG(LEGAL).]

The district's student records policy is found at policy FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) and is available at the principal's or superintendent's office www.kressonline.net.

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

Teacher and Staff Professional Qualifications

A parent may request information regarding the professional qualifications of his or her child's teachers, including whether the teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and

- Is currently teaching in the field or discipline of his or her certification.

The parent also has the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to the child.

A Student with Exceptionalities or Special Circumstances

Children of Military Families

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children entitles children of military families to flexibility regarding certain district and state requirements, including:

- Immunization requirements;
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement;
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities;
- Enrollment in the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN); and
- Graduation requirements.

The district will excuse absences related to a student visiting a parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who is:

- Called to active duty,
- On leave, or
- Returning from a deployment of at least four months.

The district will permit **no more than five** excused absences per year for this purpose. For the absence to be excused, the absence must occur no earlier than the 60th day before deployment or no later than the 30th day after the parent's return from deployment.

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

Parental Role in Certain Classroom and School Assignments

Multiple-Birth Siblings

State law permits a parent of multiple-birth siblings (for example, twins, triplets) assigned to the same grade and campus to request in writing that the children be placed in either the same classroom or separate classrooms.

Written requests must be submitted by the 14th day after the students' enrollment. [See policy FDB(LEGAL) for more information.]

Safety Transfers/Assignments

The board or its designee will honor a parent's request to transfer his or her child to another classroom or campus if the district has determined that the child has been a victim of bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by Education Code 37.0832.

The board may transfer a student who has engaged in bullying to another classroom.

Transportation is not provided for a transfer to another campus. See the superintendent for more information.

[See **Bullying** on page 35, and policies FDB and FFI for more information.]

The district will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her child to a safe public school in the district if the child attends a school identified by the Texas Education Agency as persistently dangerous or if the child has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while at school or on school grounds.

[See policy FDE for more information.]

The board will honor a parent's request for the transfer of his or her child to neighboring district if the child has been the victim of sexual assault by another student assigned to the same campus, whether the assault occurred on or off campus, and that student has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for the assault. In accordance with policy FDE, if the victim does not wish to transfer, the board will transfer the assailant.

Student Use of a Service/Assistance Animal

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

A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)

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

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

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

A student in the conservatorship of the state who is moved outside the district's or school's attendance boundaries—or who is initially placed in the conservatorship of the state and moved outside the district's or school's boundaries—is entitled to remain at the school the student was attending prior to the placement or move until the student reaches the highest grade level at that particular school.

If a student in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, the student can request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets its graduation criteria.

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

- Assist the student with the completion of applications for admission or financial aid;
- Arrange and accompany the student on campus visits;
- Assist in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships;
- Identify whether the student is a candidate for appointment to a military academy;

- Assist the student in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including (subject to the availability of funds) arranging for the payment of examination fees by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS); and
- Coordinate contact between the student and a liaison officer for students formerly in the conservatorship of the state.

[See **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 52, **Course Credit** on page 52, and **Students in Foster Care** on page 113.]

A Student Who Is Homeless

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

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement (if the student is unable to provide previous academic records or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness);
- Credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules;
- Assessment of the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district;
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one half of a two-half course;
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements.

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

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

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

[See **Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration** on page 52, **Course Credit** on page 52, and **Students who are Homeless** on page 113.]

A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The

implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individuals listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services.

This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine whether the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals

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

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

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

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

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

Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled *Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

The designated contact person regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is:

Robert Lamm

Special Education

200 E 5th Kress Tx. 79052

robert.lamm@region16.net

806-684-2651

For questions regarding post-secondary transitions, including the transition from education to employment, for students receiving special education services, contact the district's transition and employment designee:

Robert Lamm

Special Education

200 E 5th Kress Tx. 79052

robert.lamm@region16.net

806-684-2651

Section 504 Referrals

Each school district must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's Section 504 program. Districts must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes:

- Notice;
- An opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records;
- An impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel; and
- A review procedure.

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals

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

Robert Lamm

Special Education

200 E 5th Kress Tx. 79052

robert.lamm@region16.net

806-684-2651

[See **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 29.]

Visit these websites for information regarding students with disabilities and the family:

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](https://fw.esc18.net/display/Webforms/ESC18-FW-LandingPage.aspx?DT=G&LID=en)
(<https://fw.esc18.net/display/Webforms/ESC18-FW-LandingPage.aspx?DT=G&LID=en>)

- [Partner Resource Network \(http://prntexas.org/\)](http://prntexas.org/)
- [SPEDTEX: Special Education Information Center \(https://www.spedtex.org/\)](https://www.spedtex.org/)
- [Texas First Project \(http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/\)](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/)

Notification to Parents of Intervention Strategies for Learning Difficulties Provided to Students in General Education

In accordance with state law, the district will annually notify parents if their child receives assistance for learning difficulties. Details of such assistance can include intervention strategies. This notice is not intended for those students already enrolled in a special education program.

A Student Who Receives Special Education Services with Other School-Aged Children in the Home

If a student is receiving special education services at a campus outside his or her attendance zone, state law permits the parent or guardian to request that other students residing in the household be transferred to the same campus—if the grade level for the transferring student is offered on that campus.

The student receiving special education services would be entitled to transportation; however, the district is not required to provide transportation to other children in the household.

The parent or guardian should contact the school principal regarding transportation needs prior to requesting a transfer for other children in the home. [See policy FDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

A Student Who Speaks 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 services, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine the types of services the student needs, including accommodations or modifications related to classroom instruction, local assessments, and state-mandated assessments.

[See **English Learners** on page 62 and **Special Programs** on page 110.]

A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504

A student with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, as defined by law—and who does not otherwise qualify for special education services—may qualify for protections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Section 504 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

When an evaluation is requested, a committee will be formed to determine whether the student needs services and supports under Section 504 in order to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined in federal law.

[See **A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services** on page 26 and policy FB for more information.]

Section Two: Other Important Information for Parents and Students

This section contains important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements.

It is organized alphabetically to serve as a quick-reference guide. Where applicable, the topics are further organized by grade level.

Parents and children should take a moment together to become familiar with the issues addressed in this section. For guidance on a particular topic, please contact the campus Principal

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are discussed below.

Compulsory Attendance

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

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

Ages 6–18

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended-year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires a student in kindergarten–grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on an applicable subject area state assessment.

Age 19 and Older

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

Compulsory Attendance—Exemptions

All Grade Levels

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

- Religious holy days;

- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services, if the student returns to school on the same day of the appointment and brings a note from the health-care provider;
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician;
- For students in the conservatorship of the state:
 - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
 - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.

For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments. [See **Children of Military Families** on page 24.]

Note that documented health-care appointments may include telehealth appointments. Students who are physically on campus will not be allowed to participate in telehealth or other online appointments without specific authorization from an appropriate administrator. Students should not use district-issued technology, including wifi or internet, for telehealth appointments because use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. For more information, see **Telecommunication and Other Electronic Devices** on page 106.

Secondary Grade Levels

The district will allow a student who is 15 years of age or older to be absent for one day to obtain a learner license and one day to obtain a driver's license, provided that the board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL). The student will be required to provide documentation of his or her visit to the driver's license office for each absence and must make up any work missed.

[See **Driver License Attendance Verification** on page 34.]

The district will allow junior and senior students to be absent for up to two days per year to visit a college or university, provided:

- The board has authorized such excused absences under policy FEA(LOCAL);
- The principal has approved the student's absence; and
- The student follows campus procedures to verify the visit and makes up any work missed.

The district will allow a student 17 years old or older to be absent for up to four days during the period the student is enrolled in high school to pursue enlistment in the U.S. armed services or Texas National Guard, provided the student verifies these activities to the district.

The district will allow a student to be absent for up to two days per school year to serve as:

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

The district will allow a student in grades 6–12 to be absent for the purpose of sounding “Taps” at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran.

Compulsory Attendance—Failure to Comply

All Grade Levels

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

A student absent without permission from school, any class, any required special program, or any required tutorial will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities

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

Ages 6–18

When a student ages 6–18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period, the law requires the school to send notice to the parent.

The notice will:

- Remind the parent of his or her duty to monitor the student's attendance and require the student to attend school;
- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent; and
- Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or other social services, or other appropriate measures.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district is:

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 E 5th KressTx.. 79052

Phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

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

[See policies FEA(LEGAL) and FED(LEGAL) for more information.]

Age 19 and Older

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

Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (All Grade Levels)

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend the class at least 90 percent of the days it is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days may receive credit or a final grade if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, that allows the student to fulfill the class's instructional requirements. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the judge presiding over the case must also approve the plan before the student receives credit or a final grade.

If a student attends fewer than 75 percent of the class days or does not complete the principal-approved plan, then the attendance review committee will determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade. [See policy FEC for more information.]

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

- Whether the student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- Whether the student or the student's parent had any control over the absences.
- Any information presented by the student or parent to the committee about the absences.

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

Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)

The district will take official attendance every day at 9 am.

A student absent for any portion of the day, should follow the procedures below to provide documentation of the absence.

Documentation after an Absence (All Grade Levels)

A parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent. The campus may accept a phone call from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note.

A note signed by the student will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Note: The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

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

Within 3 days of returning to school, a student absent for more than 5 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

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

Certification of Absence Due to Severe Illness or Treatment

If a student is absent because of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, a parent must provide certification from a physician licensed to practice in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of absence related to the illness or treatment.

Driver License Attendance Verification (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A currently enrolled student seeking a driver's license shall submit the Texas Department of Public Safety Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE), signed by the parent, to the campus central office at least 10 days before it is needed. The district will issue a VOE only if the student meets class credit or attendance requirements. The [VOE form \(https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf\)](https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/driver/forms/VOE.pdf) is available online.

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

See **Compulsory Attendance—Exemptions for Secondary Grade Levels** on page 30 for information on excused absences for obtaining a learner license or driver's license.

Accountability under State and Federal Law (All Grade Levels)

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

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

Accountability information can be found on the district's website at www.kressonline.net. Hard copies of any reports are available upon request to the district's administration office.

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

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (Grades 10–12)

A student in grades 10–12 will be offered an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

The test shall be offered on 9/29/2022 at 9am at Kress HS.

Contact the principal for information about this opportunity.

Awards and Honors (All Grade Levels)

As specified by the UIL, a student may earn only one major award in his/her high school years. Once a student has earned a major award, qualification for one in other areas or years will be recognized with a letter "K" award. Upon first qualifying for a major letter award, a student may elect to take the award that year or wait until a later time to order it. Students may qualify for a major award by satisfying the qualification criteria set forth in the department guidelines written by the various department heads. A student may also earn a letter jacket for participation in UIL literary events. Criteria for qualification are as follows:

- A. Win first, second, or third in district competition
- B. Participate in UIL Literary all four years in high school.
- C. One-Act-Play counts as any other UIL literary event. If a student is selected to honorable mention or all-star cast at any level of competition, he/she qualifies for a jacket.

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Each six weeks, teachers select good citizens in each class. The Citizenship Awards given at the end-of-year Awards Assembly will be chosen from the list of students earning citizenship during the 6-weeks grading periods.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Perfect Attendance Awards are given at the end of the year to students having perfect attendance.

PERSONALITY AWARDS

1. Class Favorites (1 Girl and 1 Boy from each class 7-12)
2. Most Spirited (1 Boy and 1 Girl Grades 9-12)
3. Most Talented (1 Girl and 1 Boy Grades 9-12)
4. Personality Plus (1 Girl and 1 Boy Grades 9-12)
5. Most Friendly (1 Girl and 1 Boy Grades 9-12)
6. Most Likely to Succeed (1 Senior Boy and 1 Senior Girl)
7. Mr. and Miss KHS. Ballots go out at large with a list of eligible candidates. The top three Senior boys and top three Senior girls voted on by grades 9-12 will be the nominees.

8. Homecoming King & Queen

- A. The nominees must be three seniors. If no eligible seniors then the honor will default to the junior class and so on until eligible candidates are determined.
- B. The candidates must choose their escort out of the entire student body, or the parent/guardian may serve as escort.
- C. Homecoming Kings are crowned at the Homecoming Pep Rally. King candidates are usually escorted by cheerleaders or Homecoming Queen Candidates. Escorts must be in high school students, or the parent/guardian may serve as escort.

Criteria for Selection for Personality Awards, Student Council Officers, Class Officers

- 1. Must have been in Kress Secondary School for 3 consecutive 6-weeks grading periods preceding the elections.
- 2. They must not have failed any class prior to the election in the previous 3 consecutive 6-weeks grading periods.
- 3. Not been in ISS the 3 consecutive 6-weeks grading periods preceding the elections
- 4. The Student Council, in conjunction with the principal, may use their discretion in determining the awards to be given

Best All-Around Girl and Boy

This award is selected by the faculty and will be presented at the Academic Awards Program.

Academic Awards

- A. In order to qualify for academic awards, students should have been enrolled in Kress High School all of the current school year and be enrolled in five courses that count toward graduation in both the fall and spring semesters.
- B. Subject area outstanding student awards are given at both the high school and junior high school level.
- C. Academic blankets are given to students who excel in academics. A student may earn one blanket during the four years of high school. The student is required to take the blanket during the awards assembly the year that it is earned. Each additional year will be awarded with a patch.
- D. In order to qualify for an academic blanket or become a recognized member of the Honor Society a student must:
 - ♣ be in grades 9-12
 - ♣ attend school in Kress the entire year
 - ♣ be enrolled in a full course load

- ♣ acquire a grade average of at least 91.5 with no six weeks grade below 85. Only six weeks grades are used in this average.

E. Honor roll plaques are given for students in junior high and in high school who received no grade below an A for the first five six weeks.

F. Certificates of achievement are given for students who show exemplary attendance.

G. Presidential Academic Fitness Awards are presented to qualifying eighth graders and seniors.

• **In order to qualify seniors must:**

- ♣ have a four-year average of at least 85,
- ♣ score above the 80th percentile on the SAT or ACT • In order to qualify an eighth grader must:
- ♣ have an 85 average on courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades
- ♣ score above the 80th percentile on a standardized achievement test.

• **In order to qualify an eighth grader must:**

- ♣ have an 85 average on courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades
- ♣ score above the 80th percentile on a standardized achievement test.

H. UIL Scholar Awards are presented to students who graduate in the top ten percent of their class and who have participated in at least one UIL activity.

I. Honor Student Plaques are presented graduation night to seniors who have maintained an “A” average (based on semester grades) on courses that count toward graduation for the four years of high school.

J. Students who take Dual Credit courses at Amarillo College (AC) who take a minimum of 12 hours and have a GPA of 3.5 will wear blue and white honor cords from AC at Graduation

K. Students who take at least 12 hours Dual Credit courses successfully at Amarillo College will wear white cords at Graduation.

L. A/B Certificates

Bullying (All Grade Levels)

The district strives to prevent bullying, in accordance with the district’s policies, by promoting a respectful school climate; encouraging reporting of bullying incidents, including anonymous reporting; and investigating and addressing reported bullying incidents.

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

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

Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of:

- A cellular or other type of telephone
- A computer
- A camera
- Electronic mail
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- A social media application
- An internet website
- Any other internet-based communication tool.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include:

- Hazing
- Threats
- Taunting
- Teasing
- Confinement
- Assault
- Demands for money
- Destruction of property
- Theft of valued possessions
- Name-calling
- Rumor-spreading
- Ostracism.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or witnesses the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible. Procedures for reporting allegations of bullying may be found on the district's website.

A student may anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying by www.kressonline.net

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and related misconduct. The district will also provide notice to the parent of the alleged victim and the parent of the student alleged to have engaged in bullying.

If an investigation determines that

bullying occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and may, in certain circumstances, notify law enforcement. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying.

Available counseling options will be provided to the affected individuals, including any student who witnessed the bullying.

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

Upon recommendation of the administration, the board may transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the board may transfer the student to another campus in the district.

The parent of a student who has been determined to be a victim of bullying may request that the student be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district. [See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 24.]

A copy of the district's bullying policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's website, and is included at the end of this handbook as an appendix.

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

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 24, **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53, **Hazing** on page 77, policy FFI, the district's Student Code of Conduct, and the district improvement plan, a copy of which can be viewed in the campus office.]

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Other Work-Based Programs (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas:

Carpentry

- Principles of Construction
- Construction I
- Construction II
- Mill & Cabinetry

Family and Community Service

- Principles of Human Service
- Dollars & Sense/Lifetime Nutrition
- Child Development
- Family and Community Service

Welding

- Introduction to Welding
- Welding I
- Welding II
- Practicum in Welding

Admission to these programs is based on Student Request and or Graduation plan. All students must take the introduction/principles class as a prerequisite to advanced classes. Students will have the opportunity to earn an industry-based certification in each CTE program.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

District policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

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

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

[See **Nondiscrimination Statement** on page 92 for the name and contact information for the Title IX coordinator and ADA/Section 504 coordinator.]

Celebrations (All Grade Levels)

Although a parent or grandparent may provide food to share for a school-designated function or for a student's birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss any classroom allergies with the teacher before bringing food to share.

Occasionally, the school or a class may host functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers to provide food.

[See **Food Allergies** on page 84.]

Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children (All Grade Levels)

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed at Superintendent's office. Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking.

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse

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. A person who compels or encourages a child to engage in sexual conduct commits abuse. It is illegal to make or possess child pornography or to display such material to a child.

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

A child who has been or is being sexually abused may exhibit physical, behavioral, or emotional warning signs, including:

- Difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches;
- 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; or
- Withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

Be aware that children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, and emotional warning signs. [See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53 and **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 12.]

Warning Signs of Trafficking

Child trafficking of any sort is prohibited by the Penal Code. Sex trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, into sexual abuse, assault, indecency, prostitution, or pornography. Labor trafficking involves forcing a person, including a child, to engage in forced labor or services.

Traffickers are often trusted members of a child's community, such as friends, romantic partners, family members, mentors, and coaches. Some traffickers make contact with victims online.

Possible warning signs of sexual trafficking in children include:

- Changes in school attendance, habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude;
- Sudden appearance of expensive items (for example, manicures, designer clothes, purses, technology);
- Tattoos or branding;
- Refillable gift cards;

- Frequent runaway episodes;
- Multiple phones or social media accounts;
- Provocative pictures posted online or stored on the phone;
- Unexplained injuries;
- Isolation from family, friends, and community; and
- Older romantic partners.

Additional warning signs of labor trafficking in children include:

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

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 12.]

Reporting and Responding to Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused, trafficked, or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

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

If your child is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, the school counselor or principal will provide information on counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) also manages early intervention counseling programs.

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

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp).

Reports of abuse, trafficking, or neglect may be made to the CPS division of the DFPS at 1-800-252-5400 or on the web at [Texas Abuse Hotline Website \(www.txabusehotline.org\)](http://www.txabusehotline.org).

Further Resources on Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children:

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

Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Valedictory and Salutatory Selection

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking as determined by the District's class ranking procedure and who complete the Recommended Program or the Distinguished Achievement Program. Class ranking at the end of the 5th 6 weeks will determine the valedictorian and salutatorian.

To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors a student must have been continuously enrolled in the district high school for the three semesters preceding graduation and must have completed the distinguished graduation plan.

To qualify to give the valedictorian or salutatorian speech, a student shall not have engaged in any serious misconduct violation of the Student Code of Conduct, resulting in removal to an AEP, a three-day suspension, or expulsion during his or her senior year.

Top Ten Percent

All eligible students whose GPA comprises the top ten percent of the graduating class as determined by the District's procedures qualify for automatic admission under Education Code 51.083 and shall be recognized as honor graduates. [See EIC (LEGAL)] Special recognition shall be given to students in the top ten percent of each graduating class. Residency requirements for honor graduates shall not be applicable to these students.

Recognized Graduates

To be recognized for scholastic honors, students shall be required to maintain a numerical average of 90 or more during the high school program, excluding the last 6 weeks of the senior year, and be on the Distinguished Achievement Graduation Plan. Class ranking shall be by graduation program and then numerical grades.

[See policy EIC for more information.]

Early Graduate Eligibility

To be eligible to graduate in three years, the student shall complete all coursework and exit-level testing required of the ninth-grade class in which he or she begins high school. Students wishing to graduate early shall complete a written application in the counselor's office at least six weeks prior to the end of the first semester. In calculating grade point averages and class rank for local District honors, three-year graduates shall be allowed to tie in rank with a four-year graduate but shall not be allowed to displace a four-year graduate. Three-year graduates shall not be eligible for the honors positions of valedictorian, salutatorian, or highest-ranking student. For class ranking for automatic college admission under Education Code 51.803, all students who will graduate, including three-year graduates shall be ranked in accordance with the statute. A student who completes the high school program requirements in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he or she actually graduates, or the graduation class of the school year in which the student completes all requirements for a diploma, regardless of the number of years the student is enrolled in high school. For ranking purposes, a school year begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of summer school.

[See EIC (LEGAL)]

Class Ranking and Grade Point Averages

Class ranking shall be determined by weighted 4-point GPA (accumulated grade points divided by the number of courses for which final semester grades were given). GPA is determined using all semester grades. For example, a semester average of 86 would be 2.6, and a 92 would be 3.2. For courses in which a student earns less than a 70, the student receives a 0 for GPA. The zero is included in the GPA computation.

Class ranking and grade point averages (GPAs) shall include all coursework in grades 9 -12, with the exception of correspondence credit, credit by exam (with or without prior instruction), summer school credit, credit for which only a Pass/Fail grade was given, credit for courses not recognized by TEA, credit awarded in a non-accredited instructional setting, local credit courses, and athletic credit courses. Additionally, courses that earn no credit such as teacher aide, office aide, counselor aide, or library aide shall not be included in the computation.

Only courses including dual credit courses in which the student earns a high school credit as well as a college credit at Amarillo College taken during the normal eight-period school day, facilitated or taught by the instructor of record on campus, will be given high school credit and counted toward class ranking and GPA. Dual Credit courses are considered advanced courses and are weighted on a 5-point GPA scale. (If a student earns a 95, they will receive 4.5 GPA points, for an 86 they will receive 3.6, etc.)

A senior student who is enrolled in but does not complete a semester of active participation in a credit-eligible extracurricular activity shall receive a grade of WP (withdrew while passing), and the class shall not be included in the computation for GPA.

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class upon the basis of weighted grade averages for the four-year program, excluding the last six weeks of the senior year. All grades on a student's transcript, including failing grades, and repeated courses, shall be included in determining a student's grade point average and rank in class except for those mentioned above.

On the student's final transcript graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class upon the basis of weighted grade averages for the four-year program, including the last six weeks of the senior year.

Transfer Students

A student who transfers into the District high school with higher level course credits shall receive similar credits counted toward the GPA according to the list of higher-level courses offered in the District and the grade point scale used for credit earned in the District.

Students transferring into the District shall receive the numerical grade that was earned in courses at another school. Letter grades shall be recorded as follows: A=95, B= 85, C= 75, D =70, F= 60.

Modified Courses

For purposes of determining class rank for honor positions, courses that have been modified by the student's ARD committee as to the required content of the Texas essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) and reflected in the student's IEP shall not earn the same number of grade points as regular courses. However, courses modified as to methodology shall earn the same number of grade points assigned to regular courses.

Breaking a Tie among Honor Students

In case of a tie, the valedictorian shall be chosen according to the following criteria:

1. The student with the most dual credit courses shall be considered first.
2. If a tie still remains, the student with the highest numerical grade average of all dual credit courses taken shall be the valedictorian. [See policy EIC for more information.]

Class Schedules (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

[See **Schedule Changes** on page 100 for information related to student requests to revise their course schedule.]

College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)

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

- Completes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program [see **Foundation Graduation Program** on page 71]; or

- Satisfies the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or earns at least a 1500 out of 2400 on the SAT.

The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the admission requirements of the university or college, including timely submission of a completed application.

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

The University of Texas at Austin may limit the number of automatically admitted students to 75 percent of the University's enrollment capacity for incoming resident freshmen. From the summer 2022 term through the spring 2024 term, the University will admit the top six percent of a high school's graduating class who meet the above requirements. Additional applicants will be considered by the University through a holistic review process.

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

- Automatic college admission;
- Curriculum requirements for financial aid;
- Benefits of completing the requirements for automatic admission and financial aid; and
- The Texas First Early High School Completion Program and the Texas First Scholarship Program.

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

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

[See **Class Rank/Highest-Ranking Student** on page 43 for information specifically related to how the district calculates a student's rank in class, and requirements for **Graduation** on page 70 for information associated with the foundation graduation program.]

[See **Students in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)** on page 25 for information on assistance in transitioning to higher education for students in foster care.]

College Credit Courses (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Students in grades 9–12 may earn college credit through the following opportunities:

Enrollment in concurrent courses taught at colleges or universities. These classes earn college credit only.

Enrollment in dual credit courses taught in conjunction and in partnership with Amarillo College that are **facilitated or taught by the teacher of record on campus during a regular 8 period school day. These classes earn both college and high school credit.**

Available Dual Credit Courses

It is important to keep in mind that not every class offered for dual credit will count towards every degree, and out-of-state or private institutions might not accept the

credits. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

<u>College Course</u>	<u>HS Course</u>
Intro to Public Speaking	Elective (Speech)
Intro to Psychology	Elective (Psychology)
Art Appreciation	Elective (Art Appreciation)
Music Appreciation	Elective (Band)
US History I and II	Elective (Advanced Topics in Social Studies)
Biology I and II	Science (Scientific Research and Design)
English Composition 1 and 2	English IV
US Government	Government
Economics	Economics
College Algebra/Trigonometry	Pre-Calculus
Eligibility	

Students must maintain sufficient evidence of mastery of grade-level high school courses (state assessments, class grades, etc.). Students must also demonstrate college readiness through the PSAT, SAT, ACT, or TSI. Students must be approved prior to enrollment in the course, and parents must participate in an information meeting. Students and parents must sign a contract for every semester a student enrolls in a dual credit course. Please see the school counselor for more information.

Note: Students will be able to take college courses at local universities online. Although Kress ISD will help in providing computer access and assist as needed, the relationship will be between the University and the student. Reminder: Any college class taken online that is not a dual credit course facilitated or taught by the teacher of record on campus during a regular 8 period school day is not counted in GPA or class ranking and will not receive high school credit.

Communications (All Grade Levels)

Parent Contact Information

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

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

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

A parent may update contact information by Contacting the School secretary.

Emergency

The district will rely on contact information on file with the district to communicate with parents in an emergency situation, which may include real-time or automated messages. An emergency situation may include early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to the campus due to severe weather, another emergency, or a security threat. It is crucial to notify your child's school when a phone number changes.

[See **Safety** on page 98 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency situation.]

Nonemergency

Your child's school will request that you provide contact information for the school to send information specific to your child, your child's school, or the district. If you provide a phone number for this purpose, please notify the school's administration office immediately if your number changes.

The district or school may generate automated or pre-recorded messages, text messages, or real-time phone or email communications that are closely related to the school's mission, so prompt notification of any change in contact information will be crucial.

Standard messaging rates of your wireless phone carrier may apply.

If you have specific requests or needs related to how the district contacts you, please contact your child's principal. [See **Safety** on page 98 for information regarding contact with parents during an emergency.]

Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed informally by a phone call or a conference with the teacher or principal.

For those complaints and concerns that cannot be resolved informally, the board has adopted a Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances policy FNG(LOCAL). This policy can be viewed in the district's policy manual, available online at www.kressonline.net. The complaint forms can be accessed www.kressonline.net or at the principal's or superintendent's office.

To file a formal complaint a parent or student should complete and submit the complaint form. In general, the written complaint form should be completed and submitted to the campus principal in a timely manner.

If the concern is not resolved, a parent or student may request a conference with the superintendent.

If the concern is still unresolved, the district provides a process for parents and students to appeal to the board of trustees.

Conduct (All Grade Levels)

Applicability of School Rules

The board has adopted a Student Code of Conduct that defines standards of acceptable behavior—on and off campus, during remote and in-person instruction, and on district vehicles—and outlines consequences for violation of these standards. The district has

disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students and parents should be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

During summer instruction, the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in place for the school year immediately preceding the summer period shall apply, unless the district amends either or both documents for the purposes of summer instruction.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

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

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 e 5th St. Kress Texas, 79052

phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

Deliveries

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

Disruption of School Operations

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

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator.

Disruption of classes or other school activities while on or within 500 feet of district property 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 is also considered a disruption.

Social Events

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

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

A parent interested in serving as a chaperone for any school social events should contact the ca

Prom

1. High school age students only.
2. Outside dates must be pre-approved by the principal.
3. Appropriate dress is required. Dresses need to be formal not revealing the mid drift. Dresses that are low cut or see thorough are not acceptable. Dresses must meet the length requirements for shorts. Boys need to wear dress clothes such as tuxedo, or at the minimum a collared shirt and nice pants. (No bagging or sagging.) If you have questions about appropriate clothing please ask the principal.
4. General school rules apply. No tobacco, no alcohol, etc.
5. No outside drinks or food will be allowed.

School Dances

1. High school and Jr High age students only.
2. Outside dates must be pre-approved by the principal.
3. Appropriate dress is required. School Dress Code Applies (No bagging or sagging.) If you have questions about appropriate wear please ask the principal. Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 53 of 129
4. General school rules apply. No tobacco, no alcohol, etc.
5. No outside drinks or food will be allowed.

Counseling

The district has a comprehensive school counseling program that includes:

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

- Systems to support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students.

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

Academic Counseling

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels

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

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

High School Grade Levels

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

Each year, high school students will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next school year, how to make the most of academic and career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, and the importance of postsecondary education.

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

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

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

[See **Scholarships and Grants** on page 76 for more information.]

Personal Counseling (All Grade Levels)

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and family concerns, including emotional or mental health issues and substance abuse. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor should make an appointment or simply 'walk-in'.. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child's mental or emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of resources that may be of assistance.

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

[See **Mental Health Support** on page 81, **Child Sexual Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children** on page 41, and **Dating Violence** on page 53.]

Course Credit (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. For a two-part (two-semester, 1-credit course), the student's grades from both halves (semesters) will be averaged and credit will be awarded if the combined average is 70 or above. If the student's combined average is less than 70, the student will be awarded credit only for the half (semester) with the passing grade.

Credit by Examination—If a Student Has Taken the Course/Subject (Grades 6–12)

A student who has previously taken a course or subject but did not receive credit or a final grade for it may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a nonaccredited school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

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

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

[See the school counselor and policy EHDB(LOCAL) for more information.]

Credit by Examination for Advancement/Acceleration—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level.

The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees. Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district's website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window.

The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.

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

Kindergarten Acceleration

Students in Grades 1–5

A student in elementary school is eligible to accelerate to the next grade level if:

- The student scores at least an 80 on each examination in the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
- A district administrator recommends that the student be accelerated; and
- The student's parent gives written approval of the grade advancement.

Students in Grades 6–12

A student in grade 6 or above is eligible to earn course credit with:

- A passing score of at least 80 on an examination approved by the board; or
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP); or
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP examination, as applicable.

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

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (All Grade Levels)

Students learn best, and their welfare is best served, in a school environment that is free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Students are expected to treat peers and district employees with courtesy and respect, avoid offensive behaviors, and stop those behaviors as directed. District employees are likewise expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

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

Dating Violence

Dating violence will not be tolerated at school. To report dating violence, see **Reporting Procedures** on page 56.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in

the relationship or any of the person's past or subsequent partners. This type of conduct is considered harassment if it is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical or sexual assaults;
- Name-calling;
- Put-downs;
- Threats to hurt the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household;
- Destroying property belonging to the student;
- Threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship;
- Threats to harm a student's past or current dating partner;
- Attempts to isolate the student from friends and family;
- Stalking; or
- Encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

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

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

For more information on dating violence, see:

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

[See **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 12.]

Discrimination

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, 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 a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an

intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation;
- Threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct;
- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors;
- Physical aggression or assault;
- Graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment

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

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature;
- Sexual advances;
- Jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and
- Other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

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

Gender-based harassment includes physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on a student's gender, the student's expression of characteristics perceived as stereotypical for the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity.

Gender-based harassment can occur regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student may include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors;
- Physical aggression or assault;
- Threatening or intimidating conduct; or
- Other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good-faith report or participates in an investigation of discrimination, harassment, or dating violence is prohibited. A person who makes a false claim,

offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a district investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline.

Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

Reporting Procedures

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

Upon receiving a report, the district will determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH. If not, the district will refer to policy FFI to determine whether the allegations, if proven, constitute bullying, as defined by law and policy FFI. If the alleged prohibited conduct also meets the statutory and policy definitions for bullying, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. [See **Bullying** on page 35]

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

Investigation of Report

Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated.

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 comply with law.

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

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

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

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

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

Discrimination

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53.]

Distance Learning (All Grade Levels)

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

The distance learning opportunities that the district makes available to district students are **Amarillo College or The Texas Virtual School Network**.

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

[See **Remote Instruction** on page 97.]

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

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

Depending on the TXVSN course in which a student enrolls, the course may be subject to the “no pass, no play” rules. [See **Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations** on page 63.] In addition, a student who enrolls in a TXVSN course for which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is required must still take the corresponding EOC assessment.

A parent may ask questions or request that their child be enrolled in a TXVSN course by contacting the school counselor. Unless an exception is made by the school counselor, a student will not be allowed to enroll in a TXVSN course if the school offers the same or a similar course.

A copy of policy EHDE addressing distance learning will be distributed to parents of middle and high school students at least once each year. If you do not receive a copy or have questions about this policy, please contact *High School Principal*.

Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents (All Grade Levels)

School Materials

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

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

Nonschool Materials

From Students

Students must obtain prior approval from the Principal before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than 30 copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of

the school. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring person or organization. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

The Principal has designated bulletin board on the west end as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy FNAA for more information.]

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

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

From Others

No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, except as permitted by policy 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 DGBA or GF for more information.]

The Principal as the location on the west end for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

11. Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
12. Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL) or a noncurriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with policy FNAB(LOCAL).
13. 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 (All Grade Levels)

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, minimizes safety hazards, and maintains a positive learning climate. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

Grooming:

- Hair should be neat and well groomed. Style should not cause a distraction, no unnatural colors.
- Neatly trimmed beards and mustaches may be worn.
- Visible body piercing is limited to the ear and nose. No hoops, bars, or gauges.

Clothing:

- Shorts, dresses, skirts, or culottes must present a well-groomed and modest appearance. Must be 2" below fingertips while standing and or reach the knee. Shorts must be hemmed.
- No cut-offs, biking shorts, boxer shorts or wind shorts allowed.
- Pants, jeans, shorts, skirts, must be worn at the waist. No Sagging or Bagging.
- Garments (pants) with holes worn or torn may be worn with no holes above 2" below fingertips.
- All shirts must overlap the waistband of skirts, pants, and shorts. The entire midsection must be always covered, (standing, sitting, reaching etc.)
- No tank tops, sleeveless basketball jerseys, spaghetti straps, under shirts, muscle shirts, camisoles, halter tops, tube tops, or sleeveless t-shirts are allowed as shirts. A sleeveless dress shirt, shell, button down is permitted only if at shoulders is 4 fingers wide.
- Garments that are see through, low-cut or revealing are not acceptable. Clothing that reveals cleavage or undergarments are not allowed.
- No leggings, tights, pajama's worn as pants.

- Footwear required, shoes that are worn and designed for normal outside/inside use.
- No house shoes, house slippers etc.
- Garments that have inappropriate or offending logos, slogans, gestures, innuendos are not allowed.
- Garments and jewelry with wording, lettering, decorations that advertise or represent alcohol, tobacco, drugs, narcotics or promote use are not acceptable.
- Clothing or accessories that create a safety hazard in classes that involve the use of machinery, welders, chemicals, or open flame are not acceptable. These classes may require clothing required for safety.

Others:

- Sunglasses or dark glasses may not be worn inside school building unless prescribed by physician.
- Hats/caps may not be worn or carried in school building. Hats need to be in locker or backpack.
- Sweatbands, hooded jackets, bandanas may not be worn.
- Heavy chain necklaces, oversized pendants or other types of inappropriate Jewelry are not permitted.

If the principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given the opportunity to correct the problem. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct.

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

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. [See **Textbooks, Electronic**

Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials on page 115 for graphing calculator applications on computing devices.]

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes.

A student must have approval to possess other personal telecommunications devices on campus such as laptops, tablets, or other portable computers. 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.

The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event. If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student/parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.

- Cell phones must be turned off on campus during the school day. Please turn off your phone and place it in your backpack. Cell phones should not be carried on their person. You can bring it to the office until the end of the day if you choose.
- Placing a cell phone on vibrate or texting is not considered off and is prohibited. • Using a cell phone to record or video is prohibited.
- Students may use phones before and after school, during passing period and Lunch. Students may also use phones during extracurricular events and contests and field trips. Sponsors may require other rules for phone usage.

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

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Searches** on page 105 and policy FNF for more information.]

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

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook).

All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

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

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

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

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content—commonly referred to as “sexting”—will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student. We encourage parents to review with their child the ["Before You Text" Sexting Prevention Course](https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/) (<https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text/>), a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

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

End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

[See **Graduation** on page 70 and **Standardized Testing** on page 110.]

English Learners (All Grade Levels)

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

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 designate instructional accommodations or additional special programs that the student will require to eventually become proficient at grade level work in English. Ongoing assessments will be conducted to determine a student's continued eligibility for the program.

The LPAC will also determine whether certain accommodations are necessary for any state-mandated assessments. The STAAR Spanish, as mentioned at **Standardized Testing** on page 110, may be administered to an English learner up to grade 5. In limited circumstances, a student's LPAC may exempt the student from an otherwise required state-mandated assessment or may waive certain graduation requirements related to the English I end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) will also be administered to English learners who qualify for services.

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

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations (All Grade Levels)

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships.

Some extracurricular activities may include off-campus events. Students are required to use transportation provided by the district to and from the events. Exceptions may only be made with the approval of the activity's coach or sponsor. [See **Transportation** on page 116.]

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

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

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

Student safety in extracurricular activities is a priority of the district. Parents are entitled to review the district's records regarding the age of each football helmet used by the campus, including when a helmet has been reconditioned.

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

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

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

In addition, the following applies to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives special education services and who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 5 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 2 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will be considered an unexcused absence.

Standards of Behavior

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

Offices and Elections

Certain clubs, organizations, and performing groups will hold elections for student officers. These groups include:

Student Council, FCCLA, ITE, and NHS

Fees (All Grade Levels)

Basic educational program materials are provided at no charge to a student. However, a student is expected to provide his or her own supplies, such as pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. A student may also be required to pay certain other costs, fees, or deposits, including:

- Materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations.
- Admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, and the like.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance when uniforms are provided by the district.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.

- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on district premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.
- A reasonable fee for providing transportation to a student who lives within two miles of the school. [See **Buses and Other School Vehicles** on page **Error! Bookmark not defined..**]
- A maximum fee of \$50 for an educational program outside of regular school hours for a student who has lost credit or has not been awarded a final grade because of absences and whose parent chooses the program for the student to meet the 90 percent attendance requirements. The fee will be charged only if the parent or guardian signs a district-provided request form.
- In some cases, a fee for a course taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN).

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the *“the principal”*. [See policy FP for more information.]

CHOICE

A student shall not be unduly influenced or coerced to choose one activity over another. If a conflict should arise and after a decision is made, the student shall not be punished in any way for the decision he has made, provided ample notice is given to the sponsors. This is a school board rule. Although students are expected to complete the work missed in a class, extra work or activities will not be given as a punishment for missing one class, one activity, or one practice to participate in another

The choice of what extracurricular events the student attends will be left solely to the student and their parents, but program stability and commitment should be considered. These choices might also result in future activities being missed in a certain program, if the activities are directly related. At no time however will a student be subjected to verbal comments or retaliating from a program for choosing one activity over another. If retaliation does occur, the student or parent should report it to the principal immediately.

Retaliation is defined as punishment given or verbal comments made strictly to a student for selecting one extracurricular activity over another. Programs may have rules however about Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 67 of 129 participation or makeup work being required if the rule applies to all participants regardless of why an activity was missed. This is a rule and would not be considered as retaliation.

Students, who know that they are going to be involved in many extracurricular activities that require release time, need to check with the principal as early as possible before making plans to be absent. This will help eliminate confusion and release time being denied.

Students also need to make their choices as early as possible and tell the program sponsor so that the different programs will know who is available for certain activities.

PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

Students may practice outside the school day in any single extracurricular activity a maximum of eight hours per school week with a cumulative total of twenty hours for all activities. The District shall not schedule more than one contest or performance per activity per student per school week, unless the commissioner of education has made an exception based on the District's limited facilities.

The District may schedule more than one contest or performance per activity per student per school week to accommodate tournaments, post-season competition, and contests postponed by weather or public disaster when the performance or contest is sponsored by UIL or other school-sanctioned organization

CODES OF CONDUCT FOR CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Student clubs and performing groups such as band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish codes of conduct--and consequences for misbehavior--that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the school will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization. These codes of conduct will be on file in the office.

FCCLA

The Texas Association Family, Career and Community Leadership of America (FCCLA) are a nonprofit national vocational student organization for young men and women in family and consumer sciences education in public and private school through grade 12. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life -- planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision-making and interpersonal communication -- necessary in the home and workplace.

Texas TSA STUDENT CLUB

The purpose of the Texas TSA Club is to promote student leadership and the Carpentry and Welding department and in the in the community. Students in advanced courses can join in the club.

Career and Technical courses are taken in a sequence beginning with Introduction to welding and Principles of Construction. Students must complete Introduction to Welding or Principles of construction courses (Beginning Level) first in order to take the Advanced classes. Students in these classes Beginning classes will not be eligible to attend state contest participation.

There is one division in our region state competition only. The state/national fee is subject to change.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Each class will elect two representatives. These representatives must have and maintain a 70 overall grade average. Grades 9-12 will elect the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. These officers do not count as one of the two representatives of each class. Officers must maintain an 80 average. The president must be a senior; the vice president a junior or senior; the secretary and treasurer any high school grade level. Must maintain 90% attendance.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is an invitation only academic organization. It promotes recognition of students who have outstanding accomplishments in the areas of academics, character, leadership, and service.

To be eligible for consideration by the Faculty Council for admission into National Honor Society, the student must have mastered all sections of the State Assessment and have an average grade of 90 or above in each class. The exception to this will be AP weighted courses. In these classes an 85 will be accepted. From there, a point system will be used based on scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

To be considered for induction, each senior candidate must have a minimum of 80 points. Each junior candidate must have a minimum of 75 points. Each sophomore must have a minimum of 70 points.

Scholarship and service points are transferable from previously attended schools. A student must have been a member of Kress High School for at least one full semester to be considered. Members in good standing from other schools will be accepted into the Kress chapter.

Students must maintain the standards under which they were inducted. Students will be warned of failures to maintain standards of the Society and if necessary, asked to receive counseling. If dismissal is warranted, the members and his/her parents will be notified in writing of a violation and allowed to present his/her case before the council. No warning is necessary in the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or a violation of civil laws. If the student is dismissed, the student must return the membership card and emblem.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ATHLETICS

- I. In general, rules of conduct, dress, and scholarship are essential building blocks for a successful overall program in athletics. Students who will not commit themselves to pursuit of excellence, self-improvement, self-discipline, and personal growth have no place in an athletic program.
- II. The following rules of conduct are in force for those who desire to be a part of a Kress athletic team:
 - a. Any disciplinary action of a serious nature taken against a student-athlete for misconduct away from the athletic area that results in a loss of athletic time may result in disciplinary action by the coach or athletic director. Parents and principal will be informed of any action taken.
 - b. Students will conform to rules of training beneficial to their success as a student athlete. Students should, on weeknights, be at home by a reasonable hour. They should refrain from usage of substances deemed harmful to their success by the coaching staff during seasons of active competition.
 - c. Student-athletes shall refrain from use of profane language in times of practice or competition and shall further speak respectfully to coaches and other school personnel at all times. This applies to officials of athletic contests and opposing coaches as well.
 - d. Flagrant and willful misconduct in any game or competition or if a player is penalized for misconduct, severe disciplinary action will be taken by the coach of that sport.

These rules and other guidelines as set forth by the coaching staff are essential for a successful athletic program. Rules and guidelines for Kress athletics are set forth in the Kress High School Athletic Plan available from the coaching staff. The athletic director and coaching staff will make all other applicable rules and policies.

CHEERLEADER POLICY-HIGH SCHOOL FOR JR./SR. HIGH

The following is an excerpt from the cheerleader policy.

- A. Students must be in grades 8-11 to try out for varsity cheerleader.
- B. Students must be in grades 6-7 to try out for junior-high cheerleader.
- C. A cheerleader must be an example in academics, citizenship, attitude, and moral standing. The state eligibility rules for athletes will also apply to cheerleader eligibility for participation.
- D. All cheerleaders will be required to attend cheerleading camp in the summer proceeding the year of service as a cheerleader. The school will pay the camp fee.
- E. A cheerleader may not be absent from required games or practices for reasons other than illness or family emergencies. The sponsor must approve the nature of these emergencies. If possible, absences other than illness should be arranged prior to absence. To operate smoothly, the squad must be able to depend on the presence and promptness of each member. For this reason, three or more unexcused absences from any activity will be cause for removal from the squad. These activities include games, practices, special meetings, fund-raising projects, etc.
- F. Cheerleaders cannot participate in any off-campus employment during times set aside Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 70 of 129 for cheerleader activities. Work is not an acceptable excuse for absence or tardiness from cheerleading activities.
- G. The cheerleader will be a cheerleader for a variety of sports, not football only. The cheerleader will be required to meet regularly, scheduled practices, pep rallies, and all varsity football games. The cheerleader will also be required to fulfill duties for other sports that may take some of her time. These duties may require after school time on the cheerleader's part after football season is over. Cheering at basketball games-- especially varsity games--will be required. Cheerleaders will participate and do their part in all cheerleaders' fund-raising activities, or they will be benched for at least one game-- No Excuses.
- H. Cheerleaders will be required to be at all home games at least thirty minutes before scheduled game time. Cheerleaders will need to be at the bus ready to leave at least 15 minutes before scheduled departure time for out-of-town games. Equipment needs to be prepared and ready to go before the night of the game.
- I. Cheerleaders will be required to ride the school provided vehicles to and from all out of town games. The only way in which a cheerleader can get off the provided vehicle to ride home is for her parents to send a note before the game stating that the cheerleader will be riding home with them, and the parents must be at the game to get the cheerleader. A cheerleader cannot, for any reason, leave the sponsor's supervision with anyone but her parents.
- J. Participants will try out before the student body and a panel of judges.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held in the spring Tryout Eligibility

- A. Must return parent permission form.
- B. Must be passing all subjects. (UIL) C. Must not have been in ISS 3 consecutive 6 weeks periods preceding the elections.
- C. Must attend pre-tryout meetings.
- D. Must have attended Kress School three consecutive 6-weeks periods preceding elections..
- E. Cheerleaders, parents, and sponsor will be asked to sign a form stating that they have read and that they understand the cheerleader information and requirements

Tryout Judges and Student Body

- A. Six students will be selected as cheerleaders, and one mascot will be selected (for the varsity team).
- B. Tryouts will be before a panel of judges made up of University or National Cheerleader Association Judges and the student body.
- C. Selection will be based as follows: 70% judges, 20% teacher evaluation, 10% student vote.

These rules and other guidelines as set forth by the cheerleader sponsor are essential for a successful program. Rules and guidelines for Kress Cheerleaders are set forth in the Kress High School Cheerleader Policy available from the sponsor.

Fundraising (All Grade Levels)

Student groups or classes and/or parent groups may be permitted to conduct fundraising drives for approved school purposes in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policies FJ and GE for more information.]

Gang-Free Zones (All Grade Levels)

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

Gender-Based Harassment

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53.]

Grade-Level Classification (Grades 9–12 Only)

After grade 9, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

Credits Earned	Classification
5	Grade 10 (Sophomore)

10	Grade 11 (Junior)
15	Grade 12 (Senior)

Grading Guidelines (All Grade Levels)

Approved grading guidelines for each grade level or course will be communicated to students and their parents by the classroom teacher. These guidelines establish:

- **A minimum number of 12 grades should be recorded per six weeks per student.**
- This will be accomplished by recording at least two **(2) grades per week** for the first five (5) weeks of a six week grading period. This should be perceived as a minimum requirement by the teacher and not as a limit on the number of grades to be recorded.
- **This will need to include at least 2 assessments and 10 daily grades.**
- **Grades 40% Daily**
- **Test or assessments 60%**
- **Semester exams 20%**
- How the student's mastery of concepts and achievement will be communicated (for example, letter grades, numerical averages, checklist of required skills, and the like);
- Circumstances under which a student will be allowed to redo an assignment or retake an examination the student originally failed; and
- Procedures for a student to follow after an absence.

[See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 98 for additional information on grading guidelines.]

Graduation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Requirements for a Diploma

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

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

Testing Requirements for Graduation

Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on EOC assessments in:

- English I,
- English II,
- Algebra I,
- Biology, and
- U.S. History.

A student who does not achieve a sufficient score will have opportunities to retake an assessment.

State law allows a student to meet EOC requirements by substituting satisfactory performance on approved national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities. [See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.]

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, the district will provide remediation in the applicable content area. This may require the student's participation outside normal school operating times.

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

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 110.]

Foundation Graduation Program

Every Texas public school student will graduate under the foundation graduation program. The foundation graduation program features endorsements, which are paths of interest that include:

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

Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript.

A student can complete the foundation graduation program with a "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits.

A **Personal Graduation Plan** will be completed for each high school student, as described on page 74.

State law generally prohibits a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement. However, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parent may request that the student graduate without an endorsement. The district will advise the student and the student's parent of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement. The student and the student's parent must then submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university.

A student graduating under the foundation graduation program can also earn performance acknowledgments on his or her transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, or for earning a license or certificate recognized at the state, national, or international level. The school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

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

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

Credits Required

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

FOUNDATION – 22 Credits			
4 Credits in English	3 Credits in Science (including Biology, Physics or Chemistry)	3 Credits in Math (including Algebra I and Geometry)	3 Credits in History (including Govt/Econ, & US History)
1 Credit in PE	1 Credit in Fine Arts	2 credits in Foreign Language	5 Electives
Other Requirements for Graduation: Speech, Instruction on Proper Interaction with Peace Officers, and CPR Certification			

Kress ISD offers the following endorsements. For each endorsement, the courses described are in addition to the courses required for the foundation plan. A student must specify upon entering grade 9 which endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

ENDORSEMENTS – 26 Credits			
Business & Industry	Public Service	Arts & Humanities	Multidisciplinary
4 TH Math 4 th Science AND 4 credits in CTE Construction (Carpentry) and/or Manufacturing (Welding) with at least one adv. course OR 1 course in journalism and 3 in adv. journalism (yearbook)	4 TH Math 4 th Science AND 4 credits in CTE Human Service (Public Service) with at least one adv. course	4 TH Math 4 th Science AND 4 courses in Fine Arts from one or two disciplines (art, theatre, music) OR 2 additional social studies credits	4 TH Math 4 th Science AND 4 advanced CTE courses OR 1 additional history, and English IV

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

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

Physical education. A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

Languages other than English. Students are required to earn 2 credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits.

1. A student may satisfy one of the two required credits by successfully completing in elementary school a dual language immersion program or a course in American Sign Language.
2. In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

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

Financial Aid Application Requirement

FAFSA OR TASFA

Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA).

- A student is not required to complete and submit a FAFSA or TASFA if:
- The student's parent submits a form provided by the district indicating that the parent authorizes the student to opt out;
- A student who is 18 years of age or older or a legally independent minor submits a form provided by the district indicating that the student opts out; or
- A school counselor authorizes the student to opt out for good cause.

Please contact the school counselor for more information..

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

- A screenshot that includes the processed date field of the FAFSA Apply Texas Counselor Suite.
- Notification, such as a copy of an email, from the United States Department of Education verifying completion of the FAFSA;
- A copy or screenshot of the FAFSA acknowledgment page;
- A screenshot of the TASFA submission acknowledgment page (from those institutions that offer an electronic form);
- An acknowledgment receipt from an institution of higher education (IHE); or
- A copy of a financial aid award letter from an IHE.

Personal Graduation Plans

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student.

The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four-year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class.

The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that promotes college and workforce readiness, promotes career placement and advancement, and facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

The student's personal graduation plan will outline an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

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

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

Certificates of Coursework Completion

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

Students with Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will include:

- Graduation practice/photographs with board president or designee receiving diploma/individual/group

- Wearing of traditional cap and gown with appropriate dress.

The following students and student groups will be recognized at graduation ceremonies:

- Honor Graduates

- Students receiving Academic Awards earned they senior year

- Students receiving scholarships

Students who have met coursework requirements for graduation but have not yet demonstrated satisfactory performance on end-of-course assessments or been declared eligible to graduate by an individual graduation committee, if applicable, will be allowed to participate in graduation activities. Keep in mind that participating in the ceremonies is not synonymous with graduating.

Ultimately, the final awarding of a diploma will be contingent upon the student's completion of all applicable requirements for graduation.

Students who are eligible to graduate but are assigned to a disciplinary alternative education program at the end of the school year Will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities.

Graduation Speakers

Graduating students will be given an opportunity to provide opening and closing remarks during the graduation ceremony. Only those students who are graduating and who are among the five highest academically ranked will be eligible to give these remarks; however, if the student was assigned to disciplinary placement at any time during the spring semester, he or she will not be eligible to speak at graduation. The Valedictorian and the Salutatorian will not be eligible to give the opening and/or the closing remarks as they will be speaking during the ceremony.

Students eligible to give the opening and closing remarks will be notified by the principal and given an opportunity to volunteer. In the event there are more eligible students volunteering than there are speaking roles at the graduation ceremony, the names of all eligible students who volunteered shall be randomly drawn. The student whose name is drawn first will give the opening remarks and the student whose name is drawn second will give the closing remarks. In addition to the opening and closing remarks,

The valedictorian and salutatorian may also have speaking roles at the graduation ceremony.

[See FNA (LOCAL).] and Student Code of Conduct Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Fees** on page 64.]

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both the student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Fees** on page 64.]

Scholarships and Grants

Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the foundation graduation program may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program and the Teach for Texas Grant Program for scholarships and grants toward tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. Certain students who graduate early may also be eligible for the Texas First Scholarship Program.

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

See **College and University Admissions and Financial Aid (All Grade Levels)** on page 45 for more information.

Contact the school counselor for information about other scholarships and grants available to students.

Harassment

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53.]

Hazing (All Grade Levels)

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

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

The district will not tolerate hazing. Disciplinary consequences for hazing will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. It is a criminal offense if a person engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; or has firsthand knowledge of an incident of hazing being planned or having occurred and fails to report this to the principal or superintendent.

[See **Bullying** on page 35 and policies FFI and FNCC for more information.]

Health—Physical and Mental

Illness (All Grade Levels)

When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she will not be attending that day.

State rules require schools to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for certain periods of time. For example, if a child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications. Students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea-free without use of diarrhea-suppressing medications for 24 hours.

A parent should contact the school nurse if a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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

If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

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

The school nurse is available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

Immunization (All Grade Levels)

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

For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. You may access the [DSHS exemption form \(https://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx\)](https://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx) online or by writing to this address:

Texas Department of State Health Services
Immunization Section, Mail Code 1946
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A

The school nurse can provide information on immunization requirements. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. registered and licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a lifelong condition.

For information on immunization against bacterial meningitis and college enrollment and attendance, see **Bacterial Meningitis** on page 84.

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

Lice (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

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

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

[See policy FFAA for more information.]

Medicine at School (All Grade Levels)

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

The district will not purchase nonprescription medication to give to a student.

In accordance with policy FFAC, authorized employees may administer:

- Prescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Prescription medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified district employee from the original, properly labeled container provided by the parent along with a written request.
- Nonprescription medication in the original, properly labeled container, provided by the parent along with a written request. **Note:** Insect repellent is considered a nonprescription medication.
- Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent only if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

Students whose schedules provide for regular time spent outdoors, including for recess and physical education classes, should apply sunscreen before coming to school.

At the elementary level, a student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to the student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and asks for help applying it. A student at this level may apply his or her own sunscreen if the student is able to do so.

At the secondary level, a student may possess and apply sunscreen when necessary. If the student needs assistance with sunscreen application, please address the need with the school nurse.

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

Asthma and Severe Allergic Reactions

A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may 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 health-care provider and the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication.

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

See also **Food Allergies** on page 84.

Unassigned Epinephrine Auto-injectors

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

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

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

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

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

[Include the paragraph below only if applicable.]

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

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

Unassigned Prescription Asthma Medication

In accordance with Chapter 38, Subchapter E of the Education Code, the board has adopted a policy to allow a school nurse to administer an unassigned prescription asthma medication on a school campus to a student with diagnosed asthma if the nurse, in his or her professional judgment, reasonably believes the student is experiencing symptoms of asthma that warrant administration of the medication and the district has obtained prior written consent from the student's parent or guardian.

The school nurse may only administer unassigned prescription asthma medication to a student on a school campus. Please be aware that a school nurse will not always be available at a campus to administer this medication.

"Unassigned asthma medication" means a fast-acting bronchodilator delivered by metered dose inhaler with single use spacer or by nebulizer as a rescue medication, prescribed by an authorized health-care provider in the name of the district with a non-patient-specific standing delegation order for the administration of an asthma medication, and issued by an authorized health-care provider.

For additional information, see FFAC(LOCAL).

Steroids (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for physician-prescribed medical use only.

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

Mental Health Support (All Grade Levels)

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

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

Kress ISD uses the 7Mindsets Curriculum to address social-emotional learning in grades PK-12. Appropriate staff and faculty are trained yearly in Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention and Awareness.

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

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 psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication that is intended to alter perception, emotion, mood, or behavior.

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. [See policy FFEB for more information.]

For related information, see:

- **Consent to Conduct a Psychological Evaluation** on page 11 and **Consent to Provide a Mental Health Care Service** on page 12 for the district's procedures for recommending a mental health intervention and the mental health liaison's contact information;
- **Counseling** on page 50 for the district's comprehensive school counseling program;
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources** on page 85 for campus and community mental and physical health resources; and
- **Policies and Procedures that Promote Student Physical and Mental Health** on page 85 for board-adopted policies and administrative procedures that promote student health.

Physical Activity Requirements

Elementary School

The district will ensure that students in full-day prekindergarten–grade 5 engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day or 135 minutes per week, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

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

Junior High/Middle School

The district will ensure that students in middle or junior high school will engage in *choose **ONE** of the following based on district practice*: 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day for at least four semesters **OR** at least 225 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity within each two-week period for at least four semesters, in accordance with policies at EHAB, EHAC, EHBG, and FFA.

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

Temporary Restriction from Participation in Physical Education

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

Physical Fitness Assessment (Grades 3–12)

Annually, the district will conduct a physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12 who are enrolled in a physical education course or a course for which physical education credit is awarded. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year by contacting:

Leah Zeigler

Superintendent

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

leah.zeigler@region16.net

806-684-2652

Physical Health Screenings/Examinations

Athletics Participation (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

This examination is required in the first year of middle school competition and the first and third years of high school competition. During the alternate years, the student must complete a medical appraisal form, and the results of this appraisal may prompt the district to require a physical examination.

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

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

Spinal Screening Program

School-based spinal screening helps identify adolescents with abnormal spinal curvature at an early stage when the curve is mild and may go unnoticed. Early detection is key to controlling spinal deformities. Spinal screening is non-invasive and conducted in accordance with the most recent nationally accepted and peer-reviewed standards.

All students who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria will be screened for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. As appropriate, students will be referred for follow-up with their physician.

For information on spinal screening by an outside professional or exemption from spinal screening based on religious beliefs, contact the superintendent or see policy FFAA(LEGAL).

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)

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

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

The duties of the SHAC include:

- Making recommendations regarding physical and mental health curriculum.
- Developing strategies for integrating curriculum into a coordinated school health program encompassing issues such as school health services, counseling services, a safe and healthy school environment, recess recommendations, improving student fitness, mental health concerns, substance abuse prevention, and employee wellness.
- Making recommendations for increasing parents' awareness of warning signs of suicide and mental health risks and community mental health and suicide prevention services

[See policies at BDF and EHAA. See Human Sexuality Instruction on page 22 for additional information.]

Other Examinations and Screenings (All Grade Levels)

See policy FFAA for more information.

Special Health Concerns (All Grade Levels)

Bacterial Meningitis (All Grade Levels)

Please see the district's website at www.kressonline.net for information regarding meningitis.

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

[See **Immunization** on page 78.]

Diabetes

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

Food Allergies (All Grade Levels)

Parents should notify the district when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially an allergy that could result in dangerous or life-threatening reactions either by breathing, eating, or touching the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the

student is allergic as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, based on the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis* found on the DSHS [Allergies and Anaphylaxis](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/allergiesandanaphylaxis/) website (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/allergiesandanaphylaxis/>)

When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, an individual care plan will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed at www.kressonline.net

[See **Celebrations** on page 40 and policy FFAF for more information.]

Seizures (All Grade Levels)

To address the care of a student with a seizure disorder while at school or participating in a school activity, a parent may submit a seizure management and treatment plan to the district before the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment of the student, or as soon as practicable following diagnosis of a seizure disorder.

[See **A Student with Physical or Mental Impairments Protected under Section 504** on page 29 and contact the school nurse for more information.]

Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Prohibited (All Grade Levels and All Others on School Property)

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or any other electronic vaporizing device while on school property or while attending an off-campus school-related activity.

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

Health-Related Resources, Policies, and Procedures

Physical and Mental Health Resources (All Grade Levels)

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

- The Kress elementary part-time nurse, Mrs. Birkenfield, at 806-684-2651
- The Kress HS full-time school counselor, Mrs. Couch, at 806-684-2651

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

The district has adopted board policies that promote student physical and mental health. (LOCAL) policies on the topics below can be found in the district's policy manual, available at www.kressonline.net

- Food and nutrition management: CO, COA, COB

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

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

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

For further information regarding these procedures and access to the District Improvement Plan, please contact:

Leah Zeigler

Superintendent

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

leah.zeigler@region16.net

806-684-2652

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) (All Grade Levels)

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

Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings will be posted at each campus administrative office at least 72 hours before the meeting. Notification of upcoming SHAC meetings, meeting minutes, and a recording of each meeting will be posted on the district website at www.kressonline.net

[See **Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction** on page 11, **Consent to Instruction on Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking** on page 12, and policies BDF and EHAA. for more information.]

Student Wellness Policy/Wellness Plan (All Grade Levels)

To encourage healthy habits in our students, the district has developed a board-adopted wellness policy at FFA(LOCAL) and corresponding plans and procedures to implement it. For questions about the content or implementation of the district's wellness policy and plan, please contact:

Leah Zeigler

Superintendent

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

leah.zeigler@region16.net

806-684-2652

Homework (All Grade Levels)

The high school does not have a school wide homework plan although it encourages teachers to grade any homework assigned. Individual teachers assign homework and have individual homework grading plans.

Law Enforcement Agencies (All Grade Levels)

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, including without parental consent, if necessary, if it 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 the student at school.
- Ordinarily make reasonable efforts to notify the parents, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- Ordinarily be present for the questioning or interview, unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.

Students Taken into Custody

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

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs for comparison in an investigation.
- By a law enforcement officer to obtain fingerprints or photographs to establish a student's identity where the child may have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision, such as running away.

- 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 (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), 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 from a juvenile court to take a student into custody.

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

The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will attempt to notify the parent, unless the legally 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 legally authorized person, any notification will most likely be after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

The district is required by state law to notify:

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

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

Leaving Campus (All Grade Levels)

Remember that student attendance is crucial. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. Except for extenuating circumstances, students will not regularly be released before the end of the school day.

State rules require parental consent before any student leaves campus for any part of the school day.

- For students in elementary and middle school, a parent or otherwise authorized adult must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once an identity is verified, a campus representative will then call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the

student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.

- For students in high school, the same process will be followed. If the student's parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office in advance of the absence, no later than two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. A phone call received from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes. Once the office has received information that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day. If a student is 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor, the student may produce a note on his or her own behalf. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will be required.

- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, as permitted by the student's parent, or if the student is age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released. Under no circumstances will a student in elementary or middle school be released unaccompanied by a parent or adult authorized by the parent.

During Lunch

- Junior High students may not leave campus for lunch unless they are picked up by an adult family member, or we have a signed note giving them permission for someone else to pick them up--grandparent, older brother, etc. Required to sign out at office.
- High School students may leave campus for lunch. They may not leave by car unless a parent picks them up or we have a note saying that another person is picking them up-- again such as a grandparent, parent of a friend, etc. Required to sign out at office.
- Students may not sit in vehicles during lunch

At Any Other Time during the School Day

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

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

At Any Other Time during the School Day

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

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

Lost and Found (All Grade Levels)

A lost and found collection box is located in the campus office. A student who loses an item should check the lost and found box. The district discourages bringing personal items of high monetary value to school, as the district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. The campus will dispose of lost and found items at the end of each semester.

Makeup Work

Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)

1. 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.
2. A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher.
3. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.
4. Students will be given at least one day for each day absent to make up work missed for an excused absence.
5. A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of an excused absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any project in accordance with timelines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

A teacher may assign makeup work to a student who misses class based on instructional objectives and the needs of the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or meeting subject or course requirements.

The student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

The student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any makeup work. Please remember the importance of student attendance at school and that, even though absences may be excused or unexcused, all absences account for the 90 percent threshold regarding the state laws surrounding “attendance for credit or final grade.” [See **Attendance for Credit or Final Grade** on page 33.]

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

A student will be permitted to make up tests and 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 timelines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

DAEP Makeup Work

Elementary and Middle/Junior High School Grade Levels

Students will complete work as assigned while in DAEP

Grades 9–12

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

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

Alternative Means to Receive Coursework

While a student is in ISS or OSS, the district will provide the student with all course work for the student's foundation curriculum classes that the student misses as a result of the suspension. Work is required to be completed when student returns to class. Student will not be given make up work for work not completed. Test and projects will need to be completed on time.

Any student placed in ISS will not be allowed to participate in any competition or performance related in any extracurricular activity for that calendar day. A student placed in ISS is not eligible to compete or perform in any extracurricular activity that day regardless of the time of the event. However, they may practice or attend rehearsals for extracurricular events. (See handbook pg. 35 "Extracurricular Suspension"). This means that if you are in ISS the day of student elections for class favorite, homecoming queen/king or even during an UIL competition (Junior High or High School UIL competition, OAP competition, District Play-Off game, etc) you will not be allowed to compete. Students may not attend school activities while in ISS

ISS PROCEDURES

Students have been placed in ISS for not following the rules and/or not accomplishing tasks assigned to ensure their academic progress.

1. Students must report to the office at 7:55 am with all their books and needed materials.
2. Student receives and signs the "Rules for In-School Suspension" sheet.
3. Office personnel or the ISS teacher will escort them to the ISS room.
4. Students must finish all work assigned while in ISS.
5. After serving their ISS they must be processed out of ISS. The ISS teacher will escort students to the office at 3:20 p.m., Mr. Zolman will check their work. If Mr. Zolman is unavailable, then the following personnel are designated to check their work and officially release them from ISS: Leah Zeigler
6. If they have not completed all work assigned, they will report the following morning to the office by 7:55 a.m. and will stay in ISS until their work is done, and they are officially released.

Office Responsibilities:

1. Assign ISS.
2. Mail home discipline form.

3. Request work from each student's teacher. Process students in and out of ISS.

Teacher Responsibilities:

1. Assign work. Please assign work that is reasonable for them to accomplish within the time frame and that they can be expected to do based on prior teaching and learning. However, please assign them enough work that can reasonable by accomplished in an hour or two a day.
2. Teacher is to visit with the student to check for understanding of content each day assigned.

Opportunity to Complete Courses

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

Nondiscrimination Statement (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or gender-based harassment:

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon the district receiving notice or an allegation of sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly respond in accordance with the process described at FFH(LOCAL).

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

- For concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability, see the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:
- *Phil Zolman*
- *Principal*
- *200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052*
- *phil.zolman@region16.net*
- *806-684-2652*
- For all other concerns regarding discrimination, see the superintendent:
- *Leah Zeigler*
- *Superintendent*
- *200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052*
- *Leah.zeigler@region16.net*
- *806- 684-2652*

[See policies FB, FFH, and GKD for more information.]

Nontraditional Academic Programs (All Grade Levels)

Apex Learning

Parent and Family Engagement (All Grade Levels)

Working Together

Experience and research tell us that a child succeeds in education with good communication and a strong partnership between home and school. A parent's involvement and engagement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child every day to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Ensuring that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects and comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the district.
- Discussing with the school counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child.
- Reviewing the requirements and options for graduation with your child in middle school and again while your child is enrolled in high school.

- Monitoring your child's academic progress and contacting teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling** on page 51.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, school counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 806-684-2652 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 98.]
- Becoming a school volunteer. [See **Volunteers** on page 118 and policy GKG for more information.]
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: *PATT and athletic booster club*.
- Serving as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees that develop educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For more information, see policies BQA and BQB and contact:
 - *Phil Zolman*
 - *Principal*
 - *200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052*
 - *phil.zolman@region16.net*
 - *806-684-2652*
- Serving on the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and assisting the district in aligning local community values with health education instruction and other wellness issues. [See **School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)** on page 85 and policies BDF, EHAA, FFA for more information.]
- Being aware of the school's ongoing bullying and harassment prevention efforts.
- Contacting school officials if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being.
- Attending board meetings to learn more about district operations. Regular board meetings are held on the *Second Tuesday* of each month at 7pm. At Superintendent office Board room. An agenda for a regular or special meeting is posted no later than 72 hours before each meeting at *East High School Door* and online at www.kressonline.net [See policies BE and BED for more information.]

Parking and Parking Permits (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security of his or her vehicle and must make Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 94 of 129 certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

Kress High School students are granted the privilege of driving automobiles to school by the school board. This privilege can be revoked by the administration if the privilege is abused. Cars can be parked anywhere except on the bus parking lot south of the cafeteria or on the curb in

front of the building. Students are not permitted to sit in parked cars on the campus at any time. Cars may not be driven during the lunch period. Extreme caution must be used when driving an automobile in the vicinity of the school campus during the times the students are arriving at, attending, or leaving school. The posted speed limit during those times could be too fast if the students are near the street. Driving too fast or recklessly for the conditions can result in immediate disciplinary action by the staff without the driver receiving prior warning throughout the year.

Students will not be permitted to:

- Speed.
- Double-park.
- Park across a white or yellow line.
- Park in a fire lane.
- Sit in parked cars during school hours.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these rules. The district may tow cars that are parked in violation of these rules.

Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence (All Grade Levels)

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge. [See **Reciting the Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags** on page 18.]

State law requires that one minute of silence follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others.

In addition, state law requires that each campus provide for the observance of one minute of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, at the beginning of the first class period when September 11 falls on a regular school day.

[See policy EC for more information.]

ETIQUETTE FOR FLAG CEREMONIES

- I. People should stand with the right hand over heart. However, civilians will show full respect when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing their headdress.
- II. When the national anthem is played and the flag is displayed, all present should stand and face toward the flag. All present should stand at attention; hand over heart, men removing hats. When the school song is played or sung, all people present should face the music and stand at attention. The student body and any others present, who wish to do so, should sing the words as the music is played.

Prayer (All Grade Levels)

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

Promotion and Retention

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or proficiency. In making promotion decisions, the district will consider:

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

Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels

[Elementary and Middle/Junior High Grade Levels](#)

To be promoted to grade 6, students enrolled in grade 5 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 5 assessment in English or Spanish.

To be promoted to grade 9, students enrolled in grade 8 must perform satisfactorily on the mathematics and reading sections of the grade 8 assessment in English.

If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a high-school credit course with a corresponding end-of-course (EOC) assessment, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment. The student will instead take the corresponding EOC assessment.

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

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

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 110.]

A student in grade 5 or 8 will have two opportunities to retake a failed assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee.

For the student to be promoted based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous and the student must complete additional special instruction before beginning the next grade level. Whether the student is retained or promoted,

an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policy EIE for more information.]

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

A student at or above grade 3 who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated examinations will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. The district will notify the parent of their child's participation in this program. The student may be required to participate in this instruction before or after normal school hours or outside of the normal school year. Failure of a student to attend these programs may result in violations of required school attendance as well as the student not being promoted to the next grade level.

For a junior high-school student who does not perform satisfactorily on his or her state-mandated examinations, a school official will prepare a personal graduation plan (PGP). School officials will also develop a PGP for a junior high-school student who is determined by the district to be unlikely to earn a high school diploma within five years of high school enrollment. The plan will, among other items, identify the student's educational goals, address the parent's educational expectations for the student, and outline an intensive instruction program for the student. [See the principal and policy EIF(LEGAL) for more information.] For a student receiving special education services, the student's IEP may serve as the student's PGP and would therefore be developed by the student's ARD committee.

[See **Personal Graduation Plans** on page 74 for information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students.]

High School Grade Levels

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

A student in grades 9–12 will be advanced a grade level based on the number of course credits earned. [See **Grade-Level Classification** on page 69.]

Students will also have multiple opportunities to retake EOC assessments. [See **Graduation** on page 70 and **Standardized Testing** on page 110.]

Release of Students from School

[See **Leaving Campus** on page 88.]

Remote Instruction

The district may offer remote instruction in accordance with TEA guidelines.

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

Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences (All Grade Levels)

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

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in all course/subject areas near or below 70 or is below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be asked to schedule a conference with the teacher. [See **Working Together** on page 93 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment. 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 **Grading Guidelines** on page 70 and policy EIA(LOCAL) for more information.]

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.

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within 5 days. The district may communicate academic information about a student electronically, including for progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature will be accepted by the district, but parents are entitled to request a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.

Retaliation

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53.]

Safety (All Grade Levels)

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

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or others at risk.
- Follow all behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct or set by district employees.
- Remain alert to any safety hazards, such as intruders on campus or threats made by any person toward a student or staff member, and promptly report any incidents to a district employee. A student may make anonymous reports about safety concerns by www.kressonline.net Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other district employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

Accident Insurance

Soon after the school year begins, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that would help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child.

Insurance for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

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

Preparedness Drills: Evacuation, Severe Weather, and Other Emergencies

Periodically, the school will conduct preparedness drills of emergency procedures. When the command is given or alarm is sounded, students need to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Preparedness Training: CPR and Stop the Bleed

The district will annually offer instruction in CPR at least once to students enrolled in grades 7–12. The instruction can be provided as part of any course and is not required to result in CPR certification.

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

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

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

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

The district may consent to medical treatment, which includes dental treatment, if necessary, for a student if:

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

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

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

Emergency School Closing Information

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that the district needs to notify parents of early dismissal, delayed

opening, or restricted access to a campus because of severe weather, a security threat, or another emergency cause.

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

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways:

Each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency release form to provide contact information in the event that the district needs to notify parents of early dismissal, delayed opening, or restricted access to a campus because of severe weather, a security threat, or another emergency cause.

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

If the campus must close, delay opening, or restrict access to the building because of an emergency, the district will also alert the community in the following ways:

KTUE 104.9FM----1260AM

KVOP 106.9FM----1400AM

KKYN 103.9FM----1090AM

KMMX 100.3FM

KONE 101.1FM

NBC Channel 4

KVII Channel 7

KFDA Channel

10 KCBD Channel 11

ABC Channel 28

In the event of an early dismissal due to weather, the media will be notified by noon. Children will be permitted to call parents only if absolutely necessary. We ask that during inclement weather parents listen to the media for changes in the dismissal times.

[See **Communications-Automated, Emergency** on page 48.]

[See **Automated Emergency Communications** on page 48.]

SAT, ACT, and Other Standardized Tests

[See **Standardized Testing** on page 110.]

Schedule Changes (Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

(Middle/Junior High and High School Grade Levels)

Schedule changes will be first come first serve. No schedules will be changed after the first 5 days of each semester without principals permission.

School Facilities

School Facilities

Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to student before and after school and during lunch for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place. The following areas are open to students before school beginning at 7:45 a.m.

1. East End of the High School Building -Junior High Students ONLY.
2. North Foyer, West End and South Foyer -High School Students ONLY.

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

Lunch 1. No food should be taken from the cafeteria.

2. Students should stay in the cafeteria during bad weather such as rain, hail or snow.
3. Student will only be allowed to be in the building on cold days in designated areas only. High school students should be on the west end in the foyer, by the principals' office or by the coke and candy machines. Junior High students should stay on the east end of the hall.
4. Students are not allowed to walk the halls or be in classrooms.
5. NO STUDENT (S) WILL BE IN CLASSROOMS DURING LUNCH WITHOUT A TEACHER PRESENT.

Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and special study groups or tutorials. Students 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 or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)

Loitering or standing in the halls during class is not permitted. During class time, a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Library

The library is for students' general use and benefit, and we encourage both students and teachers to feel free to use the center for a learning experience as well as for pleasure reading. The library is an integral, as well as important, part of the educational process of our student body; therefore, we have directed both our attention and budget toward attaining that goal.

We have initiated some guidelines that are needed to make the library a place where students can browse, study, and also check out reading materials as needed.

1. Books are loaned from the library for one week with the privilege of renewal for the same period of time. The librarian if requested can extend this time.

Auditorium

The auditorium of our school is in constant use and the cooperation of everyone is essential to keep it in order; therefore, Kress ISD is asking your cooperation in following these rules.

1. Anyone in the school who needs to use the auditorium must check with the principal to see if it is available at the time you desire.
2. Any outside organization wishing to use the auditorium may do so only with the approval of the school board. The facility should be left in good order with the lights off upon completion of the event.
3. Any class or organization using the auditorium must clean up any messes, props, etc. immediately after performances or rehearsals if another group is sharing the auditorium. A faculty member must supervise pupils using the auditorium. **No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium**

Gymnasium

No student is to be in the gym or weight room at any time unless under the sponsorship of a teacher or coach. Any outside organization wishing to use the gym may do so only after the approval of the school board. Anyone using the facility should be sure the lights are turned off and all equipment is put back in its proper place. Any damaged equipment must be repaired or replaced by the organization using the facility, and the gym must be left in the same state of cleanliness that it was found.

Asbestos Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

The district works diligently to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the district's asbestos management plan is available in the central administrative office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the district's plan in more detail, please contact the district's designated asbestos coordinator:

Leah Zeigler
Superintendent
200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052
Leah.zeigler@region16.net
806- 684-2652

Food and Nutrition Services (All Grade Levels)

Kress ISD participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. Free and reduced price lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. See the principal to apply.

- For a minimum charge you have the privilege of eating in the cafeteria. To make it a pleasant place to eat, you should make every effort to keep it neat and clean. Let us make it as quiet and orderly as you would have it at home.
- Meals are to be paid for in advance by the day, week, or month. In cases where credit is needed, arrangements must be made in advance with the superintendent's secretary. No more than one week's charges will be accepted.
- Any outside organization wishing to use the cafeteria must have school board approval. The cafeteria should be left in good order upon completion of the activity. Free and reduced-price

meals are available based on financial need or household situation. Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 101 of 129 Information about a student's participation is confidential; however, disclosure of a student's eligibility may be made without prior notice or consent to programs, activities, and individuals that are specifically authorized access under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), which is the law that sets forth the disclosure limits for the district's child nutrition programs. A student's name, eligibility status, and other information may be disclosed to certain agencies as authorized under the NSLA to facilitate the enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent notifies the district that a student's information should not be disclosed.

A parent's decision will not affect the child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals or free milk. See building principals to apply for free or reduced-price meal services. Parents are strongly encouraged to continually monitor their child's meal account balance. When a student's meal account is depleted, the district will notify the parent. The student will be allowed to continue purchasing meals for up to 20 days or up to \$ 50.00, whichever occurs first, and the district will present the parent with a schedule of repayment for any outstanding account balance. If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student's parent on replenishment of the student's meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive an alternate meal.

The District follows the federal and state guidelines regarding food of minimal nutritional value being served or sold on school premises during the school day. [For more information, see policy CO.]

To apply for free or reduced-price meal services, contact:

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

[See policy CO for more information.]

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

If the district is unable to work out an agreement with the student's parent on replenishment of the meal account and payment of any outstanding balance, the student will receive a meal. The district will make every effort to avoid bringing attention to the student.

Vending Machines (All Grade Levels)

The district has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies for food service, including guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines, see the *Principal*

[See policy FFA for more information.]

Pest Management Plan (All Grade Levels)

The district is required to follow integrated pest management (IPM) procedures to control pests on school grounds. Although the district strives to use the safest and most effective methods to manage pests, including a variety of non-chemical control measures, periodic indoor and outdoor pesticide use is sometimes necessary to ensure a safe, pest-free school environment.

All pesticides used are registered for their intended use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are applied only by certified pesticide applicators. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before indoor application. All outdoor applications will be posted at the time of treatment, and signs will remain until it is safe to enter the area.

Parents who have questions or who want to be notified of the times and types of applications prior to pesticide application inside their child's school assignment area may contact the district's IPM coordinator:

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

Conduct Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities. Whether a school activity is on or off district premises, students must follow the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day. Misbehavior will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Use of Hallways during Class Time (All Grade Levels)

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

The following areas are open to students before school, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

- West High school Foyer
- Middle Foyer entrance

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

Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

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

Use by Students Before and After School (All Grade Levels)

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific Meetings of Noncurricular-Related Groups (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

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

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

Students must leave campus immediately after dismissal of school in the afternoon, unless the student is involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher or other authorized employee or adult.

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

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

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

School-Sponsored Field Trips (All Grade Levels)

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

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

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

The district may require a fee for student participation in a field trip that is not required as part of a basic educational program or course to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, and meals; however, a student will not be denied participation because of financial need. See **Fees (All Grade Levels)** on page 64 for more information.

The district is not responsible for refunding fees paid directly to a third-party vendor.

Searches

Searches in General (All Grade Levels)

In the interest of promoting student safety and drug-free schools, district officials may occasionally conduct searches.

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

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

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

District Property (All Grade Levels)

Desks, lockers, district-provided technology, and similar items are the property of the district and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. District property is subject to search or

inspection at any time without notice. Students have no expectation of privacy in district property.

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

Metal Detectors (All Grade Levels)

To maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment, the district reserves the right to subject students to metal detector searches when entering a district campus and at off-campus, school-sponsored activities.

Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices (All Grade Levels)

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

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

[See **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources** on page 60 and policy FNF(LEGAL) for more information.]

Trained Dogs (All Grade Levels)

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

Drug Testing (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Drug use Testing Procedure OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a deterrent to the use of illegal drugs by students in grades 7-12;
2. To give students a valid reason to resist peer pressure to use illegal drugs;
3. To prevent injury, illness, and harm as a result of the use of illegal drugs;
4. To maintain a school environment free of drug use and its effects; and
5. To educate students as to the serious physical, mental, and emotional harm caused by the use of illegal drugs.

SELECTION FOR TESTING

At the time a student that is currently in 7th – 12th grades and declares their intention to participate in any extra-curricular activity, they are subject to random drug testing for the school year or as long as they are participating in the extracurricular programs.

The selection of students shall include ten percent minimum and not exceed twenty-five percent of student participants. Students will be randomly chosen to be tested for use of drugs 5 times per school year. The principal will determine the percentage of students chosen and the date for the test for each drug test.

Students who do not compete or participate in ANY extracurricular activity can still be chosen for a random drug test with a Consent for Voluntary Drug and Alcohol Testing form signed by their parent or guardian. Students who are selected to be tested will still be eligible for future tests. Students may be tested consecutively also.

DRUGS TO BE TESTED FOR

The following drugs students are tested for are:

Drugs which an individual may not buy, possess, use, sell, or distribute under either federal law or Texas law. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, methaqualone, benzo-diazepines, phencyclidine, (PCP), methadone, barbiturates, and propoxyphene.

All prescription drugs upon reasonable suspicion that they were obtained without authorization.

All prescription and over-the-counter drugs upon reasonable suspicion that they are being used in an abusive manner.

Performance-enhancing drugs.

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND TESTING PROCEDURES

All extracurricular participants, voluntary pool and their parents or guardians shall be provided with a copy of the "Drug Use Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 105 of 129 Testing Procedures" and a copy of the "Drug Use Testing Consent Form" which shall be signed and dated by the student and his parents or guardians before the student shall be eligible to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity, including off-season athletic training. The "Drug Use Testing Consent Form" shall be completed upon participants entering the seventh grade, the ninth grade, and upon enrollment at any other grade level 7-12.

A percentage of student participants will be selected on a random basis. The campus principal will determine a percentage of student names to be drawn at random to provide a urine sample for drug use testing.

Students who are selected to be tested for drug use will be required to provide a urine sample within a reasonable amount of the time that they are requested to do so. A refusal to provide a sample will be treated as a resignation from all extracurricular activities. If a selected student is absent on the day of the drug testing he/she may be required to be tested the day they return to school.

All aspects of the drug use testing program will be conducted in a manner that will safeguard the personal and privacy rights of students to the maximum degree possible.

The principal shall designate a staff member to accompany the student to a restroom or other private area where the urine sample is to be produced under the supervision of a designated health care professional. The monitor/s shall not observe the student while the sample is being produced but shall remain within hearing distance in order to guard against tampered samples and to ensure an accurate chain of custody of the sample.

If at any time during the sampling procedure a monitor has reason to believe that a student is tampering with the sample, the monitor may inform the principal who will then determine if a new sample should be obtained.

The monitor shall give each student a form on which the student may list any medications he/she has taken or any other legitimate reasons for having been in contact with illegal drugs or performance-enhancing drugs in the preceding four days.

All urine samples will be identified with students' social security numbers, sealed, and submitted to a professional laboratory for testing. Any laboratory chosen by the school district to conduct the testing shall be required to have detailed written procedures to assure proper chain of custody of the samples, proper laboratory control, and scientifically validated testing methods.

If the initial test of a sample is positive it will be confirmed by a second test using the gas chromatography/ mass spectrometry technique on the same sample. A sample shall not be reported as positive unless both tests are positive.

The laboratory will return the test results of all tested students to school officials as soon as possible. If a test result is positive, the principal will immediately contact the student and the student's parents or guardians and schedule a conference at which time the student or parents may offer any explanation of the positive result. Parents or guardians may provide any doctor's prescriptions of any drugs that the student was taking that might have affected the outcome of the drug use or alcohol test and may request that another test be conducted on the remaining portion of the urine sample. Any such re-test shall be at the expense of the parent or guardian. [See **Steroids** on page 81.]

SANCTIONS FOR POSITIVE TESTING JUNIOR HIGH

All offenses are cumulative for the student's enrollment in grades 7-8 in the District.
Consequences for Jr. High Students:

First Offense

- Participating in a drug assistance program that is designated to meet the needs of the student and after a 45- day period submitting to a drug test for the next three tests that are administered.

Second Offense

- Suspension from participating in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the semester. After a 45- day period submitting to a drug test for the next three tests that are administered.

Third Offense

- Suspension from participating in extracurricular activities until Freshman year. After a 45- day period submitting to a drug test for the next three tests that are administered.
- If suspension occurs during last semester of 8th grade year the student will be suspended the first semester of freshman year.

SANCTIONS FOR POSITIVE TESTING HIGH SCHOOL

All offenses are cumulative for the student's enrollment in grades 9-12 in the District.

First Offense

At the first offense, the student will be given the option of:

- Participating in a drug assistance program that is designed to meet the needs of the student and after a 45-day period submitting to drug testing for the next three tests administered, student has ten days to complete drug assistance program, if he or she fails to complete drug awareness program he or she will not be allowed to participate until program is completed. Or
- Suspension from participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the semester; however, if the suspension occurs during the last six weeks of a semester, the suspension shall extend to the end of the next semester.

Second Offense

At the second offense the student:

- Will be suspended from the extracurricular activities for the remainder of the current school year; however, if the suspension occurs during the last six weeks of the school year, the suspension shall extend to the end of the next semester.
- Must successfully complete, at the parent's/guardian's expense, an approved drug education/counseling program approved by district.
- After a period of 45 days will be subject to next three tests that are administered.

Third Offense

At the third offense the student:

- Will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the current school year and the next school year.
- Must successfully complete, at the parent's/ guardian's expense, an approved drug education/ counseling program. Approved by District
- After a period of 45 days will be subject to drug use tests during the period of suspension and must test negative on each one.

Fourth Offense

At the fourth offense

- The student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of their school career. A student may appeal a suspension under this policy to the Superintendent by filing a written notice within five school days of the positive report of drug use. The student will remain ineligible pending the appeal. The Superintendent shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the original finding and suspension were justified. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed

[See **Steroids** on page 81.]

Vehicles on Campus (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

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

Sexual Harassment

[See **Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation** on page 53.]

Special Programs (All Grade Levels)

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

Phil Zolman
Principal
200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052
phil.zolman@region16.net
806-684-2652

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's [Talking Book Program](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html) (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html>) provides audiobooks free of charge to qualifying Texans, including students with visual, physical, or reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

Standardized Testing

Secondary Grade Levels

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

Many colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. These assessments are usually taken at the end of the junior year. Students are encouraged to talk with the school counselor early during their junior year to learn about these assessments and determine the appropriate examination to take. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and ACT-Aspire are the corresponding preparatory and readiness assessments for the SAT and ACT.

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

TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment

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

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

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Grades 3–8

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

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

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

STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on STAAR Reading or Math

If a student in grades 3–8 does not perform satisfactorily on the state assessment, the district will provide accelerated instruction for the student. A student who does not attend accelerated instruction may violate school attendance requirements.

For a student who does not perform satisfactorily on the math or reading assessment in grades 3, 5, or 8, the district will establish an accelerated learning committee (ALC), which includes the student's parent, to develop an educational plan for accelerated instruction to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the conclusion of the next school year. The district will document the educational plan in writing and provide a copy to the student's parent.

The parent of a student in grades 3, 5, or 8 who fails to perform satisfactorily on the math or reading assessment may:

- Request that the district consider assigning the student to a particular classroom teacher in the applicable subject area, if more than one classroom teacher is available.
- File a grievance or complaint regarding the content or implementation of the ALC's educational plan. See **Complaints and Concerns (All Grade Levels)** on page 48 and FNG(LOCAL).

Standardized Testing for a Student Enrolled Above Grade Level

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

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

Standardized Testing for a Student in Special Programs

Certain students—some with disabilities and some classified as English learners—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, school counselor, or special education director.

Personal Graduation Plans - Middle or Junior High School Students

For a junior high-school student who does not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated examination, a school official will prepare a personal graduation plan (PGP).

School officials will also develop a PGP for a junior high-school student who is determined by the district to be unlikely to earn a high school diploma within five years of high school enrollment. The plan will, among other items;

- Identify the student's educational goals,
- Address the parent's educational expectations for the student, and
- Outline an intensive instruction program for the student.

[See the school counselor and policy EIF(LEGAL) for more information.]

For a student receiving special education services, the student's IEP may serve as the student's PGP and would therefore be developed by the student's ARD committee.

[See **Personal Graduation Plans** on page 74 for information related to the development of personal graduation plans for high school students.]

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

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

- Algebra I
- English I and English II
- Biology
- U.S. History

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

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

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

An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee for a student receiving special education services will determine whether successful performance on the EOC assessments will be required for graduation within the parameters identified in state rules and the student's personal graduation plan (PGP).

[See **Graduation** on page 70.]

Failure to Perform Satisfactorily on an EOC

If a student does not perform satisfactorily on an EOC, the district will provide accelerated instruction.

Failure of a student to attend accelerated instruction may result in violations of required school attendance.

Students in Foster Care (All Grade Levels)

In an effort to provide educational stability, the district will provide enrollment and registration assistance, as well as other educational services throughout the student's enrollment, to any student who is currently placed or newly placed in foster care (temporary or permanent custody of the state, sometimes referred to as substitute care).

If you have questions, please contact the district's foster care liaison:

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

[See **A Student in the Conservatorship of the State (Foster Care)** on page 25.]

Students Who are Homeless (All Grade Levels)

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

For more information on services for students who are homeless, contact the district's homeless education liaison:

Phil Zolman

Principal

200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052

phil.zolman@region16.net

806-684-2652

[See **A Student Who is Homeless** on page 26.]

Student Speakers (All Grade Levels)

The district provides students the opportunity to introduce the following school events:

1. AR assembly;
2. KROO 42 news;
3. Awards assembly;
4. Basketball games;
5. Football games;
6. Pep rallies;

7. Personality assembly;
8. Student elections;
9. Baseball games;
10. Graduation;
11. Band concerts; and
12. Banquets.

Students are eligible to introduce these events if they:

1. Are in the highest two grade levels of the school,
2. Volunteer, and
3. Are not in a disciplinary placement at the time of the speaking event.

A student who is eligible and wishes to introduce one of the school events listed above should submit his or her name to the principal during the first week of the fall semester and/or spring semester. The names of all students who volunteered will be randomly drawn and matched to the event for which the student will give the introduction. If the selected student speaker declines or becomes ineligible, then no student introduction will be made at that event. The selection of students to introduce school events will occur at the beginning of each semester.

[See **Graduation** on page 70 for information related to student speakers at graduation ceremonies and policy FNA(LOCAL) regarding other speaking opportunities.]

Summer School (All Grade Levels)

EOC and Starr remediation and regain attendance credit only.

Tardy to school (All Grade Levels)

A tardy is defined as missing class from the time the tardy bell rings to 25 minutes. Missing class more than 25 minutes is considered an absence. Students who come to class with a note from another teacher showing that they had a legitimate excuse should be admitted to class. Occasionally large numbers of late students with a legitimate excuse will be admitted to class through a P.A. announcement.

Each semester will stand alone and the number of times Tardy for each student will begin at "0" at the beginning of each semester. When a student reaches 3 times tardy he or she will serve lunch detentions for each tardy after 3.

TARDY POLICY

Consequences:

4th tardy and up= 1 lunch detention.

If tardy to any morning period the student will serve lunch detention that day. If they are tardy to any afternoon class they will serve the lunch detention the following day. Lunch detentions will be served from 12:15-12:40 p.m. Junior High, High School 12:20 to 12:50 Students will not be allowed to talk and will sit in a designated area to eat lunch. Being Tardy will become part of the students' disciplinary history and used in addition to any office referrals, Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)

Textbooks, Electronic Textbooks, Technological Equipment, and Other Instructional Materials (All Grade Levels)

The district provides textbooks and other approved instructional materials to students free of charge for each subject or class. Students must treat any books with care and place covers on them, as directed by the teacher. The district may also provide electronic textbooks and technological equipment to students, depending on course objectives.

If a student needs a graphing calculator for a course and the district does not provide one, the student may use a calculator application with graphing capabilities on a phone, laptop, tablet, or other computing device.

A student who is issued a damaged item should report the damage to the teacher.

Any student who does not return an item or returns an item in an unacceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and technological equipment until the item is returned or the damage is paid for by the parent. However, the student will be provided the necessary instructional resources and equipment for use at school during the school day.

For information on library books and other resources students may access voluntarily, see **Library (All Grade Levels)** on page **Error! Bookmark not defined..**

Transfers (All Grade Levels)

The principal is authorized to transfer a student from one classroom to another.

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and approve transfers between schools.

[See **Safety Transfers/Assignments** on page 24, **Bullying** on page 35, and **A Student Who Has Learning Difficulties or Who Needs Special Education or Section 504 Services** on page 26, for other transfer options.]

Transportation (All Grade Levels)

School-Sponsored Trips

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school and to any students who are experiencing homelessness. This service is provided at no cost to students.

Bus routes and stops will be designated annually. Any subsequent changes will be posted at the school and on the district's website. For the safety of the driver and all passengers, students must board district vehicles only at authorized stops and drivers must unload passengers only at authorized stops.

The district has identified the following areas where hazardous traffic conditions and/or areas presenting a high risk of violence exist for students who live within two miles of the campus:

Students living in town on the West side of the tracks are transported from the school to the west bus barn because of the RR tracks.

A parent may also designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated facility or residence must be on an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location, you may contact Leah Zeigler, 806 684-2651.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.

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

Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the vehicle or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco or e-cigarettes in any district vehicle.
- Observe all usual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seat belts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

Leah Zeigler
Superintendent

200 E 5th Kress Texas 79052
Leah.zeigler@region16.net
806- 684-2652

A parent may designate a child-care facility or grandparent's residence as the regular pickup and drop-off location for his or her child. The designated location must be an approved stop on an approved route. For information on bus routes and stops or to designate an alternate pickup or drop-off location,

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, including loss of the privilege to ride in a district vehicle.

[See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the DAEP.]

Vandalism (All Grade Levels)

Littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Video Cameras (All Grade Levels)

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

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

In accordance with state law, a parent of a student who receives special education services, a staff member (as this term is defined by law), a principal or assistant principal, or the board may make a written request for the district to place video and audio recording equipment in certain self-contained special education classrooms. The district will provide notice before placing a video camera in a classroom or other setting in which a child receives special education services. For more information or to request the installation and operation of this equipment, contact the principal or Principal that the district has designated to coordinate the implementation of and compliance with this law.

[See policy EHBAF(LOCAL) for more information.]

[See **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on page 14 for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

Visitors to the School (All Grade Levels)

General Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. All visitors should be prepared to show identification.

Individuals may visit classrooms or observe virtual instruction during instructional time only with approval of the principal and teacher. Visitors may not interfere with instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior or violations of student privacy will not be permitted.

[See **Consent to Video or Audio Record a Student when Not Already Permitted by Law** on page 14 for video and other recording by parents or visitors to virtual or in-person classrooms.]

Unauthorized Persons

In accordance with Education Code 37.105, a school administrator, school resource officer (SRO), or district police officer has the authority to refuse entry to or eject a person from district property if the person refuses to leave peaceably on request and:

- The person poses a substantial risk of harm to any person; or
- The person behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting and persists in the behavior after being given a verbal warning that the behavior is inappropriate and may result in refusal of entry or ejection.

Appeals regarding refusal of entry or ejection from district property may be filed in accordance with policies FNG(LOCAL) or GF(LOCAL).

[See the Student Code of Conduct.]

Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students

Business, Civic, and Youth Groups

The district may invite representatives from patriotic societies listed in Title 36 of the United States Code to present information to interested students about membership in the society.

Career Day

The district invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students.

Volunteers (All Grade Levels)

The district invites and appreciates the efforts of volunteers who are willing to serve our district and students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Phil Zolman
Principal
200 E 5th ST. Kress Texas 79052
phil.zolman@region16.net
806-684-2652

The district does not require state criminal history background checks for volunteers who are parents, guardians, or grandparents of a child enrolled in the district.

Subject to exceptions in accordance with state law and district procedures, other volunteers will be subject to a state criminal history background check, and the volunteer must pay all costs for the background check.

Voter Registration (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

A student who is eligible to vote in any local, state, or federal election may obtain a voter registration application at the main campus office.

Withdrawing from School (All Grade Levels)

To withdraw a student under age 18 from school, the parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal specifying the reasons for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. Withdrawal forms are available from the principal's office.

A student who is age 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor may withdraw without parental signature.

Please provide the school at least three days' notice of withdrawal so that records and documents may be prepared.

Glossary

Accelerated instruction, also referred to as supplemental instruction, is an intensive supplemental program designed to help an individual student acquire the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level. It is required when a student does not meet the passing standard on a state-mandated assessment.

Accelerated learning committee (ALC) is a committee that must be established when a student does not perform satisfactorily on the math or reading assessment in grades 3, 5, or 8. The committee includes district personnel and the student's parent and develops an educational plan for accelerated instruction to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the end of the next school year.

ACT, or the American College Test, is one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admission to certain colleges or universities.

ACT-Aspire is designed as a preparatory and readiness assessment for the ACT. This is usually taken by students in grade 10.

ARD stands for admission, review, and dismissal. The ARD committee convenes for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student and his or her parents are members of the committee.

Attendance review committee is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent, or in some cases 75 percent, of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences.

CPS stands for Child Protective Services.

DAEP stands for disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.

DFPS stands for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

DPS stands for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

DSHS stands for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

ED stands for the U.S. Department of Education.

EOC (end-of-course) assessments are state-mandated and are part of the STAAR program. Successful performance on EOC assessments is required for graduation. These examinations will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

ESSA is the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

FERPA refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which 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 years of age or older directs the school not to release directory information.

IEP stands for individualized education program and is the written record prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services.

IGC is the individual graduation committee, formed in accordance with state law, to determine a student's eligibility to graduate when the student has failed to demonstrate satisfactory performance on no more than two of the required state assessments.

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

PGP stands for personal graduation plan, which is required for high school students and for any student in middle school who fails a section on a state-mandated test or is identified by the district as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after he or she begins grade 9.

PSAT is the preparatory and readiness assessment for the SAT. It also serves as the basis for the awarding of National Merit Scholarships.

SAT refers to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions examinations. The test may be required for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

SHAC stands for School Health Advisory Council, a group of at least five members, a majority of whom must be parents, appointed by the school board to help ensure that local community values and health issues are reflected in the district's health education instruction, as well as assist with other student and employee wellness issues.

Section 504 is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined to be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general education with appropriate instructional accommodations will be provided.

STAAR is the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, the state's system of standardized academic achievement assessments.

STAAR Alternate 2 is an alternative state-mandated assessment designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities receiving special education services who meet the participation requirements, as determined by the student's ARD committee.

STAAR Spanish is an alternative state-mandated assessment administered to eligible students for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of their academic progress.

State-mandated assessments are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Except under limited circumstances, students must pass the STAAR EOC assessments to graduate. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests, if necessary, for graduation.

Student Code of Conduct is developed with the advice of the district-level committee and adopted by the board and identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from a classroom, campus, or district vehicle; sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a DAEP; and outlines

conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

TAC stands for the Texas Administrative Code.

TEA stands for the Texas Education Agency, which oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas.

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

TSI stands for the Texas Success Initiative, an assessment designed to measure the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering college-level freshmen students should have if they are to be successful in undergraduate programs in Texas public colleges and universities.

TXVSN stands for the Texas Virtual School Network, which provides online courses for Texas students to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts. Courses are taught by qualified instructors and are equivalent in rigor and scope to a course taught in a traditional classroom setting.

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

Appendix: Freedom from Bullying Policy

Appendix: Freedom from Bullying Policy

Note: School board policies may be revised at any time. For legal context and the most current copy of the local policy, visit <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Search/1096?filter=ffi>. Below is the text of Kress ISD's policy FFI(LOCAL) as of the date this handbook was finalized for this school year.

Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying Policy

FFI(LOCAL) adopted on 10/20/2017

1. Note: This policy addresses bullying of District students. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes cyberbullying.

2. For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

• Bullying Prohibited

The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying, as defined by state law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

• Examples

Bullying of a student could occur by physical contact or through electronic means and may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism. •

Retaliation

The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

• Examples

Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

• False Claim

A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

• Timely Reporting

Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 119 of 129 Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

• Reporting Procedures

- **Student Report**

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. The Superintendent shall develop procedures allowing a student to anonymously report an alleged incident of bullying.

- **Employee Report**

Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

- **Report Format**

A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.

- **Notice of Report**

When an allegation of bullying is reported, the principal or designee shall notify a parent of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the incident is reported. The principal or designee shall also notify a parent of the student alleged to have engaged in the conduct within a reasonable amount of time after the incident is reported.

- **Prohibited Conduct**

The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

- **Investigation of Report**

The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

- **Concluding the Investigation**

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation. The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.

Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 120 of 129

- **Notice to Parents**

If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.

- **District Action**

Bullying

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct. The District may notify law enforcement in certain circumstances.

- **Discipline**

A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action. The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.

- **Corrective Action**

Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine whether any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.

- **Transfers**

The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.

- **Counseling**

The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.

- **Improper Conduct**

If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.

- **Confidentiality**

To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

- **Appeal**

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level. Kress Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook Page 121 of 129

- **Records Retention**

Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).

- **Access to Policy and Procedures**

This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's website, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.

Kress Independent School District

200 East 5th Street

Kress, Texas 79052

806-684-2652

Title I

School/Parent Compact

Board of Education

Tiffany Reed, President

Martin Sanchez, Vice President

Nicole Aguilera, Secretary

Heidi Tiffin, Member

Shawn Hebert, Member

Josh Lovvorn, Member

Leonard Trevino, Member

Administration

Leah Zeigler, Superintendent

Phil Zolman, High School Principal

Shawn Langston, Elementary Principal

Title I

A schoolwide program permits Kress Independent School District to use federal education funds and resources to upgrade the entire educational program of the district in order to raise academic achievement for all students.

A school may operate a schoolwide program if at least 60% of the children enrolled in school during 1995-96 were from low-income families. The schoolwide programs respond to a solid research base about what makes schools work for disadvantaged students.

Repeated findings show that:

- All children's performance is negatively affected in schools with high concentrations of poverty.
- For students to meet high standards of performance their entire instructional program must be substantially improved.
- Educations in highly successful schools expect high academic achievement from every child.
- When an entire school is the target of change, schools and students can achieve success.

The Kress ISD Schoolwide Program is designed to improve the educational opportunities of all students. The program will help students succeed in the regular classroom, attain grade level proficiency, and improve achievement on standardized tests.

RESPONSIBILITIES / PLEDGES Students

1. I pledge to come to school on time every day unless I am ill.
2. I pledge to enter the school and classroom ready to perform the tasks that my teacher asks of me.
3. I pledge not to disturb my classmates.
4. I pledge to complete all homework by making sure I understand the assignment before I leave school.
5. I pledge to have someone at home look at my work when I have finished.
6. I pledge to read every day.
7. I pledge to spend less time watching television. Than I spend on reading, homework and talking with family and friends.
8. I pledge to do something for someone else at least one a day.

Parents/Guardians

1. I pledge to see that my child attends school each day, unless he/she is ill.

2. I pledge to communicate expectations regarding self-discipline and respect for others.
3. I pledge to ask my child about homework each day.
4. I pledge to ask my child about reading material and read for pleasure each day.
5. I pledge to listen and talk with my child each day.
6. I pledge to assist my child in serving others.
7. I pledge to visit with my child's teacher and learn what is expected of my child.
8. I pledge to encourage other families to become involved with the school.
9. I pledge to praise/encourage my child often.
10. I pledge to allow my child to make as many decisions as possible.
11. I pledge to volunteer or become involved at my child's school.
12. I pledge to monitor the amount and quality of my child's television viewing time.

RESPONSIBILITIES / PLEDGES School

1. We pledge to see that your child has a positive school experience each day.
2. We pledge to notify you of situations which may cause your child to have a negative school experience.
3. We pledge to offer activities aimed at improving student achievement.
4. We pledge to schedule at least one conference per year.
5. We pledge to provide opportunities for parents to attend school activities; give input into school operations; and evaluate the school's performance.
6. We pledge to report on your child's progress and plan for improvement.
7. We pledge to build a more effective home/school partnership.
8. We pledge to provide information and opportunities for you to become a more effective participant in home/school learning.
9. We pledge to communicate to the home in the language understood by the parents.
10. We pledge to have an "open door" policy because YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Parent's Rights

Parents have a right to a copy of law and an explanation of policy. Parents also have the right to contribute their input into the development of the Title I program, its implementation and evaluation, and to have activities that are specifically designed to help them help their children improve their academic performance.

The Law The most recent law that affects Title I is the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-110).

The law requires:

- ♣ "that school districts have a written policy regarding the partnership between school and parent for improved student academic achievement";
- ♣ "that parents be involved in the design operation, and evaluation of Title I";
- ♣ "that parents be consulted about home/school activities and be trained to help instruct their children";
- ♣ "That whenever possible, activities should be presented in the language spoken by the parents."

Instructional Programs

Kress I.S.D.

Special Education
ESL (English as a Second language)
Gifted and Talented
Tutorials
Library Services
UIL Academic Competitions
Accelerated Reader
RTI / Response To Intervention TAKS Remediation
Student Success Initiative

Parent Involvement Activities

Advisory Councils

Districtwide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)
Campus Site Based Decision Making
Committees

Open Houses

Early Release Day following the first grading period for parents to pick up report cards
Parent Involvement Day
Texas Public School Week

Volunteer Opportunities

Shared Reading
Parent and Teachers Together (PATT)

Shared Information

Parent/Teacher Conferences
Newspaper
Memos
Books/Videos for Parents

Assemblies

Awards Assemblies
Special Programs

Other

Parties
Field Trips
Track Meet

**Parent Involvement Policy
Kress High School
“Every Student, Every Chance, Every Day”**

Statement of Purpose

Kress High School is committed to the purpose of providing a quality education to every student in our district. To accomplish this purpose, we must build and strengthen partnerships with parents and community members. When school, home, and community work together, high achievement standards for our students can be met. This purpose cannot be met without a positive working relationship between school and parents. Parent support for their children and for the school is of vital importance to their children’s success throughout their elementary, junior high, and high school years.

Grade level goals for the students of Kress High School will be provided to all parents in the district. All students will be expected to work toward mastery of these objectives. We realize that some students will need the extra assistance available through the Title I program, as well as other programs to meet their full potential.

Kress High School intends to work with parents in all aspects of the school’s Title I program. The expected outcome is a partnership between school and home that will help all students in the district to succeed.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

The Campus Educational Improvement Committee made up of parents, community members, teachers, and administrators will meet to develop our school’s Parental Involvement Policy. Kress High School will seek parent volunteers to help develop the policy that reflects the diversity of our community. Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for all involved.

Annual Meetings for Title I Parents

Kress High School will hold two meetings for parents during each school year. Parents will be informed of new Title I guidelines and how they differ from the previous Title I program in our school district. Copies of the district's current Parent Involvement Policy and Title I SchoolParent Compact will be given to parents. Parents will have the opportunity to actively participate in the revising and updating of the policy and compact as needed to meet the changing needs of the parents, students, and school. At these meetings, parents will be recruited to serve on the district and campus level Educational Improvement Committees.

School-Parent Compact

In following Title, I regulations, each school must develop a school-parent compact with the parents of students participating in the program. The compact is designed to increase the sharing of responsibility between families and schools for the high performance of students.

The compact must explain how this student performance responsibility will be shared among the students, parents, and school staff. The school's Educational Improvement Committee will be directly involved in the development and implementation of the compact.

All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students meet their goals of high achievement. Student's responsibilities will vary with grade level.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their children.

Matching Programs to the Needs of Your Community

Each year, the school will assess the needs of parents and children in this community, through a variety of ways – including questionnaires and surveys sent home to parents – so that the Title I program will be adapted to meet those needs. Workshops and programs will be offered to meet the expressed needs of students and their parents. Parents will be informed of these activities through written notes sent home and the local media. Parents and community members are encouraged to contact the district office or either school office at any time to express an interest in a particular workshop or to make a suggestion.

Staff/Parent Communications

Positive communication between school staff and parents is the key to the success of students. Communication will take place in a variety of ways. Newspaper articles, letters, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls, and written notices are some of the means which will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher when a problem occurs. They may call the school office and ask for a translator for conferences if needed. Great effort will be put forth to communicate with parents in the language that they use.

Staff members will be trained in positive communication techniques and effective ways to work with parents.

Evaluation

The Campus Educational Improvement Committee, which includes parents of students in the Title I program, will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program.

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent involvement program, and parents will be asked for their suggestions for improvement. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of this annual review.

It is hoped that this commitment to family involvement will result in higher achievement for our students. The policy will be coordinated by Title I supervisory staff and teachers throughout the school and promoted by the building principal and school staff.