

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS  
(ILTEXAS) STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK  
AND CODE OF CONDUCT  
**2023-2024**



The Board of Directors of International American Federation, Inc. authorizes the Superintendent or its designee to make administrative amendments to this Handbook, as deemed necessary, without further Board approval.

Parent and Student Handbook/Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form

My signature below acknowledges that International Leadership of Texas has made its Parent and Student Handbook available to me; that I have been given notice of the rules, responsibilities, and consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct; that I have been informed that when I or my child is enrolled in ILTexas, all information herein is applicable to me, my child, and all school staff; and that I have expressed intent to review this Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct contained within and to abide thereby. If I have any questions regarding this Handbook or the Code of Conduct, I may direct those questions to the Campus Principal of my child's school.

Failure to sign this form does not release a student's or parent's responsibility to abide by the stated policies.

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

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

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

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

*Note: This form is included as part of the Year to Year registration process via Skyward. You only need to complete the electronic form; there is no need to print/return this form.*

*ILTexas is a Public Open Enrollment Charter School system; as such it is a school of choice. Parents and students that choose to enroll are voluntarily subjecting themselves to the school's policies and procedures, specifically including the ILTexas student handbook which is available online to any student and parent to review prior to deciding to enroll. The mission of ILTexas is to prepare students for exceptional leadership roles in the international community by emphasizing servant leadership, mastering the English, Spanish, and Chinese languages, and strengthening the mind, body, and character. Because of this mission, our students are exposed to a variety of cultures and languages in order to learn leadership. Any leader, in an increasingly world-wide arena, needs to be able to command respect from other individuals in other cultures. Part of that respect comes from the individual's presentation of themselves. Professional dress and grooming is a key trait that ILTexas will seek to develop in its students. The expectations for business professional dress and grooming by students are established below in this Handbook.*

## INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The mission of International Leadership of Texas is to prepare students for exceptional leadership roles in the international community by emphasizing servant leadership, mastering the English, Spanish and Chinese languages, and strengthening the mind, body, and character.

### **Motto**

“Others Before Self”

### **ILTexas Expectations**

Be on time. Be Responsible. Be Respectful

### **WHY ILTEXAS?**

#### **CHINESE AND SPANISH**

Texas is a strong economic force in the world. Our top three countries that we export to are Mexico, Canada, and China. China has become the second largest economy in the world. In order for Texas and the United States to remain on top, we intend to provide a unique educational opportunity that ensures our students speak English, Spanish and Chinese.

#### **CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

We intend to return leadership and citizenship into the culture and educational experience for every student who attends ILTexas. Every student will be given leadership roles to teach a concept of others before self. Students will exemplify traits such as timeliness, responsibility, and respect with expectations to be on time, to be responsible, and to be respectful. We believe these traits will empower them to overcome the challenges they will face in their lives and create a better and more productive society in which to live and work.

#### **BUILDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

ILTexas will develop close relationships with schools in China and the international community in order to facilitate the exchange of teachers and students and to promote global understanding. ILTexas will host Chinese students at the high school level to ensure our students not only learn the language but also the Chinese culture and most importantly build long-term professional

relationships. It is our goal to team every three American students with one Chinese student to facilitate relationship building and expedited learning. By the time our students are seniors we also intend to provide travel opportunities for our students to visit and study in China. This intentional and innovative approach is an incredible learning opportunity and is the greatest difference that ILTexas provides over other public, charter or private school educational opportunities.

## ILTEXAS STUDENT PLEDGE

I pledge to be a servant leader and put others before myself.  
I will serve others, respect others and encourage others.  
When I graduate from ILTexas, I will be a healthy person  
with a strong mind and character who speaks at least three  
languages. I will change the world.

## JURAMENTO DE ILTEXAS

Prometo ser un líder servicial pensando en otros antes que en  
mí mismo. Serviré, respetaré y motivaré a los demás. Cuando  
me gradúe de ILTexas, seré una persona de mente y carácter  
saludables, hablando por lo menos tres idiomas. Cambiaré el  
mundo.

## ILTEXAS SHÌ YÁN -

## 誓言

wǒ xuān shì chéng wéi yí gègong pú líng xiù, xiān rén hòu jǐ  
我宣誓成为一个公仆领袖，先人后己。

wǒ jiāng fú wù tā rén, zūn zhòng tā rén, gǔ wǔ tā rén  
我将服务他人，尊重他人，鼓舞他人。

dāng wǒ cóng ILTexas bìyè, wǒ jiāng chéng wéi yí gè tǐ gé  
qiáng zhuàng,  
当我从ILTexas毕业，我将成为一个体格强壮，

yì zhì jiān qiáng, huì shuō sān zhǒng yǔ yán de yōu xiù rén cái  
意志坚强，会说三种语言的优秀人才。

wǒ jiāng gǎi biàn shì jiè  
我将改变世界。

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## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### **ILTEXAS INSTRUCTIONAL CURRICULUM SUMMARY**

The curriculum at ILTexas, as steered by our mission, prepares students for exceptional leadership roles in the international community by emphasizing servant leadership, mastering the English, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese languages, and strengthening the body, mind and character. Further, ILTexas has a college preparatory program whereby we not only provide our students with the instruction needed to be successful in college, but with the expectation that they will attend and be successful in college and beyond.

As part of our curriculum, we teach the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and ELPS (English Language Proficiency Standards) as curriculum standards. Moreover, we've adopted high quality instructional materials as well as vertically and horizontally aligned supplemental resources. All state assessments are administered as required by the State of Texas.

At the elementary level, we are working towards a 45-45-10 model whereby our students will receive 10% of their instruction in Mandarin Chinese and, as via our 50/50 Dual Language Immersion (DLI) model, will receive 45% of their instruction in English and the other 45% in Spanish. At the secondary levels, our students receive both Mandarin Chinese and Spanish as part of their academic schedule. Our academic model is further enriched by our Fitness program, whereby each student receives conditioning training by a Performance Coach. Through Physical Fitness Training, students also develop important character traits such as servant leadership and putting "others before self," the ILTexas motto.

#### ***Program Overview:***

There are different components to ILTexas' uniform and unified educational program. As referenced above, the ILTexas curriculum incorporates the TEKS for each grade level and each subject area. The TEKS are listed below by Chapter, and a complete list of the TEKS is available online by chapter and by grade level at: <https://tea.texas.gov/curriculum/teks/>. Further, ILTexas uses a wide variety of state approved High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) to address the TEKS. Notably, ILTexas has seven core classes, which significantly differs from the traditional four core classes: (1) Math, (2) Science, (3) Reading Language Arts, (4) Social Studies, (5) Mandarin Chinese, (6) Spanish, (7) Fitness, and (8) Leadership. For each semester students are enrolled at ILTexas they will need to take, in addition to electives, these eight core classes.

#### ***TEKS by Chapter:***

- Chapter 110. English Language Arts and Reading
- Chapter 111. Mathematics
- Chapter 112. Science
- Chapter 113. Social Studies
- Chapter 114. Languages Other Than English
- Chapter 115. Health Education
- Chapter 116. Physical Education
- Chapter 117. Fine Arts
- Chapter 126. Technology Applications
- Chapter 127. Career Development
- Chapter 128. Spanish Language Arts and English as a Second Language
- Chapter 130. Career and Technical Education



Additionally, we incorporate the ELPS to address the linguistic instructional needs of our English Language Learners (ELLs). The ELPS can be found in their entirety at the following link: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074a.html>. Further, the ELPS will also be used to inform Spanish and Chinese language learning, thus the locally developed Spanish Language Proficiency Standards (SLPS) and Chinese Language Proficiency Standards (CLPS), all following the same research base and guided by the same fundamentals of language acquisition. Further, the instructional implications that surface from the ELPS also apply to SLPS and CLPS in all four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Further, the model of delivery to teach the TEKS is a college preparatory, data-driven, tri-lingual model working alongside the Fitness/Wellness model to reinforce athletic conditioning and our character education program. Each of these systems work in conjunction to strengthen the body, mind, and character.

## **TRILINGUAL EDUCATION K–12**

Students attending ILTexas receive academic instruction in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will participate in a two-way, 50/50 dual language program (Spanish/English) as well as participate in Chinese language development classes through their specials classes (FLES). Students in 6th-8th will receive daily language development instruction in Spanish and Chinese as part of their academic instructional schedule (LOTE). In grades 9-12, students will participate in proficiency based Spanish and Chinese language courses for every semester that they are enrolled.

### **K-5**

Two-Way Dual Language Immersion (DLI) - Spanish/English

Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) - Mandarin Chinese

### **6-12 – Languages Other Than English (LOTE)**

As elementary students move up through the dual language program, we are moving towards incorporating DLI at the secondary level (i.e., Art class in Chinese, Theater in Spanish, etc.).

#### **Dual Language Immersion (DLI), English/Spanish**

Both our native English-speaking students and ELLs reap the benefits of DLI: English speaking students receive an enriched education in the process of becoming trilingual, tri-literate, and multi-cultural and while ELs have the opportunity to form a strong academic foundation in their native tongue while learning English, Mandarin Chinese, and receiving an equally enriched education. Both native English speakers and ELs are better prepared to compete in an increasingly growing global market and population. ILTexas' model is 50/50 model, where the goal will be for students to receive ½ of their content area instruction in English and the other ½ in Spanish while incorporating the Mandarin Chinese through the FLES model and infused within the 50/50 model as much as possible (i.e., trilingual word walls and trilingual print-rich environment).

Additionally, our educational model K-12 is organized into seven components and taken from the research-based guidance found in *The Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education*, Second Edition. (2007). [www.CAL.org](http://www.CAL.org). The seven strands include: Assessment and Accountability, Curriculum, Instruction, Staff Quality and Professional Development, Program Structure, Family and Community, and Support and Resources. Each strand or element is then composed of the different guiding principles that serve to guide our school wide educational model and address all

non- negotiable aspects of the ILTexas model, from the use of sheltered instruction and Comprehensible Input (CI) to the importance of staff quality and professional development aligned with ILTexas and mission.

## **DUAL CREDIT/COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM**

ILTexas prepares students for exceptional leadership roles in the international community. As stated in our mission, ILTexas partners with the College Board (for AP curriculum supplements and instructional strategies, Professional Development, etc.) to assist us in addressing the TEKS with relevant college prep rigor and an emphasis on the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards.

### **Dual Credit**

While ILTexas prioritizes AP courses over Dual Credit (AP is the national standard and preferred by college admissions), we do offer dual credit as well (for courses that do not conflict with AP offerings). Dual Credit is a nationally recognized program that allows students to complete many “core curriculum” college classes and/or potentially earn an Associate’s Degree while still in high school. ILTexas partners with Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD), Houston Community College (HCC), Tarrant County College District (TCCD), Blinn College District and University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) to offer dual credit classes to students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grade.

Failing a dual credit class may cause the student to be ineligible for the dual credit program and/or the student may be asked to refrain from taking a dual credit class for one semester based on the recommendation of the campus Counselor.

Texas law requires Texas State Community Colleges and Universities to accept core curriculum classes completed with another Texas State Community College. Grades for dual credit classes are transcribed on both ILTexas and college transcripts. After graduation, college transcript must be sent to the student’s college or university of choice for a transcript evaluation. The intended college will then award credit per their policies.

Students and parents are responsible for any tuition/fees that are associated with dual credit courses, including textbooks.

## **LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT AND IMMERSION**

ILTexas will monitor our students’ progress towards mastery of the TEKS and towards mastery of English (for Emergent Bilinguals/English Learners), Spanish and Chinese. ILTexas teachers and administrators monitor students’ development of the Chinese and Spanish languages as shown in the table on the next page:

| <b>K-5</b>  |   | <b>6-12</b>  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Two-way DLI</b><br><i>(Dual Language Immersion Spanish/English)</i>                            | Students will receive an academic letter grade in content areas (Reading/ Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies) | <b>Spanish LOTE</b><br><i>(Languages other Than English)</i> | Students will receive an academic letter grade for content specific material (Spanish grade) |
|   | Students will receive a language proficiency rating   |  | Students will receive a language proficiency rating  |
| <b>K-5</b>  |   | <b>6-12</b>  |  |
| <b>Chinese FLES</b><br><i>(Foreign Language in the Elementary School) using immersion methods</i> | Students will receive an academic letter grade for content specific material (Chinese grade)                            | <b>Chinese LOTE</b><br><i>(Languages other Than English)</i> | Students will receive an academic letter grade for content specific material (Chinese grade) |
|   | Students will receive a language proficiency rating   |  | Students will receive a language proficiency rating  |

Every six-weeks’ grading period, student language levels are assessed to track the development of both the Chinese and Spanish languages. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Language levels (12) are as follows: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced High, Advanced Mid, Advanced Low, Intermediate High, Intermediate Mid, Intermediate Low, and Novice High, Novice Mid, Novice Low, and 0.

The ACTFL standards are global characterizations of integrated performance in each of four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Writing, and Reading. The ACTFL Can Do statements can be found in their entirety at: <https://www.actfl.org/resources/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements>

#### ADMISSION TO INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS

#### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

ILTexas does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or gender, age, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including vocational and career and technical education programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and any other legally-protected classification or status protected by applicable law.

Any questions or concerns about the school’s compliance with these federal programs should be brought to the attention of the following persons designated to coordinate compliance with these requirements:

Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex/gender:

- Regina Jones, Chief Equity Officer 2021 Lakeside Blvd., Richardson, TX 75082 [rjones1@ILTexas.org](mailto:rjones1@ILTexas.org)

Title VI/ADEA Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or age:

- Regina Jones, Chief Equity Officer 2021 Lakeside Blvd., Richardson, TX 75082 [rjones1@ILTexas.org](mailto:rjones1@ILTexas.org)

ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability:

- Mary Albritton, Executive Director of Counseling 2021 Lakeside Blvd., Richardson, TX 75082 [malbritton@ILTexas.org](mailto:malbritton@ILTexas.org)

All other concerns regarding discrimination:

- Regina Jones, Chief Equity Officer 2021 Lakeside Blvd., Richardson, TX 75082 [rjones1@ILTexas.org](mailto:rjones1@ILTexas.org)

## **SCHOOL ADMISSION**

ILTexas is an open-enrollment charter school, which is a public school of choice. Admission and enrollment of students shall be open to persons who reside within the geographic boundaries stated in the school’s charter, and who are eligible for admission based on lawful criteria identified in the charter and state law.

The total number of students enrolled in ILTexas shall not exceed the number of students approved in the school’s charter or subsequent amendments. Total enrollment may further be limited by ILTexas based on occupancy limitations, code compliance, and staffing requirements, as deemed necessary.

In accordance with state law, ILTexas does not discriminate in its admissions policy on the basis of sex; national origin; ethnicity; religion; disability; academic, artistic, or athletic ability; or the district a student would otherwise attend.

Enrollment may not be denied to children who are not legally admitted into the United States.

### ***Exception to Admission***

As authorized by the ILTexas charter and Texas Education Code § 12.111(a)(5)(A), students with a documented history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or other school discipline problems under Texas Education Code Chapter 37, Subchapter A, may be excluded from admission and enrollment in ILTexas.

## **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS LOTTERY**

ILTexas requires applicants to submit a completed application form in order to be considered for admission. ILTexas has established an application period during which applications are accepted for admissions (or to a lottery if the number of applications exceeds the number of seats available for a grade level). Any person who lives within the geographic boundaries of the charter and who satisfies all other criteria for admission set by the ILTexas policy and state law is eligible to apply. Parents must submit an online application form (a paper application will be provided upon request) and submit it prior to the application deadline in order to participate in the lottery. An admissions lottery will be conducted for each grade at each campus. A waitlist will be established if the total number of applicants exceeds the number of open enrollment spots. Each applicant will be assigned a number, and all numbers will be randomly drawn during a scheduled lottery. Each applicant whose number is drawn will be offered admission, with notice provided by email and telephone. Failure of an applicant to respond to an admission's offer within the time specified by ILTexas will result in the forfeiture of his or her position in the application process.

Once all enrollment spots have been filled by the lottery, the remaining numbers will be drawn and the applicants assigned to these numbers will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they were drawn. When a vacancy arises, the individual next on the waiting list with the lowest number assignment will be offered admission and then removed from the waiting list.

If an application is received after the application period has passed, the applicant's name will be added to the waiting list in the order of the date and time in which the application is received.

### **Exceptions**

Federal guidelines permit ILTexas to exempt from the lottery students who are already attending the school; siblings of students already admitted to or attending ILTexas; and children of ILTexas' founders, teachers and staff, so long as the number of these students constitutes only a small percentage of the school's enrollment.

Students already attending ILTexas will be exempt from the lottery as long as an intent to return form is completed during the enrollment period prior to the intent to return deadline. In order to retain this exemption, a student must remain enrolled. For the purpose of the sibling exemption, siblings are defined as a person who shares a common parent through birth, marriage, or adoption.

### **MCKINNEY VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001**

Homeless children and youth are ensured specific educational rights and protections. A listing of these specific rights may be obtained from ILTexas by contacting Jeff Powers, 2021 Lakeside Blvd., Richardson, TX 72082. 972-479-9078.

"Homeless children and youth" as defined and covered by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001 means children and youth who:

- Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
- Are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Are abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or

- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations.

Parents of students in homeless situations can keep their students in their schools of origin (the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled even if the student is now residing outside the school attendance area or school area) or enroll them in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

## **PREGNANCY RELATED SERVICES**

Pregnancy Related Services are support services, including Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI), that a pregnant student receives during the pregnancy, prenatal and postpartum periods. Any pregnant and/or parenting student that is enrolled in ILTexas is eligible for PRS services. We support a comprehensive approach to supporting students by offering a coordination of services and monitoring grades and attendance regularly to ensure academic success.

When a student is first reported to be, or is first known to be pregnant by a teacher, counselor, or any school official, a referral is to be made immediately to the student's school nurse and counselor. The Nurse and Counselor visits with the student concerning her pregnancy and determines if it has been verified by a doctor or other qualified medical professional. The school counselor then initiates PRS services by completing a PRS intake form. That form is submitted to PEIMS and Student Services officials, as well as the student's campus At-Risk Coordinator. PRS services to the student generally begin as of the date the PRS form is completed.

When ILTexas agrees to provide PRS services, it must provide CEHI. CEHI is home instruction in which school assignments for the student are collected from the student's regular classroom teachers and are taken to the student at home by a certified teacher. That teacher works with the student at home for at least four hours a week, and then returns the student's work to her regular teacher for grading. Prenatal CEHI services are provided when the student's doctor determines she cannot continue to come to school due to a serious medical complication to the pregnancy. Prenatal CEHI services continue until the doctor determines she can return to school or until the pregnancy ends. Postnatal CEHI services begin the day after delivery and can continue for a maximum of 10 weeks post-delivery if there are serious medical complications relative to the delivery that involves the student or her infant. Postnatal CEHI is generally provided for a period of two to three weeks if the student has a normal delivery, and up to six weeks if the delivery is by C-section. A student with no post-delivery complications returns to her campus within approximately two weeks. PRS services end when postnatal CEHI ends, when the pregnancy ends due to circumstances other than delivery or when the student ends their enrollment in ILTexas during her pregnancy. Additional information regarding ILTexas' Pregnancy Related Services may be obtained from Mary Albritton, Executive Director of Counseling, [malbritton@iltexas.org](mailto:malbritton@iltexas.org), 972-479-9078.

## **TRANSFER POLICY**

ILTexas allows transfers among our schools under the same charter for currently enrolled students. The intent of a transfer is to accommodate families who have moved and have a documented change of residency or have a change in job site location during the school year. The student's parent must complete a student transfer request form. Decisions on transfers will be made by the office of the Registrar. Transfers are dependent on available spaces for the respective grade level.

Enrolled families who do not meet the criteria above will have the ability to request a transfer to another ILTexas school for the upcoming school year during the Intent to Return period. During the

Intent to Return period families may select an alternate returning campus. Decisions on transfers for the upcoming school year will be made by the office of the Registrar. If there are more requests than available spaces in a respective grade, we will proceed with the earliest application to determine which transfers will be approved, and the remainder will be placed on the waitlist. If you have questions about the transfer process, please contact the DFW Registrar's office at 972-479-9078 or Houston Area Registrar's office at 713-955-7844.

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

Any student admitted to ILTexas must have records such as a report card and/or transcript from the previous school attended to verify his or her academic standing. Verification of residency and current immunization records are also required. Every student enrolling in ILTexas for the first time must present documentation of immunizations as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

### **Establishing Identification**

Any of the following documents are acceptable for proof of identification and age: birth certificate; driver's license; passport; school ID card; records, or report card; military ID; hospital birth records; adoption records; church baptismal record; or any other legal document that establishes identity.

No later than 30 days after enrolling in ILTexas, the parent and school district in which the student was previously enrolled shall furnish records that verify the identity of the student. Students will not be denied enrollment because they fail to meet this requirement.

ILTexas will forward a student's records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll without the necessity of the parents' consent.

### **Food Allergy Information**

The parent of each student enrolled in ILTexas must complete a form provided by the school that discloses whether the child has a food allergy or a severe food allergy that should be disclosed to the school to enable ILTexas to take any necessary precautions regarding the child's safety and (2) specifies the food(s) to which the child is allergic and the nature of the allergic reaction.

For purposes of this requirement, the term "severe food allergy" means a dangerous or life-threatening reaction of the human body to a food-borne allergen introduced by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact that requires immediate medical attention.

ILTexas may also require information from a child's physician if the child has food allergies.

Food allergy information forms will be maintained in a student's records and shall remain confidential. Information provided on food allergy information forms may be disclosed to teachers, school counselors, school nurses, and other appropriate school personnel only to the extent consistent with Board policy and as permissible under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 ("FERPA").

### **Residency Verification**

The Texas Education Code authorizes schools to obtain evidence that a person is eligible to attend public schools. To be eligible for continued enrollment in ILTexas, each student's parent must show proof of residency at the time of enrollment. Residency may be verified through observation, documentation, and other means, including, but not limited to:

- A recently paid rent receipt,
- A current lease agreement,
- The most recent tax receipt indicating home ownership,
- A current utility bill indicating the address and name of the residence occupiers,
- A current car insurance copy indicating the address and name of the residence occupiers,
- Mailing addresses of the residence occupiers,
- Visual inspection of the residence
- Interviews with persons with relevant information, or
- Building permits issued to a parent on or before September 1st of the school year in which admission is sought (permits will serve as evidence of residency for the school year in which admission is sought only).

Falsification of residence on an enrollment form is a criminal offense.

## **WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE**

### **Voluntary Withdrawal**

A student under 18 years of age may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. Parents of students withdrawing from ILTexas are requested to meet with the Campus Principal or Designee before proceeding with the withdrawal process. A Withdrawal Form and a Transcript Request Form may be obtained from the campus registrar. The parent shall also provide the name of the new school in which the student will be enrolled, and must sign the withdrawal request to document that the student will continue to be enrolled in a school as required by compulsory attendance laws. Transcripts or student records will be provided within ten (10) business days of the following:

- Registrar's receipt of the Transcript Request Form / Student records
- Payment of any unpaid fees: and
- Returning school property, including but not limited to campus technology, books and uniforms associated with band, athletics, etc.

A student who is 18 years of age, or is under 18 years of age, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor, may withdraw without parental signature.

### **Involuntary Withdrawal**

ILTexas may initiate the withdrawal of a student under the age of 19 for non-attendance if:

- The student has been absent ten consecutive school days; and
- Repeated efforts by ILTexas to locate the student have been unsuccessful.

Additionally, ILTexas may revoke the enrollment of a student 19 years of age or older who has more than five unexcused absences in one semester.

A student who withdraws for any reason during the school year may re-enroll only if there are open seats available. If no seats are available, the student will be placed in the lottery process and/or added to the waiting list. See also the Student Code of Conduct for additional requirements if a student withdraws prior to a pending disciplinary action including expulsion.

Additional Information on the Admission Process may be obtained from the campus Principal's Office. Information will also be posted on the School and ILTexas website.



## ATTENDANCE

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES**

Student absences may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of instructional materials and therefore, the student should avoid unnecessary absences. If the parent/guardian or student has questions about attendance they should contact the school attendance office for information. Students are expected to be in school except in cases of emergency, illness, or school-approved absences.

All absences will be verified by the school attendance office starting at 8:30 and if the school has not been notified in writing by 9:25 a.m. (K-8) or 9:30 a.m. (9-12), the student's absence will be recorded as "unexcused." When a parent /guardian knows in advance about a future absence, prior written permission for the absence to be considered excused should be received in advance. When the student returns to school, he/she should provide the office with a note signed by a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Since absences may determine grading and course credit, all documentation regarding absences will be retained in the student's cumulative file for a period of 5 years.

### **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**

The state compulsory attendance law requires that a student between the ages of six and 19 must attend school and school-required tutorial sessions unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused. ILTexas staff must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent from school without permission from any class, from required special programs, or from required tutorials will be considered "truant" and subject to disciplinary action.

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her 19th birthday is required to attend each school day. If a student 19 years of age or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, ILTexas may revoke the student's enrollment, except that the school may not revoke the enrollment on a day on which the student is physically present at school. The student's presence on school property thereafter would be unauthorized and may be considered trespassing. Prior to revoking the student's enrollment, ILTexas shall issue a warning letter to the student after the third unexcused absence stating that the student's enrollment may be revoked for the remainder of the school year if the student has more than five unexcused absences in a semester. As an alternative to revoking enrollment, ILTexas may impose an attendance behavior improvement plan.

#### **Notice to Parents:**

- Under Texas Education Code § 25.095(a), you are hereby notified that if a student is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Texas.
- Education Code § 25.093; and the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under Texas Family Code § 65.003(a).
- ILTexas shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school without excuse, on three days or parts of days within a four-week period. The notice will inform the parent that it is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school; the student is subject to truancy prevention measures under Texas Education Code § 25.0915; and that a conference between school officials and the parent is needed to discuss the absences.

## **Personal Illness**

When a student's absence for personal illness exceeds three consecutive days, the student will be required to present a statement from a physician or health clinic verifying the illness or other condition causing the student's extended absence from school. If the student has established a questionable pattern of absences, the Campus Principal may require a physician or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence. This procedure will be used as a condition for classifying the absence as excused or as one for which extenuating circumstances exist. Failure to provide the required statement may result in the student and/or parent being charged with violating the compulsory attendance laws as well as the possibility of a loss of credit.

## **Excused Absences**

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

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Service as an election clerk;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student's arrival or return to campus;
- For students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state;
- Mental health or therapy appointments; and
- Court-ordered family visitations or any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in activities outside of school hours.

A junior or senior student may also be absent for up to two days per school year for purposes of visiting a college or university, provided the student receives approval from the counselor or Principal, follows ILTexas' procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work.

Absences of up to two days in a school year will also be considered an exemption for a student serving as an early voting clerk, provided the student notifies his or her teachers and receives approval from the Principal prior to the absence.

Absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from certain deployments.

Additionally, ILTexas may excuse up to four days of school for a high school student who is 17 years of age or older to pursue enlistment in a branch of the armed services of the United States or the Texas National Guard, provided that ILTexas verifies the student's activities relating to pursuing enlistment.

For religious holy days, required court appearances, activities related to obtaining citizenship, and serving as an election clerk, one day of travel to the site and one day of travel from the site shall also be excused by ILTexas.

Upon the student's return to school from being absent, he/she must go to the attendance clerk with a note from the parent prior to entering the classroom. Students are to make contact with the teacher

to make up work missed due to excused absences. Regardless of the reason, absences will be marked “unexcused” if the parent does not contact the school in writing. A note (email or written confirmation) from the parent / guardian must be provided the day of the student’s return. If a note is not provided within three working calendar days of the student’s return, the absence will be marked “unexcused” resulting in possible academic penalties. (Example: If a student is absent on Monday and returns to school on Tuesday, then Tuesday would be considered day one; Wednesday, day two; and Thursday, day three). If the student does not have a note submitted to the Attendance Office by the end of the school day on Thursday, the student’s absence(s) will be marked as “unexcused.”

### **Unexcused Absences**

Absences not excused by law or school procedure and absences that are not a result of approved extracurricular activities shall be designated as unexcused, even if the student has parental permission to be absent.

### **Perfect Attendance**

Perfect Attendance is hereby defined as follows:

- In elementary grades, K-5, a student must be present every day during ADA in order to have “Perfect Attendance.”
- In secondary grades, 6-12, a student must be present every day, in every class, in order to have “Perfect Attendance.”

### **Closed Campuses**

A student may not leave campus after arriving at school unless the student is safely picked up by a parent or designee with parental permission documented with the attendance clerk. A student who leaves campus without permission will receive disciplinary action.

### **Late Start / Early Dismissal For Grades 9–12**

Students who have a scheduled Late Start/Early Dismissal must show a school ID or driver’s license to the attendance clerk in order to be released from school. Please refer to the section regarding Late Start/Early Dismissal in the Academic Programs section for further eligibility requirements.

### **Daily Attendance Procedures**

Grades K-5 attendance is taken at 9:30 a.m. In grades 6-12 attendance is taken each class period and is recorded for state attendance purposes at exactly 9:30 a.m. for grades 6-8 and at 9:40 a.m. for 9-12. In grades 6-8, an absence is defined as missing the first ten minutes of class. Missing the first 10 minutes of class is defined as an absence for students in grades 9-12.

Student attendance will also need to be recorded when high school students are enrolled in the dual credit program with our partnering community college. Students are expected to report to their ILTexas campus before leaving to the community college. Attendance will be recorded at the high school campus. If a morning absence at the campus is unavoidable, the student must bring a completed Attendance Verification Form signed by the community college professor to obtain attendance credit for the periods in question.

For students in grades K-5 who demonstrate habitual tardiness and/or absences (as determined by campus leadership), the following is required:

- The parent/guardian will be counseled by school administration (and/or school counselor) as to the importance of student attendance and punctuality.
- A plan will be developed by the campus that appropriately addresses the student's attendance. This plan should include school administration, counselor, teacher(s), parent and student.

Attendance requirements will remain consistent with all classes (including high school Leadership and K-8 Enrichment). In the event that a student loses credit due to the 90% rule, the grade earned for that class will not be applied to the student's GPA until the credit is restored (as determined by campus leadership).

### **Driver's License Attendance Verification**

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is required to verify the attendance records of a student between the ages of 16 and 18 that is seeking to obtain or renew a driver's license. In order for DPS to access this information or, in certain circumstances, for a school administrator to provide the attendance information to DPS, written parental permission must be obtained. Students may obtain the required Verification of Enrollment (VOE) form from the school office.

### **Early Release/Student Sign-Out**

Parents will sign the student out with the attendance clerk. If the parent is unable to sign the student out, it must be stated in the note, which should include an explanation of the student's means of transportation. If the student returns to campus on the same day, he/she must sign in with the attendance clerk. When leaving for a doctor's appointment, student drivers will be permitted to sign themselves out if they have already submitted a parent authorization note. Students will not be called to the main office until their parents arrive.

### **Student Age 18 And Over**

A student who is age 18 or older and living independently of his/her parent is permitted to verify his or her own absences and sign out. Parent and student must have a signed release on file with the attendance clerk.

### **Attendance For Credit Or Final Grade**

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend at least 90% of the days the class is offered. These days include both excused and unexcused absences. Attendance is recorded each grading period and reported as part of the report card.

A student who attends at least 75% but fewer than 90% of the days the class is offered may receive credit or a final grade for the class if he or she completes a plan approved by the Principal that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class. A student under the jurisdiction of a court in a criminal or juvenile justice proceeding may not receive credit or a final grade without approval from the judge presiding over the student's case.

A student who attends less than 75% of the days the class is offered or has not completed the plan approved by the Principal will be referred to the Attendance Review Committee to determine whether the absences were due to extenuating circumstances and how the student may regain credit or earn a final grade. The Attendance Review Committee will consider the following factors when determining whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absence:

1. All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be considered, with consideration given to special circumstances as defined by the Texas Education Code.

2. For a student transferring into ILTexas after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
3. In reaching consensus about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student.
4. The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or parent could exercise control.
5. The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documentation expressing reasons for the student's absences.
6. The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
7. The student, parent or other representative will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit.

If credit is lost because of excessive absences, the Attendance Review Committee will decide how the student may regain credit or earn a final grade. If the committee determines there are no extenuating circumstances and that credit or a final grade may not be earned, the student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the Board of Directors by filing a written request with the Superintendent. The appeal notice must be postmarked to the following address within 30 days following the last day of instruction in the semester for which credit was denied:

International Leadership of Texas  
Attn: Superintendent, Notice of Appeal, Class Credit  
2021 Lakeside Blvd.  
Richardson, TX 75082

The appeal will then be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the student or parent of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

### **Tardies**

ILTexas expects punctuality and dependability and maintains a strict policy regarding tardiness. Students arriving to school late cannot enter classes without a tardy slip from the Main Office. Every effort should be made to schedule medical/dental appointments at times other than during school hours, especially not the mornings. Nonetheless, tardiness will be excused for scheduled doctor, dentist, or orthodontist appointments, illnesses, and emergencies upon returning to school with a note from the doctor or a parent to the Attendance Office. Tardiness will not be excused for reasons of tiredness, traffic, or errands.

### **Arrival And Dismissal Procedures (Driveline)**

ILTexas students are expected to come directly to school and to go home by the safest possible route. On their way to and from school students are to conduct themselves as Ambassadors by being courteous and respectful to everyone and obeying all school and traffic rules. Safe and orderly arrival and dismissal help our students begin and end their days in a calm manner. Please help your child be ready to learn by making sure he or she arrives at school on time and knows the schedule. Additionally, please follow campus drop off and pick up procedures as delineated by each campus. For safety reasons, only drop off students at approved/designated areas.

Students who are tardy must enter through the main entrance and report to the office to sign in so that their attendance record can be corrected.

If students arrive or leave school by walking, they should walk with other students, cross the street at the pedestrian crosswalks, and go directly to and from school. Please adhere to all traffic and pedestrian laws. The safety of our students is of utmost concern to us.

It is a violation of state law as well as dangerous for the safety of our students to use hand-held cell phones when driving on school property and in school zones. Cell phones must be hands-free and should never be a distraction. No cell phone use during drop-off and pick-up times unless parked in a marked space.

At dismissal time students are to go directly home, to their designated transportation area (Drive Line zone), or wait in the designated area to be picked up. At the K-8 levels, students should not go to another student's home without making arrangements prior to coming to school. If you need for your child to go home with someone else, a written (or emailed) note to the school is required. Running around and disruptive play is not acceptable. After school care can be arranged through the campus After School Care provider for ages 5-12.

Parents wishing to pick their child up before school dismissal must do so by following school attendance policies. It is our hope that dentist and doctor appointments can be made after school hours or on Saturdays, if possible. If this is not possible and your child has an appointment and must be released from school early you need to send a note indicating the time you will pick him/her up. Students will not be called to the main office until you arrive.

### **School Hours**

ILTexas students attend school for a period of at least 8 hours each day. Each campus will post information regarding school hours on the campus website located at ILTexas.org.

### **Student Drivers**

Driving and parking on school grounds are a privilege. This privilege may be revoked if proper guidelines are not followed. In order to qualify for parking at ILTexas, student drivers must complete the Student Driver Application, pay the requisite fee of \$20 per semester or \$30 for the year (paid by September 1), and properly display the school's parking decal on their vehicle. The application requires students to submit a photocopy of their current driver's license and proof of insurance. Both documents must be current and on file before parking privileges are extended.

Student drivers must:

- Park only in the areas designated as student parking;
- Drive safely at all times, using extreme caution for other students and pedestrians;
- Obey all traffic instructions from teachers and school personnel; and
- Obey all posted traffic signs and markings.

Painting of parking spaces is at the discretion of the Campus Principal.

## **ASSESSMENTS, STAAR, AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

### **Assessment**

We believe that assessment plays a critical role in driving the quality curriculum necessary to empower students to reach their potential. Assessment tells us where students are in their learning,

and provides students with guidance towards higher levels of achievement. Assessment is central to the ILTexas effort to achieve its mission.

### **End Of Cycle Assessments (ECA)**

An End of Cycle Assessment is used at the conclusion of each grading period to assess learning and understanding of the curriculum. An ECA is standardized across ILTexas. Semester Exams/Final Exams at the High School level courses are designed to measure student understanding of required learning objectives taught over the course of the semester/year. The results of these assessments determine a student's overall understanding or mastery of the assessed subject.

### **Request For Final Exam Date Change**

Final, Semester, or ECA Exam dates are established by headquarters. Only in the most extreme circumstances (e.g. death in the immediate family), will approval be given for a request to change the administration of final or semester exams. The request should be put in writing to the campus principal. The campus principal has the authority to approve/deny this request.

### **Early Reading Indicator**

ILTexas will use a research-based, state approved tool to detect early reading difficulties or risk of reading difficulties at an early level and to provide a summary of reading skills and comprehension which teachers can use in planning individual and/or group instruction.

### **State Of Texas Assessments Of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Testing And Accelerated Instruction**

ILTexas is committed to student success on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and takes seriously its obligation to provide students the support and assistance they need to succeed. All students at STAAR-tested grade levels (3–12) will be regularly assessed to ensure they are making appropriate progress through the required state curriculum. Students who are unsuccessful on one or more STAAR assessments will receive an Accelerated Learning Plan designed to provide academic support through classes / tutorials when the school offers them in the areas in which the standard was not met. In some cases, this may be an on-going, regularly scheduled class. In others, it may be an intense scheduled tutorial period for any time frame prior to the STAAR testing scheduled for April-May.

STAAR Alternate 2 is available for students who have significant cognitive disabilities and are receiving special education services, as determined by the student's ARD committee. These particular assessments have different testing windows than the general assessments, and the ARD committee will determine whether successful performance on the assessments will be required for graduation.

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and its related End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for high school grades will consist of the following examinations:

#### **Elementary and Middle School STAAR:**

- Grade 3: Reading and Math
- Grade 4: Reading and Math
- Grade 5: Reading, Math, and Science
- Grade 6: Reading and Math
- Grade 7: Reading and Math
- Grade 8: Reading , Math , Science, & Social Studies

### **High School End of Course:**

- English I and II
- Algebra I
- Biology
- US History

Additionally, STAAR Spanish is available for eligible students in grades 3 thru 5 for whom a Spanish version of STAAR is the most appropriate measure of academic performance.

### **Performance on EOC Assessments**

High School students are required, with limited exceptions, to perform satisfactorily on the High School End of Course assessments listed above. A student who has not achieved sufficient scores on the EOC assessments to graduate will have opportunities to retake the assessments. State law and state rules also provide for certain scores on norm-referenced national standardized assessments to substitute for the requirement to meet satisfactory performance on an applicable EOC assessment should a student choose this option.

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment, ILTexas will develop an Accelerated Learning Plan in the content area for which the performance standard was not met. This may require student participation before or after normal school hours, or at times of the year outside of normal school operations. Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments (or Substitute Assessment) will be required for graduation, except in circumstances where a student may be eligible to graduate in accordance with a plan approved by an Individual Graduation Committee.

### **Middle School Algebra I & English I Parent/Student Options (If Success Is Not Met)**

#### **● Algebra I**

- A. If a student passes 8th grade Algebra I class but fails the Algebra I EOC The student retakes EOC in June. If the student fails the June administration of the EOC it is expected that the student participates in acceleration per HB4545. The student will concurrently participate in accelerated learning and may be enrolled in a 2nd math credit as part of their plan for accelerated instruction to ensure they pass the December EOC administration.

#### **● English I**

If a student passes 8th grade English I but fails the English I EOC then:

- The student earns credit for ENG I, however, the student retakes EOC in June.
- If the student fails the June administration of the EOC, it is expected that the student participates in acceleration per HB4545. The student will concurrently participate in accelerated learning and may be enrolled in a 2nd English credit.

### **Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)**

ILTexas will utilize the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) to assess the English language proficiency of K-12 Emergent Bilingual (EB) students. English language proficiency assessments in grades K-12 are federally required to evaluate the progress



made by BEs in becoming proficient in the use of academic English. BEs will be assessed in four language domains - listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **Bilingual/ESL Services**

ILTexas offers Bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL) services (Two-way DLI) for English language learners who are identified as English Learners (EL's). The program is designed to assist students identified as having Limited English Proficiency with development in language – listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The goal of this program is to provide additional English language assistance to students, enabling them to become academically successful in all classes. Students are assessed with state-approved Oral Language Proficiency and Norm-Referenced Test to qualify for placement in the program. If the test results indicate either limited oral or limited cognitive academic English ability, the student (with parent approval) is provided additional English language support.

### **Special Education Services**

ILTexas has the responsibility of identifying, locating, and evaluating individuals with disabilities who are 5 to 21 years of age and who fall within the school's jurisdiction. If you know or suspect that your student has a disability, please contact the school's Executive Director of Special Populations, Charles Hairgrove, 972-479-9078, [chairgrove@ILTexas.org](mailto:chairgrove@ILTexas.org) for information about available programs, assessments, and services.

Special education services are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Each student who receives special education services has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which is developed by the student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee. The ARD Committee considers the student's disability and determines appropriate accommodations, supplementary aids, and/or services that are necessary for the student to participate in the general curriculum.

All special education services are provided in the least restrictive environment, which may be special education settings, general education settings, or a combination of both. All students receiving special education services are educated to the maximum extent appropriate with their non-disabled peers as well as participating in all school activities on the same basis as students who are not disabled.

The Notice of Procedural Safeguards – Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities, can be obtained from the Special Education Executive Director, Charles Hairgrove, 972-479-9078, [chairgrove@ILTexas.org](mailto:chairgrove@ILTexas.org) or at the Texas Education Agency Special Education Website:

[http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special\\_Student\\_Populations/Special\\_Education/Special\\_Education](http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special_Student_Populations/Special_Education/Special_Education)

### **Providing Assistance to Students who have Learning Difficulties or who Need Special Education Services**

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the campus Counselor to learn about ILTexas' overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial,

compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the school's ability to meet the needs of all struggling students.

ILTexas shall provide an annual notice to the parent of each child in general education to whom the school provides assistance for learning difficulties, including intervention strategies. The notice must be provided when the child begins to receive the assistance for that school year, in English or in the parent's native language, to the extent practicable, and must include:

- A reasonable description of the assistance that may be provided to the child;
- Information collected regarding any Tier 1 intervention if a multi-tiered system of supports was previously used with the student;
- An estimate of how long the assistance will be provided;
- The estimated time frame within which the school will provide the parent with a report on the child's progress with the assistance; and
- A statement that the parents have the right to request an evaluation of the student's need for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794).

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services by presenting a written request to the Special Education Executive Director, Charles Hairgrove, 972-479-9078, [chairgrove@ILTexas.org](mailto:chairgrove@ILTexas.org) or a campus administrative employee. ILTexas must, within 15 school days of receiving the request, either (1) give the parent an opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation or (2) refuse to provide the evaluation and provide the parent with written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parents of their rights if they disagree with the school. Additionally, the parent will receive a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards – Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities.

If consent for evaluation is obtained, ILTexas must generally complete the evaluation and report within 45 school days of the date the school receives the written consent. ILTexas must give a copy of the evaluation report to the parent.

### **Section 504 Services**

ILTexas provides a free appropriate public education to each qualified student with a disability, regardless of the nature or severity of the student's disability. A "student with a disability" is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the student's major life activities, has a record of having such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment. A student with a disability is "qualified" if he or she is between the ages of 3 and 21, inclusive.

An appropriate education is the provision of regular or special education and related services that are (1) designed to meet the student's individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of students who do not have disabilities are met; and (2) based on adherence to procedures that satisfy federal requirements for educational setting, evaluation and placement, and procedural safeguards.

Qualified students with disabilities will be placed in the regular educational environment, unless ILTexas demonstrates that education in the regular environment with the use of supplemental aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Should an alternate educational environment be necessary, the school will comply with all legal requirements regarding least restrictive environment

and comparable facilities for students with disabilities. In providing or arranging for nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, the school will ensure that a qualified student with a disability participates with students who do not have disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

To be eligible for services and protections against discrimination on the basis of disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a student must be determined, as a result of an evaluation, to have a “physical or mental impairment” that substantially limits one or more major life activities. If a student has or is suspected of having a disability, or requires special services, parents or teachers should contact the Executive Director of Counseling, Mary Albritton, [malbritton@iltexas.org](mailto:malbritton@iltexas.org) for information concerning available programs, assessments, and services.

### **Services for Title I Participants**

Information regarding ILTexas’ Title I program may be obtained from Lauren McKinney, Director of Federal Programs.

### **FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Scheduled field trips are an important part of the school curriculum. Parents will be notified (campus website, email, School Messenger) when field trips are planned. Permission/Release forms must be signed by the parent and presented to the field trip organizer before a student is permitted to participate in a field trip activity. All students are expected to be in full uniform unless special permission has been obtained from the campus principal.

### **End Of Year Educational Trips**

Throughout the year, students work in their academic classes to earn trips that help make connections between their in-class learning and the world beyond. In order to attend, students must meet academic and behavioral expectations of the school, participate in Grade Level Trip Fundraising Activities, and pay for their portion of the trip as allowed by law. Information will be distributed by campuses and/or headquarters and can be subject to change.

### **Fundraising**

Students and/or parents/guardians will have opportunities to participate in Principal-approved fundraising activities. Fundraising for personal (non-ILTexas) reasons will not be allowed.

### **Transportation**

ILTexas does not provide regular transportation to and from school, unless required by a student’s Individualized Education Plan (“IEP”) for a student with disabilities.

ILTexas may arrange and coordinate transportation for off-site events for participants. Students must get written permission in advance and assume all liability if they do not use school transportation, if it is provided. If ILTexas provides transportation, students are expected to follow the directions of the teacher/sponsor and driver at all times. The Student Code of Conduct and all school rules apply when attending a school-sponsored and/or sanctioned event.

If a student with a disability is receiving school transportation as a result of an IEP, the Admission Review and Dismissal (“ARD”) Committee will have the discretion in determining appropriate disciplinary consequences related to inappropriate behavior in a school vehicle.

## **Video Monitoring System**

For safety purposes, including the maintenance of order and discipline, surveillance cameras may be used to monitor student behavior in classrooms, on school vehicles, and in common areas. Video recordings may be reviewed routinely to document student misconduct and used by ILTexas staff when investigating an incident. Tapes and other video recordings will be available for viewing pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”).

## **Lunch Visitations**

Grades K – 12: Relatives of students are welcome to visit during lunch. Please follow campus lunch visitation procedures/protocol.

## **Birthdays/Invitations (K–8)**

Student birthdays may be celebrated by distributing “goodie bags” with prepackaged/sealed items to each student in the class right before dismissal. Birthdays will not be celebrated by bringing in balloons, cakes, cupcakes, and other food items. Invitations to a private birthday party will only be distributed at school if each student in the class receives one.

## **Student Parties For K–5**

In an effort to maximize instructional time, school parties are scheduled twice a year – Winter Holiday party and End of Year party.

## **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**

### **Food And Nutrition Service**

ILTexas is approved by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to operate under the National

School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). ILTexas is also a participant of the Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010. Every school participating in NSLP and SBP must follow the strict nutritional guidelines implemented by the USDA. All Breakfast Meals must include fruit, grain and milk. All Lunch Meals must include a meat/meat alternate, fruit, vegetable, grain and milk. The USDA sets limits on the amount of calories, fat, sugar and sodium a student can consume daily, based on their grade (See Meal Pattern at <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1633531653/iltexasorg/zw7hsukv3sjccx9djrx/MealPatterns.pdf>).

Students are given the option to bring lunch from home or purchase breakfast or lunch from ILTexas.

### **Special Diet**

Any student purchasing meals at school, who has a life-threatening food allergy and requires a Special Meal, must have a Physician complete the form located at: <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1612833082/iltexasorg/qyfcitcqw30w5aqwg726/PhysicianDietForm.pdf>

**\*Students and their parents shall not disseminate food to other students.**

### **Free and Reduced Price Lunch Applications**

<http://iltexas.schoollunchapp.com> This program is income based. All parents are encouraged to complete an online application. Personal information is never shared.

### **WAYS TO PAY FOR MEALS (July 1, 2023-June 2024)**

1. My School Bucks ([www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)): To access, you may go to your App store and download the My School Bucks App, or go to the ILTexas Website ([www.iltexas.org](http://www.iltexas.org)). A Link is available under the Families Tab > My School Bucks. Student ID Number is required to make payments.
2. Free and Reduced Lunch Application: To access, please go to the ILTexas Website <http://iltexas.schoollunchapp.com> A Link is available under the Families Tab > Child Nutrition -click on Free and Reduced Application.
3. After the 11th of August and through June 2024, you may send payment with your child or drop off payments at the front office of each campus. There is a locked mailbox where payments are placed for the Child Nutrition's Cashier to pick-up (or) a parent may request to see a cashier and present payment directly to the cashier between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
4. CREDIT CARD ON-LINE PAYMENTS: Cash may be received at the end of all serving lines. A Student may pay cash for both meals on the day of service even if they have a negative balance.
5. Students may opt to pay cash daily if they choose; however, it is strongly encouraged for students to maintain a positive balance at all times in order to ensure they will always receive a complete meal and expedite the line. ILTexas has a Charge Policy for all grades.

### **Charge Policy**

ILTexas will offer a Courtesy Meal for breakfast and a Courtesy Meal for lunch to students in a paid or reduced status,

who have exceeded the charge limit of \$7.00. The Courtesy Meal is only offered to prevent students from going without anything at meal time, and is NOT a Federal Requirement. A Courtesy meal consists of Breakfast: Breakfast with cereal, fruit and milk. Lunch will be either a sunbutter sandwich or cheese sandwich along with fruit/vegetable and milk.

Parents must pay the balance in order for their child(ren) to continue to receive school meals or send their child(ren) to school with meals until they are in a position to pay the balances. If a parent has experienced recent hardship, they may submit a Free/Reduced application at any time during the school year.

Parents will receive weekly notifications via email when their child(ren) have a negative balance of  $-\$.01$

or more. In addition, campuses print negative balance letters every week and distribute them to the students. Parents also have the ability to set up their own balance notifications through our online payment portal, My School Bucks, [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).

### **Free And Reduced Applications**

First Day – August: Any returning student receiving benefits- Free or Reduced will start school with the same Eligibility Determined Benefit. They will be honored until September 23th of each year. In order to have your benefits continue, a new application must be completed each year before September 22nd or all benefits will be terminated and students will go back to a paid status.

To apply, Simply log onto (ILTexas.org) website: [www.ILTexas.org](http://www.ILTexas.org). Follow the instructions by clicking Families/Child Nutrition/Free and Reduced Applications . Complete the form and submit. Please write down your confirmation number for records. The Determination of Eligibility letter will be sent via email within 10 school days. If you do not have a computer, you may go to any campus and use one of the computers on site. If you have any questions, please contact the Child Nutrition Department.

### **Smart Snacks**

Smart Snacks are a new Federal compliance rule effective on July 1, 2014. Smart Snacks standards are applicable during the school day which is defined as midnight before, to 30 minutes after the last instructional period. If food is given away during the school day, then it must meet the competitive food standards.

Any Smart Snacks, if offered, will fall under the New Smart Snack Rule. These rules set limits on calories, fats, sugars and sodium. Students are encouraged to consume Dairy, Whole Grain, Protein, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

### **DEFINITION OF “DAY”**

For the purpose of determining a deadline of a period for response in a grievance, student discipline proceeding or similar proceeding, the term “day” when used in this Handbook shall mean “school day.”

### **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Communication is a high priority at ILTexas. The role of the parent/guardian is an important factor in the academic and social success of each student. Various means of communication throughout the school year may be utilized such as: written notices, email, campus/charter websites, Principal

Coffees and parent night. Parents will be informed of opportunities for involvement within their home campus and ILTexas. Parents are also encouraged to become active members of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) established at their campus. The website: [ILTexasdistrict.org](http://ILTexasdistrict.org) provides general information about headquarters and its programs, current news items, and access to campus websites.

Below are ways for parents to receive information about their child's progress and school.

### **Grades**

Parents and students will be able to access grades via Skyward, which should be monitored on a regular basis. Progress Reports and Report Cards will always be available in Skyward.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent Teacher conferences provide opportunities for teachers to share information with parents about their child's progress in school. These conferences are scheduled after the first six weeks of each semester. Additional conferences may be held at the request of the parent or teacher anytime during the year.

### **Parent and Student Complaints/Grievances**

ILTexas values the opinions of its parents and the public it serves. Parents and students have the right to express their views through appropriate informal and formal processes.

The Board of Directors encourages parents and students to discuss concerns and complaints through informal meetings with their Campus Principal. Concerns and complaints should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible Administrative level.

Neither the Board of Directors nor any school employee shall retaliate against a parent or student for voicing a concern or complaint.

The purpose of the grievance process is to resolve conflicts in an efficient, expeditious, and just manner. The Superintendent shall ensure that the school's grievance procedures are provided to any grievant. The formal grievance procedures shall be in accordance with Commissioner of Education rules. For purposes of this process, "days" shall mean school days, and announcement of a decision in the student's or parent's presence shall constitute communication of the decision.

### **Informal Conferences**

A parent or student may request an informal conference through your Campus Principal within ten calendar days of the time the parent or student knew or should have known of the event(s) giving rise to the complaint. If a parent or student is not satisfied with the results of the informal conference, he or she may request a second informal conference with the Area Superintendent. If, after an informal conference with the Area Superintendent, the parent or student is not satisfied, they may then submit a written grievance form to campus Principal. Grievance forms may be obtained from the Campus Principal.

### **Formal Grievance Process**

The formal grievance process provides all persons with an opportunity to be heard up to the highest level of the chain of command if they are dissatisfied with an administrative response. Once all

administrative procedures are exhausted, a person can bring concerns or complaints to the Board, as outlined below.

In the grievance, the parent and/or student must specify the alleged harm and the remedy sought. The parent and/or student should not submit separate or serial grievances regarding the same event or action. Multiple grievances may be consolidated at the school's discretion. All grievance time limits shall be strictly complied; however, if an administrator determines that additional time is needed to complete a thorough investigation of the complaint and/or to issue a response, the administrator shall inform the parent or student in writing of the need to extend the response time and provide a specific date by which the response will be issued. Costs of any grievance shall be paid by the grievant.

□ LEVEL ONE GRIEVANCE

A parent or student shall submit a written Level One Grievance Form to the Campus Principal or designee within the latter of (1) ten school days from the time the event(s) causing the complaint were or should have been known, or (2) within five school days following an informal conference with the Campus Principal and/or the Deputy Superintendent of School Leadership. The school reserves the right to require the grievant to begin the grievance process at Level Two.

The Campus Principal or designee will meet with the complaining parent or student within ten school days after receiving the Level One Grievance Form. Following this conference, the Campus Principal or designee shall have ten school days to issue a Level One decision.

*Note: A complaint against the Superintendent shall begin at Level Four.*

□ LEVEL TWO GRIEVANCE

If the parent or student is not satisfied with the Level One decision, or if no decision is provided, the parent or student may submit a written appeal to the Deputy Superintendent of School Leadership. The appeal must include a signed statement of the complaint, any evidence supporting the complaint, and the date and results of the conference with the Campus Principal or designee. The appeal must be filed within ten school days of the Level One decision or the response deadline if no decision is made.

The Area Superintendent or designee will hold a Level Two conference within ten school days after receiving the Level Two appeal. The Area Superintendent will have ten school days following the conference to issue a Level Two decision.

□ LEVEL THREE GRIEVANCE

If the parent or student is not satisfied with the Level Two decision, or if no decision is provided, the parent or student may request in writing a conference with the Deputy Superintendent of Student Leadership (DSSL) or designee. The request must include the documentation submitted to the Deputy Superintendent of School Leadership or designee, and the date and results of the Level Two conference. The request must be filed within ten school days of the Level Two decision or the response deadline if no decision is made.

The Deputy Superintendent of Student Leadership or designee along with 3-member appointed panel will hold a conference with the parent or student within ten school days after receiving the Level Three appeal. The Superintendent or designee shall have ten school days following the conference to issue a Level Three decision.

□ LEVEL FOUR GRIEVANCE



If the parent or student is not satisfied with the Level Three decision, or if no decision is provided, the parent or student may submit to the Superintendent or designee a written appeal to the Board of Directors. The request must be filed within ten school days of the Level Three decision or the response deadline if no decision is made. The parent or student shall subsequently be informed of the date, time, and place of the appeal hearing before the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall hear the parent or student complaint, and may set a reasonable time limit for presenting the complaint. Only written documentation and issues previously submitted and presented by the parent or student and the school will be considered. An audiotape recording of the hearing shall be made.

If the complaint involves concerns or charges regarding a school employee, it shall be heard by the Board of Directors in closed session unless the employee to whom the complaint pertains requests that it be heard in public.

The Board of Directors shall communicate its decision within ten school days of the hearing. The Board of Directors may not delegate its authority to issue a decision, and any decision by the Board of Directors is final and may not be appealed.

### **Additional Complaint Procedures**

This Parent and Student Complaints and Grievances process does not apply to all complaints:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, disability, religion, or any other characteristic protected by law shall be submitted as described in “Reports of Student Discrimination or Harassment,” as set forth in this handbook.
2. Complaints concerning retaliation related to discrimination and harassment shall be submitted as described in “Reports of Student Discrimination or Harassment,” as set forth in this handbook.
3. Complaints concerning bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be submitted as described in “Freedom from Bullying and Cyber-Bullying,” as set forth in this handbook.
4. For complaints concerning loss of credit on the basis of attendance.
5. For complaints concerning disciplinary long-term suspensions and/or expulsions.
6. Complaints concerning the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability within the scope of Section 504 shall be submitted as described in the Parent and Student Complaints and Grievances process described above, except that the deadline for filing an initial Level One grievance shall be thirty (30) calendar days and the procedural safeguards handbook.
7. Complaints concerning the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or discipline of a student with a disability within the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall be submitted in accordance with applicable Board policy and the procedural safeguards provided to parents of all students referred to special education.
8. Complaints regarding the Free and Reduced Price Meal Program. In accordance with federal law and

U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the school is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, political beliefs, age, disability, national origin, or limited English proficiency. (Not all bases apply to all programs.) Reprisal is prohibited based on prior civil rights activity. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which is available online at the following website: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information

requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington,

D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339, or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are permitted to have cell phones and other electronic devices in their possession, however, cell phones and electronic devices are not to be seen nor utilized during instructional time. There is an exception provided in instances when students are directed by their teacher to utilize their cell phones for instructional purposes during designated lessons.

If an ILTexas employee observes a student using a personal electronic device (including a cell phone) during instructional time without permission from a school official, the employee will collect the device and turn it in to the front office. School officials may search the device if there is reasonable cause to believe that the device has been used in the transmission or reception of communications prohibited by law, policy, or regulation.

A parent will be contacted and a \$15 fee will be assessed and collected before the device is returned. A \$15 fee will be assessed each subsequent time a device is confiscated. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. ILTexas will not be responsible for damage to, with loss, or theft of confiscated devices.

## CREDITS/TRANSCRIPTS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

### **Evaluation Of Credits For Transfer Students**

ILTexas accepts credits from other schools accredited by the State of Texas and other states. Courses will be evaluated by a counselor to determine if the course meets the requirements for graduation from a Texas high school, as well as from ILTexas. All transfer grades earned in accredited schools will be converted to ILTexas grading scale and course designation consistent with ILTexas standards. In order to receive credit for work completed, students entering ILTexas from a non-accredited school or from home schooling may take credit-by-exam (CBE) tests approved in advance by ILTexas (through Texas Tech University). Students are responsible to pay applicable fees for these tests. Students must achieve test scores acceptable to ILTexas.

### **Grade Conversion For Transcripts With Letter Grades**

Conversion of letter grades to numerical grades for students transferring in with letter grades from accredited schools will be based on numerical equivalents. Conversion of out-of-country students' grade equivalency will be determined by evaluation of the students' transcripts. A plus or a minus attached to a letter grade shall be converted as follows:

|          |          |          |        |
|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| A+ = 98  | B+ = 88  | C+ = 78  |        |
| A = 95   | B = 85   | C = 75   | D = 70 |
| A - = 92 | B - = 82 | C - = 72 | F = 69 |

## **Academic Achievement Record (AAR)/Transcript**

Each student has an academic achievement record with grades, graduation credits, grade point average and standardized test scores recorded from the beginning of the freshman year. A photocopy of the record is called a transcript and is required for admission by most secondary and post-secondary institutions. An official transcript may not be released without written request from a parent or student over (18) years of age.

Students taking dual credit classes are required to request their official transcripts with partnering institutions every semester in order for ILTexas to input dual credit course grades into their ILTexas transcript. It is the student's responsibility to provide college transcripts to their Universities of choice.

## **DISCIPLINE/STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **General Principles And Guidelines**

These rules of conduct and discipline are established to maintain good order and discipline in the school and to encourage responsible behavior on the part of all students. The objective of the Student Code of Conduct (the "Code of Conduct") is to change errant behavior and to help the student make wiser decisions and better choices. The staff of the school has the responsibility to enforce the standards and policies of this Code of Conduct. Full cooperation of the students and parents/guardians is expected.

This Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Board of Directors and provides information to parents and students regarding expectations for behavior, consequences for misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline.

In accordance with state law, the Code of Conduct will be posted at each ILTexas campus and/or will be available for review at the Campus Principal's office. Parents will be notified of any violation that may result in a student being suspended or expelled from ILTexas.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and respectful manner at all times. Any behavior that is detrimental to the learning environment of the student or other students and/or staff members will not be tolerated. A student whose behavior shows disrespect toward others, including interference with another's access to public education and to a safe environment, will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Reporting To Legal Authorities**

The Campus administration will notify the appropriate law enforcement officials, if there is reason to believe a violation of law has occurred or there is a threat to safety.

### **Authority And Jurisdiction**

ILTexas has jurisdiction and disciplinary authority over a student in the following circumstances:

1. During the regular school day and while the student is going to and from school;
2. While the student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location;
3. For any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
4. For any Offense of level III or IV committed while on ILTexas property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of ILTexas or another school in Texas;
5. For any Offense of level III or IV committed away from ILTexas property or utilized facility and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the misconduct creates a substantial disruption

- to the educational environment, in the reasonable discretion of ILTexas;
6. While the student is in transit to or from school or to or from school-related activities or events;
  7. When retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location;
  8. When criminal mischief is committed on or off ILTexas property or any facility<sup>1</sup> and/or at a school-related event;
  9. When the student commits any felony punishable as a Level IV expulsion Offense under the Student Code of Conduct;
  10. Any misdemeanor or felony offense, no matter when or where said activity occurs, if ILTexas determines that said activity occurred by a preponderance of the evidence; and
  11. Any cyberbullying, on-line harassment, cybercrime, or computer related crime, that involves a computer or any device and/or network (“in the cloud” or otherwise), no matter when or where said activity occurs, including the sharing, displaying or transmitting any illegal images, words or otherwise, or that creates or is likely to create a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Note: In addition to disciplinary consequences, misdemeanor and felony offenses committed on campus may be reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Note: Any reference to school, property or facility includes any premises where ILTexas conducts any business, whether owned, leased, rented or donated.

### **Expected Standards Of Student Conduct**

Each student is expected to behave in a responsible manner by:

12. Demonstrating courtesy and respect for others;
13. Attending all classes, regularly and on time;
14. Preparing for each class by taking the appropriate materials and assignments to class;
15. Being well-groomed and dressing appropriately as defined by the school’s uniform policy and at principal’s discretion.
16. Obeying all campus, classroom and extracurricular rules, as well as appropriate verbal directives (in the reasonable discretion of ILTexas) given by any ILTexas employee or any other designated person;
17. Respecting the rights and privileges of other students, school staff, and other adults on campus or at school-related activities on or off campus;
18. Respecting the property of others, including school property and facilities;
19. Cooperating or assisting the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline;
20. Adhering to the Academic Honesty Policy; and
21. Adhering to the Code of Conduct.

### **Campus, Classroom, and Assembly Rules**

In addition to rules in this Code of Conduct, Campus Principals may impose additional campus rules, and teachers and extracurricular sponsors may impose and communicate such additional campus rules, classroom rules, where such rules are not inconsistent with this Code. A student’s conduct in assemblies and other out-of-classroom activity must comply with rules applicable to those of the classroom.

## **Extracurricular Standards**

Sponsors and coaches may develop and communicate written extracurricular expected standards of behavior for induction in and continued participation in that activity. Such standards may be higher than those of the Code of Conduct. These standards must be communicated to the students involved in that extracurricular activity and must be approved by the Campus Principal. Students who violate communicated extracurricular standards of behavior may be subject to disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct and, in addition, denied the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

## **Discipline Management Techniques**

Discipline will be designed to improve conduct and to encourage students to adhere to their responsibilities as members of the school community. Disciplinary action will draw on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and on a range of discipline management techniques. Discipline for a particular offense may bring into consideration varying techniques and responses.

The following discipline management techniques may be used—alone or in combination—for misbehavior violating the Code of Conduct or campus/classroom rules:

- A. Assignment to After School Discipline (ASD), which includes up to 90 minutes of physical exercise, in a manner consistent with all rules and regulations applicable to student health and proper discipline of students with disabilities and/or other limiting conditions
- B. Assignment of school duties, other than class tasks, such as cleaning desks and campus beautification
- C. Behavioral contracts or an expectation plan
- D. Cooling off or timeout
- E. Counseling by teachers, counselors, or administrators
- F. Detention, either during the school day or outside the school day and/or Saturday School
- G. Expulsion, as specified in the Code of Conduct
- H. Grade reductions for academic violations such as cheating, copying, allowing others to copy work, or plagiarism
- I. In-school suspension, as specified in the Code of Conduct
- J. Out-of-School suspension (Note: In-School-Suspension must be considered before OSS is assigned.)
- K. Parent-administrator conferences
- L. Parent-teacher conferences
- M. Phone calls to parents/guardians
- N. Referral to an outside agency and/or legal authority for criminal prosecution, in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by ILTexas
- O. Rewards or demerits
- P. School probation, which may include a warning letter or statement from ILTexas administrators that future conduct may result discipline in accordance with the Code of Conduct
- Q. Seating changes in the classroom or lunchroom
- R. Sending the student to the office or other assigned areas, or another short-term removal from the classroom
- S. Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process
- T. Verbal or oral correction

- U. Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities and eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices
- V. Reflective essay using character traits
- W. Restorative Discipline
- X. Any other discipline management technique that is deemed appropriate by ILTexas

### **Role Of ILTexas Staff**

TEACHERS are authorized to assign Lunch Detention and Classroom Detention. Classroom Detention by a teacher must be scheduled with the parent and coordinated with the Grade Level Administrator. Teachers will work to determine why the student misbehaved and to help the student learn to make better choices in similar future situations.

THE GRADE LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR (GLA) is authorized to handle student discipline and may assign and supervise ASD of up to 90 minutes to help the student learn to make better choices in similar future situations.

THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (AP) or designee is authorized to enforce discipline and to investigate any allegation of misconduct. The AP may question any witnesses in addition to the offending student and may ask for written statements that may include time, date, circumstances, observations, and signature.

The AP may assign all above disciplinary consequences and is authorized to supervise ASD, up to 90 minutes of physical exercise that may include students walking 3 miles (20 minute pace), cleaning desks, campus beautification efforts, or other relevant duties as assigned. Additionally, the AP may assign Saturday Detention, In-School-Suspension (ISS), or Out of School Suspensions (OSS) for up to five days. The AP will attempt to reach a parent by phone and follow-up with an email notification to the parent of ISS dates.

THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL has the authority to implement the Code of Conduct, up to and including the suspension of a student from campus. The Campus Principal may also assign any of the disciplinary consequences described above and may recommend a student for expulsion.

### **Code Of Conduct Violations**

#### **Level I Offenses**

The following Level I behaviors are prohibited at all school and school-related activities:

1. Scuffling (pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking or something akin thereto) – student on student
2. Disobeying conduct rules when riding school transportation or when driving a personal vehicle to or from school and or school-related activities
3. Engaging in any misbehavior that gives school officials reasonable cause to believe that such conduct will substantially disrupt the school program
4. Public displays of affection (PDA)
5. Using a cellular telephone or other electronic device without permission from a staff member
6. Possessing or using a laser pointer for other than an approved use
7. Excessive tardiness as defined by the tardy section of the Attendance Policy
8. Violating campus or classroom standards of behavior
9. Skipping/ditching/cutting a class
10. Using profanity

11. Violating dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student/Parent Handbook
12. Violating laboratory safety rules.

#### Disciplinary Consequences for Level I Offenses Detention

- Application of one or more Discipline Management Techniques
- After School Discipline (ASD)
- Confiscation of cell phones or other electronic devices if the offense relates to the use of the cell phone or other electronic device
- Restorative Discipline
- Removal from the classroom and/or placement in another classroom
- Restitution/restoration, if applicable
- Behavioral Contract
- Temporary confiscation of items that are prohibited or that disrupt the educational process
- Parent contact
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities and eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs or organizations
- In School Suspension (ISS)

#### Level II Offenses

The following Level II behaviors are prohibited at all school and school-related activities, and at other times and locations as described below:

1. Insubordination, or failing to comply with directives given by school personnel
2. Violating the ILTexas honor code by committing academic dishonesty, to include but not limited to cheating or copying the work of another student
3. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of breach of computer security under Section 33.02, Penal Code, if
  - a. the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of ILTexas; and
  - b. the student knowingly (i) alters, damages, or deletes ILTexas property or information or (ii) commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system
4. Engaging in threatening behavior toward another student or school employee on or off school property or engaging in verbal or written exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property
5. Possessing or selling a weapons replica (look-alike weapon)
6. Possessing published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety; using e-mail, social media, or Internet sites to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety
7. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage
8. Making false accusations or hoaxes regarding school safety
9. Discharging a fire extinguisher without a valid or reasonable reason
10. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by others
11. Using mace or pepper spray
12. Deliberate destruction or tampering with school computer data or networks
13. Possession of stolen property

14. False alarm, false statement or report
15. Gambling
16. Possessing or using matches or a lighter
17. Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten students or employees, or cause disruption to the school program or to promote/encourage illegal behavior that could threaten school safety
18. Using articles not generally considered to be weapons, including but not limited to school supplies, to harm others
19. Issuing a false fire alarm
20. Falsifying records, passes, or other school-related documents
21. Violating computer use policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student, and/or agreements signed by the student's parent
22. Possessing, smoking, or using cigarettes, cigars or chewing tobacco
23. Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission
24. Academic dishonesty
25. Using racially derogatory language
26. Persistent Level I offenses

Disciplinary Consequences for Level II Offenses (not in order of progressive disciplinary measures):

- Detention
- Application of one or more Discipline Management Techniques
- After School Discipline (ASD)
- Confiscation of cell phones or other electronic devices if the offense relates to the use of the cell phone or other electronic device
- Grade reductions for academic dishonesty
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Restorative Discipline
- Removal from the classroom and/or placement in another classroom
- Restitution/restoration, if applicable
- Saturday School
- School-assessed or school-administered probation
- Temporary confiscation of items that are prohibited or that disrupt the educational process
- Verbal correction
- Withdrawal or probation of privileges, such as participation in extracurricular activities and eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices, and/or membership in school-sponsored clubs or organizations

### **Level III Offenses**

1. Abusing a prescription drug, giving a prescription drug to another student, or possessing or being under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event
2. Any of the following offenses, no matter when or where the offense takes place:



- a. Conduct involving a public school that contains the elements of the offense of false alarm or report under Section 42.06, Penal Code, or terroristic threat under Section 22.07, Penal Code
  - b. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of assault under Section 22.01(a)(1), Penal Code
  - c. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing or using or being under the influence of (1) marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq. or (2) a dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code
  - d. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person an alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code; committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possessing, using, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage
  - e. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to an abusable volatile chemical under Sections 485.031 through 485.034, Health and Safety Code
  - f. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness under Section 21.07, Penal Code, or indecent exposure under Section 21.08, Penal Code
  - g. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of deadly conduct under Section 22.05, Penal Code
3. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense under Section 22.01(a)(1), Penal Code, against a public school employee or a volunteer as defined by Education Code Section 22.053, in retaliation for or as a result of the person's employment or association with a public school, without regard to whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property
  4. Being a member of, pledging to become a member of, joining, or soliciting another person to join, or pledge to become a member of a public-school fraternity, sorority, or gang; or engaging in any gang activity
  5. Hazing, meaning any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off ILTexas property, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. Hazing includes but is not limited to:
    - a. any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity
    - b. any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student
    - c. any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student
    - d. any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision

- e. any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code
6. Creation of or involvement with a hit list, meaning a list of people targeted to be harmed using a firearm; as defined by Section 46.01(3), Penal Code; a knife, as defined by Section 46.01(7), Penal Code; or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm
7. Possessing a razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object which could be used in a threatening manner with intent to inflict bodily injury on a person
8. Possessing or selling the following:
  - a. a stun gun
  - b. ammunition
  - c. an air gun or BB gun (except as appropriately used by ILTexas' JROTC Program)
  - d. fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device
9. Public lewdness
10. Conduct endangering the health and safety of others
11. Inappropriate or indecent exposure of a student's private body parts or lewd sexual behavior
12. Engaging in conduct that constitutes dating violence, including the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship
13. Engaging in sexual conduct or conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors directed toward another student or an ILTexas employee
14. Engaging in harassment motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, disability, gender, or age and directed toward another
15. Engaging in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual contact directed toward another student or a school employee
16. Recording, sending or posting electronic messages, pictures or video that are obscene, sexual in nature, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, promotes violence, or illegal
17. Harassment - threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, engaging in sexually intimidating conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another student, subjecting another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously taking any action that substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety
18. Retaliation against any school employee or volunteer at any time or place
19. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, simulated controlled substance, paraphernalia, dangerous drug, inhalants or alcoholic beverage
20. Setting or attempting to set fire on school property (not Arson)
21. Targeting another individual for bodily harm
22. Possessing pornographic material
23. Bullying and/or cyberbullying, including intimidation by name-calling, using ethnic or racial slurs, or making derogatory statements that could disrupt the school program or incite violence
24. Forgery of school documents at school or otherwise
25. Forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force or committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail (obtaining money or another object of value from an unwilling person)
26. Committing or assisting in a robbery or theft even if it does not constitute a felony

27. Vandalism of or conduct constituting criminal mischief with respect to school facilities or property
28. Engaging in conduct punishable as a Level III offense when the conduct occurs off school property and not at a school-sponsored or school-related event, and the conduct creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment in the reasonable judgment of ILTexas
29. Burglary of a motor vehicle
30. Repeated Level I and Level II offenses
31. Serious academic dishonesty or repeat violations of the ILTexas honor code, to include but not limited to cheating or copying the work of another student
32. Consensually engaging in fighting, boxing, wrestling, or other combative contact or causing another person to engage in the same by provocation or threat, when the resulting combative contact:
  - a. Seriously disrupts school operations;
  - b. Endangers the safety of nonparticipants; or
  - c. Results in physical injury requiring medical treatment
34. Repeated hair violations

Disciplinary Consequences for Level III Offenses (not in order of progressive disciplinary measures):

- Any applicable Level I Disciplinary Consequence
- Any applicable Level II Disciplinary Consequence
- Out-of-school suspension for up to five days
- Discretionary Recommendation for Expulsion

#### **Level IV Offenses**

The following Level IV behaviors are prohibited:

1. Engaging in conduct punishable as a felony.
2. Conduct containing the elements of the offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under Section 46.02, Penal Code, or elements of an offense relating to prohibited weapons under Section 46.05, Penal Code
3. Aggravated assault under Section 22.02, Penal Code, sexual assault under Section 22.011, Penal Code, or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021, Penal Code
4. Arson under Section 28.02, Penal Code
5. Murder under Section 19.02, Penal Code, capital murder under Section 19.03, Penal Code, or criminal attempt, under Section 15.01, Penal Code, to commit murder or capital murder
6. Indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Penal Code
7. Aggravated kidnapping under Section 20.04, Penal Code
8. Aggravated robbery under Section 29.03, Penal Code
9. Manslaughter under Section 19.04, Penal Code
10. Criminally negligent homicide under Section 19.05, Penal Code
11. Sexual abuse of young child or children under Section 21.02, Penal Code
12. Engaging in bullying that encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide
13. Possession, use, transfer or exhibition of a firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or any other weapon or object intended to be used as a weapon

14. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing or using or being under the influence of (1) marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq. or (2) a dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code, if the conduct is punishable as a felony
15. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person an alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code; committing a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol; or possessing, using, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, if the conduct is punishable as a felony
16. Felony criminal mischief against school property, another student, or school staff (\$2,500 and up, as determined by ILTexas)
17. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of any offense described in Level IV Offenses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, against any employee or volunteer in retaliation for or as a result of the person's employment or association with a public school, without regard to whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property
18. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of any offense described in Level IV Offenses 2, 4, or 7 against another ILTexas student, without regard to whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property
19. Engaging in conduct punishable as Level IV expulsion offense when the conduct creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment
20. Failure to register as a sex offender when legally obligated to do so
21. The possession, distribution, or use of e-cigarettes, nicotine gum, and vape pens

#### Disciplinary Consequences for Level IV Offenses:

- Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion (unless waived by parent)

#### HONOR CODE

*"I pledge to uphold the honor of the International Leadership of Texas Honor Code and that all the work bearing my name is my own."*

#### Our Honor Code:

- I will not lie, cheat, or steal nor tolerate those who do.
- I will serve others before self.
- I will be a servant leader.
- I will treat others with Respect and Dignity.
- I will be a Statesman in my advocacy of my ideals and beliefs.

Every student is expected to uphold the highest standards of honor with regard to academics, activities, and other related pursuits. By means of the Honor Code, students practice responsible leadership, accept personal responsibility, and develop strong character to create an atmosphere free from suspicion. Violation of the Honor Code includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, forgery, which are considered severe discipline problems and are subject to disciplinary action within the by-laws of the Honor Code. We believe that students can and must take responsibility for establishing and maintaining standards for their own behavior. At its core, the Honor Code is based on mutual respect and trust. It serves as a written model for what is expected from students. It also serves as a pledge to uphold the school's values while maintaining college preparation as the number one priority.

Taking responsibility for one's actions is vital to the maturity of each individual. The trust among all students in the school builds confidence in the overall school community and enables each student to be grounded in the leadership core values of COURAGE and INTEGRITY which guide the student's every decision.

Teachers may require students to write the full honor code on major assignments. Actions or attempted actions that run counter to these perceptions are violations to the honor code.

- A student's word is expected to be the complete truth; therefore, lying and forgery are violations of the honor code.
- A student's work is expected to be his/her own, unless properly credited; therefore, plagiarism and cheating are violations of the honor code.
- The property of others is to be respected; therefore, stealing – no matter how minor – is a violation of the honor code.

In situations that seem unclear, it is each student's responsibility to check with the teacher or principals regarding the honor code. Ignorance of the honor code will not be an excuse for a violation. Students who witness an honor code violation are strongly encouraged to report the action to the teacher who will notify the Campus Principal. Witnessing an honor code violation and reporting it constitutes honorable behavior and is an expectation for all students. Students may opt to report a violation through an anonymous referral. Working together, we can ALL create a community of learners that value hard work, creativity, and commitment to college success. It is crucial that every member of ILTexas community – students, parents, staff, and trustees – understands the importance of the International Leadership of Texas Honor Code and strives to maintain its integrity.

### **Academic Honesty**

The International Leadership of Texas Honor Code is based on the belief that true learning depends on honesty. The International Leadership of Texas community acts on the basis of mutual trust and respect between all members of the community. As a result, students are expected to demonstrate integrity and individual responsibility, both personally and academically, in order to maintain a fair and honest environment. Students who commit themselves to upholding the International Leadership of Texas Honor Code will be instilled with a sense of honor and integrity that will last beyond their high school years.

- **PLAGIARISM** is a form of dishonesty where a student presents the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism is the taking of ideas, writing, etc. from another and submitting them as one's own (Webster's New World Dictionary). It is important to acknowledge that plagiarism is not only the stealing of words but also of ideas. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
  - Copying word for word and turning in as your own work information from books, magazines, essays, the Internet, etc.
  - Rewording or rewriting text and information from documents not originally written by you and turning it in as your own work without proper citation
  - Paraphrasing with minimal word changes (citing the source or not)
  - Borrowing ideas and patterns of thought without proper citation
  - Printing an essay from the Internet and turning it in as your own work
- **COLLABORATION/COLLUSION** on independent homework/assignments or tests will not be permitted unless permission has been secured from the teacher allowing for cooperative or group

work. Students are permitted to receive assistance or guidance from others, but the entirety of the work itself and the content must always be the student's own.

- COPYING and submitting the work of another or submitting work done by another is an act of academic dishonesty.
- ALLOWING ANOTHER STUDENT to copy one's work, quiz, test, or submit one's work, quiz, or test is an act of academic dishonesty.
- CHEATING is defined by Webster's dictionary as "dealing with dishonesty for one's own gain." Dishonesty promotes bad character and prevents students from gaining a full grasp of information presented to them. Cheating also prevents teachers from fully evaluating the progress of students and is a form of theft. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
  - Using a "cheat sheet" or other unauthorized notes during a test or quiz
  - Looking at someone else's paper for an answer on a test or quiz and changing an answer
  - Having someone else do all or part of your homework or assignment for you
  - Failing to mark an answer wrong when self-grading
  - Telling others or asking others the content of an exam or quiz
  - Giving a student or using an old test without teacher permission
  - Looking at an exam prior to taking it without teacher permission
  - Copying someone else's homework or other assignment
  - Using old assignments written by you or someone else instead of creating new work
  - Using an online translator or other translation in place of your own
  - Copying material during an examination or quiz
  - Using unauthorized notes or devices
  - Submitting falsified information for grading purposes
  - Obtaining a copy of and/or information about an examination or quiz without the knowledge and consent of the teacher
  - Submitting a paper or project which is not the student's work
  - Impersonating a student to assist the student academically
  - Stealing or accepting stolen copies of tests or answer keys
  - Altering a teacher's grade book
  - Falsifying information for applications (i.e. college scholarships)
  - Using professional help such as an author, expert, or purchased service in violation of guidelines established by the teacher
  - Unlawfully copying computer software or data created by others
  - Any other violation intended to obtain credit for work which is not one's own

#### ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES (IMMEDIATE)

If a student is suspected of plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty, the following procedure will be followed:

- The student's exam, test, quiz, or assignment will be confiscated by the teacher.
- The paper, exam, test, quiz, or assignment will be submitted to an Administrator for consideration.
- The student will be required to meet with the teacher and the Campus Principal for review of the student's work with consequences up to and including dismissal/expulsion from school, in accordance with the ILTexas Student Code of Conduct.

The following general procedures shall be applied:

### **First Offense**

In general, consequences for a first offense may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Meeting with the parent(s) followed by written notification to the parent of the academic integrity policy.

### **Additional Or More Serious Offenses**

Additional or more serious incidents of academic dishonesty or plagiarism shall be dealt with more severely. Consequences for any offense beyond the first or a more serious initial offense may include:

- Meeting with the parent(s); and
- One to three days of out of school suspension (up to five if referred for expulsion).
- Notification to the student's post-high school counselor and any faculty members writing a college/university letter of recommendation;
- No public recognition of the student at any senior honors function (if applicable);
- No distinguished scholar recognition (if applicable);
- No scholarship money granted to the student by International Leadership of Texas, or any other school affiliated organization; or
- A withdrawn failing grade from the class in which the additional offense occurred and placement in a restricted study hall after withdrawal from the course.

Furthermore, faculty members will have full access to any disciplinary records documenting academic dishonesty for the purpose of writing letters of recommendation.

### **Conferences, Hearings, And Appeals**

All students are entitled to conferences, hearings, and/or appeals of disciplinary matters as provided by state and federal law, and by school policy.

### **Process For Suspensions Lasting Up To Five Days**

In addition to the above list of Code of Conduct violations the Campus Principal has authority to suspend a student for a period of up to five school days (except that the student may be suspended for up to ten school days, with no more than five consecutive days being out of school, if student will be recommended for expulsion) for any or the following reasons:

1. The need to further investigate an incident or allegation;
2. A recommendation to expel the student; or
3. An emergency constituting endangerment to health or safety.

While suspended, students are not allowed to be on the campus, including at after school activities. The suspended days will be counted as unexcused absences. Students may receive credit for work missed during the period of suspension if the student makes up work missed during the period of suspension within the same number of days the student was absent. Students are expected to make up all assignments missed during the suspension and the student's grade will be based on the academic performance and merit of the student's work without regard to the reason of the student's absence due to suspension. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the Area Superintendent, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's Designee may continue the aforementioned suspension(s)

(ISS or OSS) during an expulsion process, if deemed reasonable by the Area Superintendent, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's Designee.

### **Prerequisites to Suspension**

Prior to suspending a student, the Campus Principal or designee must hold an informal conference with the student to:

1. Notify the student of the accusations against him/her;
2. Allow the student to relate his/her version of the incident; and
3. Determine whether the student's conduct warrants suspension.

### **Notification to Parents/Guardians**

If the Campus Principal or designee determines the student's conduct warrants suspension, the Campus Principal or designee will notify the student's parents that the student has been suspended before the student is sent home. At this time, the Campus Principal or designee will also notify the student's parents of the period of suspension, the grounds for suspension, and the time and place for a post-suspension conference with the Campus Administration.

### **Process For Out-Of-School Suspensions Over Five Days And Expulsion**

When the Campus Principal determines that a student's conduct warrants suspension for more than five days, or expulsion, the Campus Principal (or acting Principal) shall make a recommendation for disciplinary action to the Area Superintendent.

Prior to taking any long-term disciplinary action, the Campus Principal or designee will provide the student's parent(s) with written notice of:

1. The Principal's recommendation for the long-term disciplinary action,
2. The specific violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and
3. The reasons for the recommended long-term disciplinary action.

### **Emergency Placement**

If the Campus Principal reasonably believes that a student's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with students in a class, with the ability of a student's classmates to learn, or with the operation of ILTexas or a school-sponsored activity, the Campus Principal may order immediate removal of the student. The Campus Principal may impose immediate suspension if he/she reasonably believes such action is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm. At the time of such an emergency removal, the student will be given verbal notice of the reason for the action and appropriate hearings will be scheduled within a reasonable time after the emergency removal.

### **Level I Expulsion Hearing**

Administration shall designate a Hearing Officer to conduct a Level I Expulsion Hearing. The Hearing Officer shall provide the student's parent(s) with written notice of the Hearing, including the date (within five school days of the recommended disciplinary action), time, and location of the Hearing, and shall further state that, at the Hearing, the student:

1. may be present;
2. shall have an opportunity to present evidence;
3. shall be apprised and informed of the school's evidence and witnesses;



4. may be accompanied by his or her parent(s) or other adult, who can provide guidance to the parent or student, and who is not an employee of ILTexas; and
5. may be represented by an attorney.

ILTexas shall inform the student and the student's parent(s) of the time and place of the Hearing and shall hold the Hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's parents or another adult representing the student attends. The Hearing Officer may record the hearing using audio and/or video equipment. After the Hearing, the Hearing Officer has 48 hours to issues his/her written decision. The decision shall specify:

6. The length of the suspension or expulsion, if any;
7. When the expulsion is not permanent, the procedures for re-admittance to the school at the end of the expulsion period; and
8. The right to appeal the Hearing Officer's decision to Level II The notice shall also state that failure to request such an appeal within 7 calendar days constitutes a waiver of further rights in the matter.

### **Level II Expulsion Hearing**

The request to appeal the Level I decision may be made to the Superintendent or to the Chief Executive Officer within 5 days from notice of the expulsion. Upon receipt of the request, Administration has seven days to schedule and conduct a Level II Expulsion Hearing. Administration will appoint a panel of three administrators (two of whom will be former school principals) to serve as a Hearing Panel for the Level II hearing and will provide written notice of the hearing date, time and location to the student and student's parents. The Level II Expulsion

Hearing may be recorded using audio and/or video equipment. At the Level II Hearing the student may

- may be present;
- shall have an opportunity to present evidence;
- shall be apprised and informed of the school's evidence and witnesses;
- may be accompanied by his or her parent(s) or other adult who can provide guidance to the parent or student and who is not an employee of ILTexas; and
- may be represented by an attorney.

The Panel will hear the testimony and review the evidence to make a decision to grant or deny the appeal and will provide their decision to the student and/or guardian within 48 hours after the hearing.

### **Level III – Board Of Directors**

The student or his/her parent(s) may appeal the long-term suspension or expulsion decision to the Board of Directors and the General Counsel in writing within 48 hours of notification of the decision. If such an appeal is made, a quorum of the Board will consider the appeal at a regular or specially-called meeting in closed session as allowed by the Texas Open Meetings Act. The quorum of the Board will review the record of the expulsion hearing and may also hear a statement from the student or parent (or representative) and from the school administration. The Board may listen to the recording of the expulsion hearing to or at the appeal hearing. The Board will notify the student and his or her parent (or representative) of its decision within five calendar days of the hearing. The decision of the Board is final and may not be appealed.

Discipline consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal of an expulsion to the Board.

### **Readmission After Withdrawal Or Expulsion**

A student who has been expelled from ILTexas may re-apply for admission and potentially gain re-enrollment subject to meeting each of the following criteria:

1. The student must have been enrolled in another school during the term of the expulsion from ILTexas.
2. The student must re-apply for admission to ILTexas and follow the same application process as all other applicants. A student who withdraws for any reason during the school year may re-enroll only if there are open seats available. If no seats are available, the student will be placed in the lottery process and/or added to the waiting list (see the Involuntary Withdrawal Section).
3. A vacancy must exist in the requested grade level and campus or, if the requested grade level is oversubscribed such that an admissions lottery is conducted, the student is selected for admission through the lottery process or otherwise on the waitlist.
4. Pursuant to the decision of the Hearing Officer, the student must submit a petition for readmission to the Campus Principal. This request must be in writing, and may be required to include copies of the student's complete discipline records from the public school(s) attended during the term of the expulsion from ILTexas.

During the consideration of the petition, the student and his or her parents may make a statement to support the request for re-admission. The student may also submit documentation consisting of recommendations from his or her current teacher(s), commentary from any counselor or school administrator with whom the student may have consulted having personal knowledge of the student and their education experience and conduct, and any other documentation pertinent to the application. The Principal may also consider comments from the Assistant Principal, Counselor, Grade Level Administrator for the requested campus of enrollment, or any other ILTexas Administrator.

After reviewing all relevant documentation, the Principal will decide on whether the student will be re-admitted to ILTexas. If the student is re-admitted, he or she may be admitted on a 120-day behavior contract recognizing that any violation of the Student Code of Conduct within that time period may result in expulsion without the possibility of readmission.

### **Students With Disabilities**

All disciplinary actions regarding students with disabilities (504 or special education under the IDEA) shall be conducted in accordance with current federal and state laws.

### **Suspension/Expulsion Requirement**

A student with a disability shall not be excluded from his or her current placement pending appeal for more than ten days without ARD Committee action to determine appropriate services in the interim and otherwise in accordance with applicable law. Pending appeal to a special education hearing officer, a student with a disability shall remain in the present educational setting, unless ILTexas and the parents agree otherwise.

## **Removal From School Transportation**

A student being transported by ILTexas transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity may be removed from a school vehicle for conduct violating ILTexas' established standards for conduct in a school vehicle.

## **Gun-Free Schools Act**

In accordance with the Gun-Free Schools Act, ILTexas shall expel, from the student's regular program for a period of one year, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. The Superintendent or designee may modify the term of expulsion for a student or assess another comparable penalty that results in the student's expulsion from the regular school program on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with legal requirements.

For the purposes of this law, "firearm" means:

1. Any weapon – including a starter gun – which will, or is designed to, or which may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive from the frame or receiver of any such weapon;
2. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer;
3. Any destructive device. "Destructive Device" means any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than 1/4 ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the preceding described devices. It also means any type of weapon – other than a shotgun shell or a shotgun that is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes – by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than 1/2 inch in diameter; and any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device as described, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

## **Glossary**

The glossary provides legal definitions and locally established definitions and is intended to assist in understanding terms related to the Code of Conduct.

**Abuse** is improper or excessive use.

**Abusable Volatile Chemical Offense**, as defined by Health and Safety Code § 485.001 and

485.031. No student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use, or possess an abusable volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use any of these in a manner:

1. Contrary to the directions for use, cautions, or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the chemical; and
2. Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination, or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance, or coordination.

No student shall knowingly deliver to a person younger than 18 an abusable volatile chemical. Health and Safety Code § 485.032

No student shall knowingly use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the human body an abusable volatile chemical. No student shall knowingly deliver, sell, or possess with intent to deliver or sell inhalant paraphernalia knowing that

that person who receives it intends to use it to inhale, ingest, apply, use, or otherwise introduce into the human body an abusable volatile chemical. Health and Safety Code § 485.033

**Armor-Piercing Ammunition** is handgun ammunition used principally in pistols and revolvers and that is designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

**Arson** is defined by Texas Penal Code § 28.02 and occurs when a person starts a fire, regardless of whether the fire continues after ignition, or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:

- Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
- Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
  - Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town,
  - Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction,
  - Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest,
  - Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another,
  - Knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another, or
  - When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.

Arson also occurs when a person:

- Recklessly starts a fire or causes an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance and the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
- Intentionally starts a fire or causes an explosion and in so doing recklessly damages or destroys a building belonging to another, or recklessly causes another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

**Assault** is defined in part by Texas Penal Code § 22.01 as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another.

**Bullying** is defined 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 (1) has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; (3) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the school; or infringes on the rights of the victim at school. Bullying also includes "cyberbullying," which means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device including a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool. Bullying conduct includes conduct (1) that occurs on or is delivered to School property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property; (2) that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and (3) cyberbullying that occurs off School property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying (i) interferes with a student's educational opportunities or (ii) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, the School, or a school-sponsored or school-related activity.

**Chemical Dispensing Device** is a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being.

**Club** is an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death, including but not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, (not the handheld, self-protection pepper spray dispenser) and tomahawk.

**Controlled Substances or Dangerous Drugs** include but are not limited to marijuana; any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, barbiturate; anabolic steroid; or prescription medicine provided to any person other than the person for whom the prescription was written. The term also includes all controlled substances listed in Chapters 481 and 483 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

**Criminal Street Gang** means three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

**Dating Violence** is the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person with whom the student has or has had a dating relationship, as defined by Texas Family Code § 71.0021.

**Deadly Conduct** occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury and includes but is not limited to knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

**Deferred Adjudication** is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Deferred Prosecution** may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

**Delinquent Conduct** is conduct that:

- Violates either state or federal law, other than a traffic offense, and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail;
- Violates a lawful order of a court under circumstances that would constitute contempt of that court in a justice or municipal court, or a county court for conduct punishable only by a fine;
- Constitutes an intoxication and alcoholic beverage offense under Chapter 49 of the Texas Penal Code; or
- Violates Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 106.041 relating to driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor (third or subsequent offense).

**Discretionary** means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

**E-Cigarette** means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device. The term does not include a prescription medical device unrelated to the cessation of smoking.

**Explosive Weapon** is any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror, and includes a device designed, made, or adapted for delivery or shooting an explosive weapon.

**False Alarm or Report** occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

- Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
- Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

**Fighting** is intentional engagement involving fistcuffs with two or more individuals.

**Firearm Silencer** means any device designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm.

**Graffiti** means making marks with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

**Harassment** is:

- Conduct that meets the definition established in Board policy and/or the Student Handbook; or
- Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, is sexually intimidating or obscene, causes physical damage to the property of another student, subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety.

**Hazing** is an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, that is directed against a student and endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.

**Hit List** is a list of people targeted to be harmed, using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm.

**Indecent Exposure** means exposing one's anus or genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person while being reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

**Intimate Visual Material** means visual material that depicts a person (a) with the person's intimate parts exposed; or (b) engaged in sexual conduct.

**Knuckles** means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

**Location-Restricted Knife** means a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

**Machine Gun** is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

**Mandatory** means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

**Online Impersonation** occurs when a person, without obtaining the consent of another person and with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten any persons, uses the name or persona of another person to:

- Create a web page on a commercial social networking site or other Internet website; or

- Post or send one or more messages on or through a commercial social networking site or other Internet website, other than on or through an electronic mail program or message board program.

Online impersonation also occurs when a person sends an electronic mail, instant message, text message, or similar communication that reference a name, domain address, phone number, or other item of identifying information belonging to any person:

- Without obtaining the other person's consent;
- With the intent to cause a recipient of the communication to reasonably believe that the other person authorized or transmitted the communication; and
- With the intent to harm or defraud any person.

**Paraphernalia** are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body. It also includes equipment, products, or materials used or intended for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, or concealing a controlled substance.

**Pepper Spray Dispenser** is a handheld, self-protection chemical dispersant of pepper spray, including Mace.

**Possession** means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including but not limited to clothing, purse, or backpack; a private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including but not limited to an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; or any other school property used by the student, including but not limited to a locker or desk.

**Prohibited Weapon** means an explosive weapon; a machine gun; a short-barrel firearm; a firearm silencer; knuckles; armor-piercing ammunition; a chemical dispensing device; a zip gun; or a tire deflation device.

**Public School Fraternity, Sorority, Secret Society, or Gang** means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student.

**Reasonable Belief** is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Scuffling** is not pre-planned and involves pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking or something akin thereto.

**Self-defense** is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes the force is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

**Short-Barrel Firearm** is a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

**Switchblade Knife** is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or by the application of centrifugal force.

The term does not include a knife that has a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure and open the knife.

**Terroristic Threat** is a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

- Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;
- Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
- Cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service;
- Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
- Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state, or a public charter school (including ILTexas).

**Title 5 Offenses** are those that involve injury to a person and include murder; manslaughter; criminally negligent homicide; trafficking in persons; unlawful transport; kidnapping; assault (on a public servant); aggravated assault; sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; unlawful restraint; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; harassment of a public servant; improper photography; smuggling persons; and tampering with a consumer product.

**Under the Influence** means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person’s physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student “under the influence” need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

**Use** means voluntarily introducing into one’s body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

**Vapor Product** means an electronic cigarette (E-cigarette) or any other device, including a vape pen, that uses a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver vapor that may include nicotine to the individual inhaling from the device, or any substance used to fill or refill the device.

**Zip Gun** is a device or combination of devices, not originally a firearm, but adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.

## HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION

### **Disaster And Fire Preparedness**

Each campus has an emergency preparedness plan in addition to posting evacuation routes in each classroom. Fire Drills, Lock Down Drills and Tornado Drills will be conducted regularly throughout the school year. Medical Emergency Drills for staff to include training on AED’s will be conducted.

### **Pest Control Information**

ILTexas periodically applies pesticides inside school buildings and on school grounds. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 24 hours before application. Students may not reenter a treated area inside a building or use an area on school grounds for at least 12 hours following application.



Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application may contact the Superintendent or designee.

### **Free Speech**

The school believes that it is important for students to learn the meaning and practice of freedom of speech while in school.

### **Equal Access**

The school retains its right to make decisions concerning access to student organizations while maintaining an orderly and disciplined school environment. Specifically, IL Texas is not an open public forum and reserves the right to limit activity that is disruptive to its educational mission and environment.

### **Inappropriate Use Of Technology (On Or Off Campus)**

Students are prohibited from sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment, as determined by the Principal. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement. Such conduct may also be considered cyberbullying, which is subject to discipline according to the Student Code of Conduct. ILTexas has the right to monitor and examine any files and activity on all ILTexas technology resources. The appropriate personnel may monitor, examine or disclose the contents of any activity to guarantee proper use of these resources as well as investigate complaints of possible inappropriate use.

### **Interrogations And Searches**

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

Administrators, teachers and other professional personnel may question a student regarding the student's own conduct or the conduct of other students. In the context of school discipline, students have no claim to the right not to incriminate themselves. When student interrogation/questioning is necessary, parent permission or presence is not required. Parents do not have the ability to object to or prevent the questioning of their child when deemed necessary in the course of an investigation.

Students shall be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by school officials. School officials may search a student's outer clothing, pockets, or property by establishing reasonable suspicion or securing the student's voluntary consent. A search is reasonable if (1) the school official has reasonable suspicion for suspecting that the search will uncover evidence of a rule violation or a criminal violation and (2) the scope of the search is reasonably related to the circumstances justifying the search, such as the extent of the search, the objectives of the search, the age and sex of the student, and the nature of the infraction.

### **Desk and Locker Searches**

Students should have no expectation of privacy in the contents of their lockers, desks or other school property. Lockers and desks assigned to students remain at all times under the control and jurisdiction of ILTexas. The school will make periodic inspections of lockers and desks at any time,

with or without notice or student consent. School officials will remove any item that violates school policy or that may potentially be dangerous.

Students have full responsibility for the security of their lockers and desks, and shall be held responsible for any prohibited items found therein. A student's parent shall be notified if any prohibited articles or materials are found in a student's locker or desk, or on the student's person.

### **Vehicles on Campus**

Vehicles parked on school property and property under school control are under the jurisdiction of ILTexas and may be searched at any time if reasonable suspicion exists to believe that the search will result in evidence that school rules or other laws have been violated. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle and consent to a search of the vehicle. If the student refuses to permit the vehicle to be searched, ILTexas may contact the student's parents and/or law enforcement officials. A student may be held responsible for and in possession of prohibited items found in his or her vehicle parked on school property or at a school-related event.

### **Random Drug Searches**

In order to ensure a drug-free learning environment, ILTexas conducts random drug searches of all school facilities. ILTexas may use or contract for specially trained nonaggressive dogs to sniff out and alert school officials to the current presence of concealed prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. Canine visits may be unannounced. The dogs shall be used to search vacant classrooms, vacant common areas, the areas around student lockers, and the areas where vehicles are parked on school property or at school-related events. The dogs shall not be asked to alert on students. A dog alert to a locker, vehicle, or item in a classroom, constitutes reasonable grounds for a search by school officials.

### **Off-Campus P.E.**

Although we are supportive of our many students who participate in a variety of athletic activities outside of the school curriculum, approval for off-campus PE will be at the sole discretion of the school administration. In rare instances, students interested in this option must obtain permission from the campus Principal.

### **Physical Education Participation Requirements**

Students at ILTexas are required to earn 4 credits in P.E. before graduating high school. A student may be excused from activity due to health reasons for a maximum of three days with a note from a parent given to the Performance Coach. If it is necessary to be excused for an extended period of time, a doctor's note must be provided to the school. The student is still responsible for attending class and learning the curriculum even if physical restrictions prevent the student from actively participating in the program. A uniform is part of the overall ILTexas safety plan for students. Therefore, all students are expected to wear the appropriate uniform in order to participate in physical fitness activities. Students who fail to dress out in proper uniform will receive a grade reflective of the assessment policy instituted by their teacher.

### **Procedures For Use Of Restraint And Time-Out**

School employees, volunteers, or independent contractors are only to use restraint in the event of an emergency constituting a threat to the student or others, and subject to the following limitations:

- Only reasonable force, necessary to address the emergency, may be used.
- The restraint must be discontinued at the point at which the emergency no longer exists.
- The restraint must be implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the student and others.
- The student may not be deprived of basic human necessities.

At no time, however, may a student be placed in seclusion.

A student with a disability may not be confined in a locked box, locked closet or other specially designated locked space as either a discipline management practice or a behavior management technique. Discipline for any student with a disability must strictly conform to their individual Behavior Management Plan or IEP.

### **School Closings Or Delay**

Cancellations and delays will be communicated to parents via School Messenger (phone call and email) and school website at ILTexas.org. It is imperative and incumbent of parents to ensure that their email and phone contact information is always accurate and updated. Correct information should be given to your campus main office.

### **Teacher Qualifications – Parents’ Right To Know**

At the beginning of each school year, ILTexas will notify the parent of each student attending with information regarding the professional qualifications of their student’s classroom teachers. ILTexas will also provide this information upon request from a parent. Information provided in response to a parent request will include, at a minimum:

1. Whether your child’s teacher(s) have met state qualification and licensing criteria for their grade levels and subject areas;
2. Whether your child’s teacher(s) are serving under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
4. Whether your child receives services from paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

### **Tutorials For Grades 1–12**

All teachers schedule tutorial times and encourage students to attend. Teachers may require students who do not meet academic expectations to attend tutorials. Students who are failing a course at designated checkpoints (available on school calendar prior to the start of school) will be required to attend mandatory tutoring or participate in a credit recovery program. Tutoring may take place during the day, before school, after school, or on Saturdays.

### **EAGLE ACADEMY FOR GRADES 4–12**

Eagle Academy is a system that promotes Mastery learning by requiring students to achieve a higher grade by correcting or finishing missing and failing assignments.

#### **Student Assignment to Eagle Academy**

- **Automatic Assignment to Eagle Academy (Accountability):** Any student with an average of less than 70 and an **assignment grade of zero** will automatically be assigned to Eagle Academy to complete the missing assignment.

- **Teacher Assigned Eagle Academy (Mastery Learning):** Any student with a course average of less than 70 and an **assignment of less than 70** will be required to attend Eagle Academy.
- School Administrators and Teachers have the authority to assign any student to EA at any time.

Eagle Academy will begin each school weekday (Monday through Friday) in the cafeteria or centralized location and will last for 1 hour in duration. Each campus will follow the Charter-wide schedule for core-subject assignments of Eagle Academy.

### **Charter-wide Schedule**

- Monday/Wednesday: RLA/Science
- Tuesday/Thursday: Math/Social Studies
- Friday: LOTE

Eagle Academy is not a punishment, however, failure to attend Eagle Academy will result in the student being assigned After School Discipline. If the student fails to attend ASD, the following consequences will be administered.

**1st Consequence:** The parent is contacted via phone call and email by the GLA, and the student is assigned After School Discipline which can be held before or after school. The student is still required to make up the missed EA.

**2nd Consequence:** A parent conference is scheduled by the AP and issued a warning letter for expulsion. The student is assigned one day of OSS. The student is expected to make up the missed ASD and EA.

**3rd Consequence:** The GLA refers the student to MTSS/Triage to document student behavior in Project Ed. The student is still expected to complete the missed EA and ASD. A parent conference is scheduled by the AP, and the student is assigned two days of OSS.

**4th Consequence:** The principal meets with the parents, and the student completes three days of OSS.

If the problem persists, the principal may recommend the student for expulsion after completion of three different Out of School Suspensions.

### **After School Discipline**

After School Discipline (ASD). If ASD is not served, the student will be assigned to In School Suspension (ISS). If ISS is not served, the student may be assigned Out of School Suspension (OSS).

### **Student Fees**

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. Students are expected to provide their own consumable items, such as pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, calculators, headsets, etc. Students may be required to pay certain fees or deposits, including:

1. A fee for materials for a class project that the student will keep, if the fee does not exceed the cost of materials;
2. Membership dues in voluntary student clubs or organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities;

3. A security deposit for the return of materials, supplies or equipment;
4. A fee for personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel, although a student may provide the student's own equipment or apparel if it meets reasonable requirements and standards relating to health and safety;
5. A fee for voluntarily purchased items, such as student publications, class rings, pictures, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.;
6. A fee for voluntary student health and accident benefit plan;
7. A reasonable fee, not to exceed the actual annual maintenance cost, for the use of musical instruments and uniforms owned or rented by the school;
8. A fee for items of personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that become the property of the student;
9. A parking fee;
10. A fee for replacement of a student identification card;
11. If offered, a fee for a driver training course, not to exceed the actual cost per student in the program for the current school year;
12. A fee for an optional course offered for credit that requires the use of facilities not available on campus or the employment of an educator who is not part of the school's regular staff;
13. A fee for summer school courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year;
14. A reasonable fee, not to exceed \$50, for costs associated with an educational program offered outside of regular school hours through which a student who was absent from class receives instruction voluntarily for the purpose of making up the missed instruction and meeting the level of attendance required for class credit, so long as the fee would not create a financial hardship or discourage the student from attending the program;
15. A fee for lost, damaged, or overdue library book; or Chromebook;
16. A fee specifically permitted by any other statute.

ILTexas may waive any fee or deposit if the student and parent are unable to pay. A request for such a waiver must be made in writing to the Principal or designee, and include evidence of inability to pay. Details for the fee waiver are available in the Principal's office.

Families are responsible for paying all fees associated with extra-curricular programs, including clubs, parking, athletics, fine arts, UIL academics, and academic supervision prior to participation.

## **Distribution Of Materials Or Documents**

### **School Materials**

Publications prepared by and for ILTexas may be posted or distributed with prior approval by the Principal and/or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, murals, etc.

### **Non-School Materials**

Students must obtain express prior approval of the Principal or designee before distributing, posting, selling, or circulating written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials on campus.

Non-school literature shall not be distributed by students on ILTexas property if:

- The materials are obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience;
- The materials endorse actions endangering the health or safety of students;

- The materials promote illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances;
- The distribution of such materials would violate the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person;
- The materials contain defamatory statements about public figures or others;
- The materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action;
- The materials are hate literature or similar publications that scurrilously attack ethnic, religious, or racial groups or contain content aimed at creating hostility and violence, and the materials would materially and substantially interfere with school activities or the rights of others;
- There is reasonable cause to believe that the distribution of the non-school literature would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others.

Any student who posts 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.

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials over which ILTexas does not exercise control shall not be sold, circulated, or distributed by persons or groups not associated with ILTexas or a school support group on school premises unless the person or group obtains specific prior approval from the Superintendent or designee. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring

organization or individual. The requestor may appeal the Superintendent or designee's decision in accordance with Board policy.

### **Accommodations For Children Of Military Families**

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

- Immunization requirements;
- Grade level, course, or educational program placement;
- Eligibility requirements for participating in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements.

In addition, absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent, including a stepparent or legal guardian, who has been called to active duty for, is on leave from, or is returning from a deployment of at least four months will be excused by ILTexas. The school 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.

### **Pledges Of Allegiance And Moment Of Silence**

Each school day, students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. Parents may submit a written request to the Principal or designee to excuse their student from reciting a pledge.

State law requires that one minute of silence will follow recitation of the pledges. Each student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity during that minute so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. In addition, state law requires that ILTexas provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period

when September 11 falls on a regular school day in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

### **Recitation Of The Declaration Of Independence**

State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during “Celebrate Freedom Week.” A student will be exempted from this requirement if a parent provides a written statement requesting that the student be excused, ILTexas determines that the student has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or the parent is a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States extends diplomatic immunity.

### **Prayer And Meditation**

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

## **DRESS CODE & UNIFORMS**

### **ILTexas Uniform Code And Policy**

As authorized by state law and the ILTexas charter, students are required to wear uniforms to school. The purpose of a uniform policy is to promote an environment focused on academic rigor. The wearing of the school uniform signifies community and the student’s desire to obtain excellence. Neat, clean grooming for school is expected at all times. Each student is expected to comply with this code during regular school hours. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child complies with the dress code before the child comes to school. All uniform items must be in good condition, correctly sized and labeled with the student’s name. Students may not deface, add or detract from the uniform, shoes or any uniform accessory. This includes: marking on uniform items, wearing un-hemmed skirts or pants, or wearing other items that are not part of the uniform. A student’s citizenship grade may be lowered for a uniform violation. Violations of the dress code may result in disciplinary action that may be entered in Skyward as a referral. Students who come to school inappropriately dressed may be asked to contact a parent, may be asked to visit the assistant principal in order to wear available school-provided items, or may be sent home. The ILTexas Administrative team is responsible for interpreting, implementing, and enforcing the dress code policy. The only exceptions to this portion of the handbook would be those pertaining to religious beliefs. In these instances, parents must consult with the administration about their specific concerns and how the dress code would be affected. All decisions about a student’s compliance of the dress code are at the discretion of the campus Principal.

Parents must provide their student(s) with the required uniform, except in the case of educationally disadvantaged students as provided in the Texas Education Code. ILTexas may provide a uniform for educationally disadvantaged students. A request for school assistance for purchasing uniforms must be made in writing to the Principal or designee and include evidence of inability to pay. Further details are available in the Principal’s office.

- Grooming – Students will adhere to the following guidelines in all issues pertaining to grooming.
- Hair – Neatness and good grooming are the expectations. Hair must be clean, neatly styled, not covering the eyes and be of a naturally occurring hair color. Boys’ hair length must be above the eyebrows and worn no longer than the top of the collar in the back of the uniform shirt. Spiking of

the hair is limited to one inch. Mohawks, designs, and fad cuts are not allowed. Students who violate these rules may be sent home and disciplinary action may be taken.

- Piercings - Boys may not wear earrings of any type. Body piercing (including nose piercings and mouth piercings) and grills are not acceptable.
- Jackets may be worn to school, but only school-approved jackets are allowed in the building.
- Hoodies (Pullover or Zip up) are not allowed.
- Facemasks – based on CDC recommendations, facemasks may be required to be worn. Facemasks must be ILTexas issued or of ILTexas colors.

In addition, the following are not permitted:

- Slippers, moccasins, sandals, high heels, jellies, patent leather, platform shoes, hiking and/or work boots (boots of any kind). Shoelaces should either be black or white. No gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters (other than approved uniform sweaters), sunglasses, or ear warmers are to be worn in the classroom. Large belt buckles and cargo pants are not permitted.
- Inappropriate, offensive, or disruptive clothing or other items are not allowed under any circumstances. Examples include, but are not limited to, clothing depicting or promoting drugs, alcohol, violence, prejudice, or obscenities.
- Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times.

This is not an all-inclusive list. If students or parents have any questions about a particular article of clothing they should forward those questions to the Principal.

### **Backpacks**

Backpacks should be an appropriate size for your child. Students are encouraged to limit the weight of their backpack. Rolling backpacks are not permitted in grades K-3 without written instructions from a doctor. Principal's discretion if rolling backpacks permitted in the upper grades.

### **Badge Policy (Student Identification Badges)**

Identification badges are considered part of the uniform code. All the students must wear a school identification badge. Students will be given an identification badge at the beginning of the school calendar at no cost. Students shall wear it all the time and display it in a visible location free of any decoration or mutilation during school or any school related activity.

### **Badge Replacement Policy**

Students with damaged, altered, defaced, or lost ID badges shall purchase a replacement ID badge. A replacement fee of \$5.00 shall be assessed for each occurrence of a lost/damaged ID badges.

### **Belts**

Students shall wear belts when wearing pants or shorts with belt loops. No designer or logo buckles are permitted.

### **Casual Days And Themed Dress Days**

Casual dress days and themed dress days will be made available at designated times throughout the school year. Casual/themed dress privileges may be revoked for students who do not comply with all dress code policies as determined by the administration.

Schedules of casual days will be determined by the Principal. Clothing worn on casual days or themed dress days must follow the same guidelines for fit and length as comparable uniform items.



If there are doubts about whether a particular clothing item is acceptable, best practice is not to wear it.

## **Grooming**

Students will adhere to the following guidelines in all issues pertaining to grooming:

Hair – Neatness and good grooming are the expectations. Hair must be clean, neatly styled, not covering the eyes and be of a naturally occurring hair color. Boys' hair length must be above the eyebrows and no longer than the top of the collar in the back of the uniform shirt. Spiking of the hair is limited to one inch. Mohawks, designs, and fad cuts are not allowed. Students who violate these rules may be sent home and disciplinary action may be taken.

- Boys should be clean-shaven every day.
  - Dr.'s notes are required if the student suffers from a condition that does not allow for shaving.
  - If the student cannot shave due to religious purposes, a note from a religious leaders is required to be emailed or faxed to the campus.
  - Note must be emailed/faxed directly from the doctor's office to the campus.
- Grills are not acceptable.

## **Head Wear**

Students are not permitted to wear hats, bandanas, balaclavas, caps, visors, sunglasses or other headwear during school hours. All hair accessories and religious head covers must be of uniform colors (maroon, black, grey, or white).

## **Jewelry**

Girls' jewelry must not pose a distraction. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Body piercings are not acceptable. If a student has a nose piercing, the nose ring must be removed or a filler – instead of the jewelry- must be worn during school hours.

## **Logos**

The only logo permitted is the ILTexas logo. No other logo on any part of the clothing is permitted.

## **Modesty Shorts**

All girls are required to wear modesty shorts or P. E. shorts under skirts or jumpers. Modesty shorts must not be visible beyond the hem of the skirt.

## **Non-Permitted Clothing Items**

- Slippers, moccasins, sandals, high heels, jellies, patent leather, platform shoes, hiking and/or work boots (boots of any kind). Shoelaces should either be black or white. No gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters (other than approved uniform sweaters), sunglasses, or ear warmers are to be worn in the classroom. Large belt buckles and cargo pants are not permitted.
- Sleeveless shirts, shirts that reveal the stomach area, and shirts that are too tight are not permitted.
- Inappropriate, offensive, or disruptive clothing are not allowed under any circumstances. Examples include, but are not limited to, clothing depicting or promoting drugs, alcohol, violence, prejudice, or obscenities.

## **Spirit Gear**

Spirit days are designated by each individual campus. Spirit gear may be worn on spirit days. Spirit Gear is defined as ILTexas Spirit Gear, ILTexas PTO Spirit Gear, Field Day shirts, Honor Choir shirts, etc.

## **Sweaters, Jackets, & Spirit Sweatshirts**

A solid maroon, white, black, or grey cardigan (button up or closed v-neck sweater) or jackets with an ILTexas logo may be worn Monday through Friday. Only the ILTexas blazer or jackets with the ILTexas logo may be worn Monday through Friday. Jackets of ILTexas colors may be worn, but the hoods may not be worn on the head in the building. Pullover hoodies are not permitted (including Athletic hoodies issued by the Athletic Department). No other jackets, hoodies, sweaters or sweatshirts may be worn during school hours in the school building.

## **Undershirts**

Students may only wear a solid white, long or short-sleeved T-shirt under the dress shirt or spirit polo shirt. Writing on undershirts or logos is not permitted underneath uniform shirts. Undershirts are to be tucked into the waistband of skirts/pants and the sleeves may not extend beyond the sleeves of the dress/polo shirt.

## **ELEMENTARY-SPECIFIC UNIFORM CODE AND POLICIES**

### **Blouses/Shirts**

White cotton blouses (long or short sleeved) from Academic Outfitters, or school logo white or maroon polo shirts are required for girls. White button-down oxford shirts (long or short sleeved) or school logo maroon or white polo shirts are required for boys. Oxford shirts for boys and collar shirts for girls must be worn on dress uniform Mondays. Long sleeves must be buttoned. The hem of the shirts must be fully tucked in and not rolled under. Kindergarten – 5th students may wear the ILTexas maroon or white polo shirt Tuesday through Friday.

### **Pants And Shorts**

Pants and shorts should be worn appropriately and modestly. Both girls and boys must wear khaki Academic Outfitters uniform pants and shorts with their designated shirt style. Boys must wear pants on Mondays. Khaki uniform shorts may be worn Tuesday – Friday.

### **Jumpers**

Girls may wear the ILTexas uniform plaid jumper anytime during the school year. Plaid jumpers must be worn on Mondays. Khaki jumpers may be worn Tuesday-Friday. As girls grow taller, jumper lengths may need to be adjusted. Jumpers must hit the knee or be right above the knee.

### **Socks**

Girls must wear solid white socks. Boys must wear solid black socks. Students are not permitted to wear socks with logos. Girls may also wear solid white tights (waist to toes) with jumpers. Leggings are not permitted.

### **Shoes**

Girls are required to wear solid white shoes with white laces or Velcro. Boys are required to wear solid black shoe with black laces or Velcro. Other shoe accessories are not permitted. Shoes and shoelaces should be kept in good condition and replaced when they are outgrown, torn, or otherwise

damaged throughout the school year. For K-8 students, athletic shoes are authorized for daily wear. Students in grades 6-8 must wear dress shoes on Mondays.

### **Monday Formal Dress**

All students are required to wear the professional dress uniform on Mondays. Girls must wear the white blouse and plaid jumper. Boys must wear khaki pants with the button-down collar oxford shirt and uniform tie. Academic Outfitter sweaters may be worn.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIFIC UNIFORM CODE AND POLICIES**

### **Shirts**

Students are required to wear long or short-sleeved white button-down oxford shirts from Academic Outfitters or white or maroon ILTexas Logo polo shirts from Academic Outfitters. Long sleeves on oxford shirt must be buttoned and never rolled up. The hem of all shirts must be fully tucked in all around waist and not rolled under. All shirt buttons, including the buttons on the collar points, must be buttoned during school hours. When a tie is required, the collar button must be buttoned during school hours. This is the only button that may be undone when not wearing a tie. Girls must wear a tie during Formal Dress Day purchased through Academic Outfitters that are to be worn with their white or maroon shirts.

### **Pants**

Khaki pants must be worn appropriately and modestly. The following guidelines must be observed:

- Students must not wear pants that fit tightly
- Pants are to be worn at the natural waistline (no “hip huggers” or sagging)
- Hems may not touch the floor

### **Ties For Grades 6-8**

ILTexas plaid ties are required every Monday with the white oxford button down shirt.

### **Blazers For Grades 6-8**

Students are required to wear an ILTexas maroon blazer every Monday.

### **Skirts**

Girls may wear either the ILTexas plaid skirt, slacks (khaki or gray) or skorts. Girls must wear the plaid skirt or slacks every Formal Dress Monday. Khaki skorts may be worn Tuesday-Friday. Skirts/skorts should hit the knee or be right above the knee.

### **Socks**

Girls are required to wear Knee length white solid socks. Socks should not have logos or patterns. Girls may wear solid white tights (toe to waist). Boys are required to wear solid black socks. “No-show” socks are not allowed.

### **Shoes**

Formal dress days (Mondays), girls must wear solid black or solid white closed-toe dress shoes or penny loafers. Boys must wear solid black dress shoes.

Optional dress days (Tues-Friday), girls are required to wear solid white or solid black shoes (any kind). Boys are required to wear solid black shoes (any kind). Other shoe accessories are not

permitted. Shoes and shoelaces should be kept in good condition and replaced when they are outgrown, torn, or otherwise damaged throughout the school year. Shoelaces should also be black.

### **Makeup**

Girls in Grades 6-8 may wear moderate natural makeup, which may include foundation, blush and mascara. Makeup may not be applied during instructional time. Boys are not permitted to wear makeup.

### **Nails**

All students will keep fingernails clean and neatly trimmed. Boys will keep nails trimmed so as not to extend beyond the fingertip. Boys are not permitted to wear nail polish.

### **Physical Fitness/Athletics Uniform**

Students in grades 6-8 are required to wear the ILTexas approved physical fitness uniform from Academic Outfitters.

## **HIGH SCHOOL SPECIFIC UNIFORM CODE AND POLICIES**

### **Shirts**

Students are required to wear long or short-sleeved white button-down oxford shirts with a tie from Academic Outfitters. Long sleeves on oxford shirt must be buttoned and never rolled up. The hem of all shirts must be fully tucked in all around waist and not rolled under. All shirt buttons, including the buttons on the collar points, must be buttoned during school hours.

### **Pants**

Grey slacks or khaki pants must be worn appropriately and modestly. The following guidelines must be observed:

- Students must not wear pants that fit tightly
- Pants are to be worn at the natural waistline (no “hip huggers” or sagging)
- Hems may not touch the floor
- Boys must wear grey slacks on Formal Dress Mondays.

### **Blazers For Grades 9-12**

Students are required to wear an ILTexas black blazer every Monday.

### **Skirts**

Girls may wear either the ILTexas plaid, khaki skirt or gray slacks. Girls must wear the plaid skirt or slacks on Formal Dress Mondays. Girls may wear either the ILTexas plaid skirt. Girls must wear the plaid skirt (or gray slacks) every Formal Dress Monday. Skirts shall be no higher than two inches above the knee.

### **Ties For Grades 9-12**

ILTexas plaid ties are required to be worn with white oxford button down shirt.

### **Socks**

Boys are required to wear solid black socks. Girls must wear solid knee length white socks or solid white tights. Students are not permitted to wear socks with logos or patterns.

## **Shoes**

Girls must wear flat, solid black, closed-toe dress shoes. Boys must wear solid black dress shoes; laces or loafers are acceptable. During Spirit/Casual Days, shoes must be closed-toe with no heel.

## **Makeup (Grades 9-12)**

Girls may wear moderate natural makeup. Lip color must be light pink, clear or a color that matches the student's natural lip color. Makeup should be applied at home or in restrooms and cannot be applied in hallways or classrooms. Boys are not permitted to wear makeup.

## **Nails**

All students will keep fingernails clean and neatly trimmed. Boys will keep nails trimmed so as not to extend beyond the fingertip. Boys are not permitted to wear nail polish.

## **Physical Fitness/Athletics Uniform**

Students in grades 9-12 are required to wear the ILTexas approved physical fitness uniform from Academic Outfitters. The tennis shoes for the athletic wear can be of any brand, color and style as long as the shoe is appropriate for exercise.

## **Dress Days**

- FORMAL DRESS DAYS – Formal dress days will be every Monday and on special events that will be scheduled in advance.
- NON-FORMAL (REGULAR) DRESS DAYS – These days include Tuesday through Friday.
- SPIRIT DAYS – Students are allowed to wear a college or school shirt with jeans on spirit days. No shorts and non-ILTexas skirts are allowed. These days will be scheduled in advance.
- CASUAL DRESS DAYS – Similar to Spirit Days, but students are allowed to wear a regular appropriate shirt. These days will be scheduled in advance.
- FRIDAYS (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY) – Students have the option to wear an ILTexas polo on Fridays. Seniors are permitted to wear a black ILTexas polo.

*If students or parents have any questions about a particular article of clothing, they should forward those questions to the Principal.*

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

### **Philosophy Statement**

We believe that physical activity is an integral component of a student's intellectual, social, and emotional development. The athletic program of ILTexas is designed to complement and foster our academic goals. We offer every student the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs provided they are able to maintain a level of academic performance consistent with our school mission. Our goal is the development of our students who are able to meet and balance the demands of our rigorous curriculum as well as the challenges of our extracurricular activities and sports programs.

### **Eligibility And Commitment Requirements**

#### **A. STUDENT CREDITS**

Student in grades 6–12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if:

1. Beginning the 6th–9th grades – student has been promoted from the previous grade level.

2. Beginning the 10th grade – student has earned 6 state credits towards State graduation.
3. Beginning the 11th grade – student has earned 13 state credits **OR** has earned 7 credits in the last twelve months.
4. Beginning the 12th grade – student has earned 21 state credits **OR** has earned 8 credits in the last twelve months.

#### B. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity for a six-week period following the first six weeks period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 in any course for that preceding six weeks.
2. A student whose six-week grade average, in any course, is lower than 70 at the end of any six weeks period shall be suspended from participation in any interscholastic activity during the succeeding three-weeks periods. If, at the end of the three-weeks period, the student is passing all classes, that student will become eligible 7 days after the grade was officially earned for the remainder of that current six weeks. Validation of the three-weeks grade is made through the athletic coordinator, campus principal, or campus designee.
3. Students may practice with their respective teams while they are on academic suspension.
4. At the end of any three-week ineligibility period in which a student has attained a course grade average of at least 70 in each course taken. Students regain after the seven-day grace period.
5. Students who also assist the coach, such as student managers, must meet all academic eligibility requirements even though they do not participate in the actual performance or contest.
6. A student receiving an incomplete (I) in a course is considered ineligible until the incomplete is replaced with a passing grade for that grading period in a designated amount of time.
  - i. A student who fails a course becomes ineligible seven days after the last day of the six- weeks period during which the grade was earned.
  - ii. The division coordinator and head coach will validate grades using Skyward to run report cards. An athlete **will not** submit his/her grades.
7. Any 6th grade-12th grade student-athlete who is assigned to Eagle Academy or mandatory tutoring on their campus must attend Eagle Academy or mandatory tutoring before any practice, game or other organized team activity.

#### C. WAIVED ILTEXAS ADVANCED COURSES

Grades in AP/Honors courses will be included. Students enrolled in AP courses may have one grade per student per semester exempted from the no grade below 70 rule. The grade may not be below a 60 and must be in an AP course. Grades in regular courses are not exempted. The student must attend mandatory tutorials in the failed course until the grade is raised to passing. Only one grade per student per semester may be exempted. Failure to attend all tutorials will result in loss of the exemption.

#### D. OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

In the time period from 12:00 a.m. Monday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, no team or other activity may practice, rehearse, or meet for more than eight hours. This time limitation is exclusive of games or performances or other competition events. The HQ Athletic Director or Campus Athletic Coordinator monitors academic qualifications and that students, coaches and advisors are held accountable. In disputed cases, the decision of the Principal will be final.

#### **Student Athletic Code**

It is the desire of the administration and coaching staff of ILTexas that being an athlete will be an integral part of his/her secondary educational experience. Being an ILTexas athlete is a privilege and

is one that carries with it many responsibilities. As athletes at ILTexas our young people have a standard to reflect and uphold. That standard is one of positive leadership, character, responsibility, and a competitive spirit. Participation in the educational athletic program and/or TCSAAL or University Interscholastic League contests is not a right, but a privilege. No student is required to take part in athletic contests or activities. Therefore, it is imperative that all students participating in athletics understand the regulations that can be found below while conforming to the rules therein. Student athletes failing to follow these regulations or failing to live up to the ILTexas Student Code of Conduct, Athletic Department rules and regulations, and/or the Co-Curricular policy can have athletic participation privileges removed by the coach.

The following regulations will be in effect for all athletes in ILTexas, both on and off the field of play, in order to be eligible to participate in any competitive sport practice or program directly related to improvement in a sport.

1. The athlete must refrain from the use of profanity or resorting to illegal tactics. Temper fits, flagrant rules violations, etc. will not be tolerated.
2. He/She must learn that both winning and losing are a part of the game and that you have to win or lose with class and emotional maturity.
3. Total Respect for officials is an absolute must; any disrespect from athletes or fans will not be tolerated.
4. Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act, which is not conducive to good sportsmanship, may result in disciplinary action at the coach's discretion, which may include removal from the contest.

Again, participation in educational athletics is a privilege, not a right; therefore, there are certain standards which must be maintained.

1. **Uniformity:** Athletes travel quite frequently to other schools, towns, communities, restaurants, etc., as representatives of ILTexas; therefore, they should be groomed in a manner in which our community, school and sponsors will be proud. We expect our athletes to set the example for our school in the area of grooming and personal appearance.
2. **Dress:** The athlete should be neatly dressed and in compliance with all ILTexas, TCSAAL & UIL policies.
  - a. **Hair:** All athletes who represent ILTexas will be properly dressed and hair will be neatly cut per the Student Code of Conduct. No haircuts or hair color (including the use of feathers in any form – clipped, banded, or attached permanently) outside of the TCSAAL / UIL Guidelines or Student Code of Conduct will be allowed for playoffs or any other contests. This includes males bleaching their hair blonde, Mohawks, or cutting numbers/designs in their hair, etc. Long hair must be pulled back out of the student athlete's face during practices and competitions.
  - b. **Jewelry:** No jewelry will be allowed during practices or games (piercings, including new piercings must be removed during practice and games). Not only is this a safety issue, but it is also in accordance with TCSAAL and UIL rules for practice and competition.

### **Disrespect to a Teacher or Coach**

Any act of disrespect by a student athlete to his/her teacher, support staff, coach or member of school administration will be handled on an individual basis. Punishment will be up to the discretion of the coach.

## Rules Applicable to Athletes (At All Times)

1. **Tobacco use, drinking of alcoholic beverages and abusive drugs** will not be tolerated in athletics at any time during his/her school career. Punishment will be in accordance with the ILTexas Co- Curricular Contract and the Student Code of Conduct. Also, ILTexas requires that all participants in athletics for grades 7–12 may undergo random drug testing in accordance with the ILTexas Random Student Drug Testing Policy.
2. **Theft:** Taking things from other players, students, school, etc. will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis and up to coach's discretion.
3. **Hazing/fighting/bullying** or any physical harm to another student may result in consequences including but not limited to a potential loss of athletic privileges. Discipline is up to coach's discretion.
4. Athletes assigned to **ISS (In School Suspension)/ OSS (Off Campus Suspension) or administrative behavioral placements** will lose all extracurricular privileges for each school day served in said placement. Additional consequences for high school student athletes will be left up to the Head Coach's discretion.
5. **School Equipment:** The athlete shall not wear or use school equipment for personal use. Equipment may not be removed from school property without permission from his/her coach. All articles of the school-issued uniform must be returned at the conclusion of the competitive season. The athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her that is either not returned or returned as damaged.
6. **Quitting:** A student/athlete who decides to quit one sport and enter another will be ineligible for participation in another sport until the end of the season for the sport for which he/she has quit, or unless the head coaches of both sports mutually agree to the student/athlete's participation. A student/athlete quitting a sport after the first contest will forfeit any award for that sport.
7. **Practice and Game Regulations:** A coach must be contacted ahead of time if an athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing any type of practice or game will result in an appropriate type of make-up work. No electronic devices or backpacks will be allowed during practices or games.
8. **Parent/Doctor's Notes:** We will accept a parent's note for an athlete to sit out of practice due to an illness/injury for a maximum of three days. After three days, a note from a doctor or Athletic Trainer will be required indicating the injury and anticipated inactivity. If after the three days we do not have a doctor's note, the absences will be counted as unexcused absences and consequences will be assessed according to coach's discretion.
9. **School vs. Club Expectations:** All school practices and games will take priority over club practices and games. A student can participate on a select/club team while participating on a school team; however, missing a scheduled school event to participate in a non-school event will count as an unexcused absence. If a student misses one school event/game, they will be suspended the following corresponding number of events/games in middle schools. For this purpose, a tournament will be considered two games. In high school, it is the head coach's discretion.
10. **Travel:** All athletes in Middle School and High School represent the community, school and coaches. All athletes will travel to the competition with their team. High school students will also return on the bus unless an emergency type situation occurs or prior arrangements have been made with the Head Coach. Middle school students will be picked up by their parent/guardian at the site of their in town games.



11. **Tutoring** and any re-tests – all reasonable efforts should be made to schedule these outside of practice time.
12. **Athletic concerns or problems** will be addressed in this order:
  - a. Athlete/coach
  - b. Athlete/parent or guardian/coach
  - c. Athlete/parent or guardian/coach/athletic coordinator
  - d. Athlete/parent or guardian/coach/athletic coordinator/athletic director/principal

### **Arrival on Campus and Participation in After School Activities**

Students that arrive after 10:00 a.m., even with parental permission, will not be allowed to participate in activities that include contests, dramatic rehearsals and performances, and club activities on that day.

Students who arrive after 10:00 a.m. because of a doctor’s appointment are not subject to this policy. Any student who is at a doctor’s appointment will need to bring a note from the doctor when arriving on campus

### **Letter Jackets And Letters**

Students in grades 9–12 have the opportunity to be awarded a letter in Fine Arts, Academics, and Athletics. These are awarded in the fall following the completion of the academic school year. Basic criteria include citizenship, commitment to the program, and leadership. For the specific requirements of these awards, see the sponsor of the activity in which you wish to receive a letter.

### **Athletic Participation Fee**

There is an extra-curricular sports fee of \$25.00, representing a security deposit for the return of equipment and a fee for athletic apparel and equipment, for all student athletes. This fee is only assessed to student- athletes who are selected as a member of any sports team and not a requirement to “try-out” for the team. Student-Athletes are deemed “members” of the team upon entry to the official team roster by the respective coach. This fee is a one-time assessment and in the instance of a student-athlete being selected and participating in multiple sports, the fee will not be assessed for the subsequent sports/teams. Thus, the minimum and maximum yearly fee for any student-athlete will be \$25.00. Application for exemption of paying this fee due to financial hardship will be available to the parent(s) or guardian(s) at the time of the parent meeting.

### **Extracurricular Clubs And Organizations**

Participation in clubs and organizations is a privilege that allows students the opportunity to develop leadership skills, special talents, and new interests. Participation is a privilege, and therefore, students must meet all of the requirements set forth in this handbook. ILTexas recognizes that the learning process is not confined to the classroom and that school life and social interchange are very important aspects of the educational process. We endeavor to provide a well-balanced extracurricular program. To supplement the basic educational programs and to provide opportunities for students to learn in various school settings, a comprehensive extracurricular activity program is available. Each school activity is organized to accomplish four major goals:

1. School Service: perform various activities to enhance the school’s academic function.
2. Community Service: support a community activity in line with the functions of the student group.
3. Fundraising Activities: raise money to carry out defined activities.
4. Social Activities: provide an opportunity for students to socialize through group activities.

Each extracurricular activity should compete on a yearly basis, at least one activity corresponding to the above stated purposes. The following extra-curricular activities may (not an all-inclusive list) be offered:

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Band             | Dance                        |
| Baseball         | Destination Imagination      |
| Basketball       | Beta Club                    |
| Cheer            | HOSA                         |
| Choir            | FCCLA                        |
| Cross Country    | Track and Field              |
| Debate           | Volleyball                   |
| Flag Football    | World Affairs (JWAC)         |
| Model UN (GEMUN) | Language clubs and societies |
| Orchestra        |                              |
| Soccer           |                              |
| Softball         |                              |
| Student Council  |                              |

In addition, a variety of after school clubs may be offered.

### **Honor Societies (NJHS And NHS)**

Requirements for becoming a member in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) in grades 7 and 8 include an average GPA of 95.0 with no grade lower than 90.0. Maintaining membership requires an average of 90.0.

Membership in the National Honor Society is open to any eligible student in grade 10, 11, or 12 who has been enrolled for a minimum period of one semester. Students achieve membership because they are held in the highest regard in all aspects of their student life. To become a member of the Senior National Honor Society students must be enrolled in at least four courses in the core curriculum areas of English, Foreign Language, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science. Students must earn an overall 92.0 weighted average. Maintaining membership requires an overall 88.0 average. In order to be a member of the National Honor Society students must be outstanding in the areas of Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character.

The Honor Society Committee (as assigned by the Principal) ultimately will determine those students who have upheld, to the highest degree, the standards that are required. Specific requirements include:

- *Scholarship.* Students must have a minimum of grade A in all academic courses.
- *Leadership.* Students should have demonstrated leadership. It is helpful if students have held a variety of offices with the school and community. These offices should have required the student to demonstrate a variety of skills and abilities.
- *Character.* Students should actively demonstrate the qualities of honesty, responsibility, fairness, courtesy, tolerance and cooperation.
- *Service.* The student should have made significant contributions to the school, classmates and community. Such contributions should be readily identifiable.

### **Student Council**

The ILTexas Student Council meets regularly. The student body elects the Student Council that is responsible for organizing social activities on behalf of the students and for determining student needs and opinions on matters affecting them. The Council works closely with both the student body and administration in an effort to build a stronger school community.

## GRADING PROGRAM, PROMOTION STANDARDS, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Grading and reporting should focus on student growth and learning in a climate of high expectations. Instructional emphasis should be placed on the accomplishment of defined school goals. Student progress will be assessed every six-weeks, using several rubrics, which include portfolios, verbal assessments and written formats, such as tests and quizzes. Additionally, students will be administered an End of Cycle Assessment (ECA) at the end of each grading period.

### **Others Before Self Service Learning Project**

In order to both teach and highlight our “Others Before Self” motto in theory and action, every student at ILTexas will need to complete an “Others Before Self” service learning project in collaboration with their grade level peers. Further, ILTexas high school students are required to complete a total of 60 service hours by the time they graduate (or 15 hours for every year they attend ILTexas). These credit hours can be completed outside of the school and they can be completed during their class service project. The hours need to be turned in monthly to their counselor using the ILTexas Community Volunteer Service Hours Tracking Sheet.

### **Test Retakes For Grades K-12**

Students who earn a grade below 70 on a test are eligible for a retake (with the exception of ILTexas benchmarks and high school semester exams). The student may not earn a grade higher than a 70%. The score recorded on the grade book will be the higher of the two. Tests may be retaken only once. Re-takes must be done within 10 instructional days.

### **Late Work For Grades 3-5**

All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. If assignments are turned in late, the grade will be affected by the following adjustments:

- On the 1st day of class that the assignment is due, the student will be able to earn a maximum grade of 100%.
- On the 2nd day of class, the student will be able to earn a maximum grade of 90%.
- On the 3rd day of class, the student will be able to earn a maximum grade of 70%.

### **Late Work For Grades 6–12**

All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Students who turn in assignments one class period or more after the due date will earn a maximum grade of 70%. Additionally, students who turn in work two or more days after the due date may face further discipline consequences (see details below). Students who attend after-school tutoring or Saturday tutoring may be able to earn grades above the minimum (based on campus principal and instructor discretion).

- On time: Maximum grade of 100%
- One Class Period Late: Maximum grade of 70%

### **Homework And Test Procedure For Grades 1–12**

It is the student’s responsibility to turn in homework on the assigned date. When absent, students must obtain the missed assignments and make up the work in accordance with the procedure for excused absences. Please reference ILTexas.org for links to teacher pages for class specific information.

## **Mandatory Eagle Academy**

Eagle Academy is a system that promotes Mastery learning by requiring students to achieve a higher grade by correcting or finishing missing and failing assignments.

### **Student Assignment to Eagle Academy**

- **Automatic Assignment to Eagle Academy (Accountability):** Any student with an average of less than 70 and an **assignment grade of zero** will automatically be assigned to Eagle Academy to complete the missing assignment.
- **Teacher Assigned Eagle Academy (Mastery Learning):** Any student with a course average of less than 70 and an **assignment of less than 70** will be required to attend Eagle Academy.
- School Administrators and Teachers have the authority to assign any student to EA at any time.

Eagle Academy will begin each school weekday (Monday through Friday) in the cafeteria or centralized location and will last for 1 hour in duration. Each campus will follow the Charter-wide schedule for core-subject assignments of Eagle Academy.

### **Charter-wide Schedule**

- Monday/Wednesday: RLA/Science
- Tuesday/Thursday: Math/Social Studies
- Friday: LOTE

### **Making Up Work For Excused Absences**

Students who have missed work due to an excused absence have as many class days to make up the work as they were absent. All work assigned before the student absence will be due the day the student returns to class. If a student misses one class, the student will have one additional class day to turn in the assignment.

If a student has missed several days due to an excused absence, parents should contact the teacher to determine a reasonable plan to help their child catch up on missed work. The late work procedure does not apply to an excused absence.

### **Making Up Work For Unexcused Absences**

Students with unexcused absences are required to make-up and demonstrate mastery for all missed daily work. Major work may be made up; however, the grade will be no higher than 70%.

### **Promotion Standards**

In order for ILTexas students to be promoted to the next grade level, students must demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must demonstrate mastery on grade level standards and meet ILTexas' requirements for attendance. For English Language Learners, the Grade Placement Committee (GPC) in consultation with the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine promotion standards. For students with disabilities, the student's ARD/IEP committee will determine the promotion status based on mastery of IEP goals and objectives and /or course requirements.

Additionally, the Texas Legislature created The Student Success Initiative (SSI) to ensure that students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and

mathematics. Under SSI, students in 5th and 8th grade must pass the STAAR reading and math tests.

ILTexas Promotion standards include:

| Grade Level               | Promotion Standards  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <u>KINDER AND GRADE 1</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students must make satisfactory progress (S) towards mastery of at least 70% of the grade level TEKS delineated on the report card.</li> <li>● Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>   |
| <u>GRADE 2</u>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students must pass High Frequency Word Test – Recognizing and reading words that appear very often in written and spoken language.</li> <li>● State requirement of overall yearly average of 70 or above and local requirement of an average of 70 or above in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science or social studies.</li> <li>● Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>   |
| <u>GRADES 3, 4 AND 5</u>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students must pass STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) in reading and math. If STAAR is not mastered, the campus GPC may take into consideration locally developed assessments that assess the same TEKS measured on STAAR.</li> <li>● State requirement of overall yearly average of 70 or above and local requirement of an average of 70 or above in reading, other language arts, mathematics, and science or social studies.</li> <li>● Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul> |
| <u>GRADES 6, 7 AND 8</u>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students must pass STAAR in reading and math.</li> <li>● A student who fails (under 70% average) two (2) or more core classes may not advance to the next grade.</li> <li>● If the above criteria are not met, the campus GPC may take into consideration locally developed assessments that assess the same TEKS measured on STAAR.</li> <li>● Students must have sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>  |
| <u>GRADES 9 – 12</u>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students are promoted based on their total accumulated course credits prior to the beginning of the next school year.</li> <li>● Individual course credit is earned through a passing grade of 70% or above and sufficient attendance*</li> </ul>   |

\*Sufficient attendance: A student’s total number of absences should not exceed 10% of class meetings from the date of enrollment.

If a student in grade 5 or 8 is enrolled in a course that earns high school credit and for which an end-of- course (“EOC”) assessment will be administered, the student will not be subject to the promotion requirements described above for the relevant grade 5 or 8 assessment. However, for

federal accountability purposes, the student may be required to take both the grade level and EOC assessment.

If a student in grade 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.

### **GPA Exempt Courses**

All courses taken during the regular school year *at ILTexas* shall count toward GPA except for the following: aide positions, study hall, peer tutoring, college credits that are not dual credits, credit by examination credits, & SAT prep class.

### **Calculation Of Weighted Local GPA**

Only courses taken at ILTexas count towards local GPA. Local GPA is based on a 100-point scale. Further, weightings are based on the following scale:

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Advance Placement/Dual Credit</i> | <i>1.15</i> |
| <i>Honors/Pre-AP</i>                 | <i>1.1</i>  |
| <i>All other courses</i>             | <i>1</i>    |

\*Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, dual credit courses will have a GPA set of 1.1

### **ILTexas is a Non-Ranking Institution**

ILTexas is a non-ranking institution. As such, ILTexas does not publish class rank beyond the top 10 percent of each graduating class as required by the state of Texas. Rank is calculated using the local weighted GPA and only courses taken at ILTexas count towards the local weighted GPA. For individual student informational purposes only, GPA ranges of seniors in the top 10 percent, first quartile, second quartile, and third quartile will be posted in Skyward after each calculation period. Information for juniors, sophomores and freshmen will be published in January and June. Quartiles should not be included in college applications nor made public.

### **Senior Calculation Of Weighted Local GPA**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the campus shall calculate class rank by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six week grading period of the senior year. For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, ILTexas shall also calculate class rank as required by state law (top 10% only). Only dual credit courses completed prior to the end of the 5th six weeks will be eligible to be included in the calculation of GPA (for the purpose of determining class rank/top 10%).

## **Eligibility For Early Graduation: Eligibility And Application Deadline**

While early graduation is not recommended; students who will meet all graduation requirements at the Distinguished Level of Achievement (i.e., Graduation Plan, Service Hours, etc.) may apply for early graduation. Applications will be reviewed to confirm student is enrolled in all courses needed for early graduation, will meet Distinguished Level of Achievement, and is on track to complete service hours. The deadline for submitting an application for Early Graduation is the last day of January of the calendar year in which the student intends to graduate.

Note: This deadline allows decisions to be based on fall semester grades.

## **Texas First Early High School Completion Program**

The Texas First Early High School Completion Program allows public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school and to earn the corresponding Texas First Diploma. Eligibility requirements are as follows: Texas residency, FAFSA completion, At least 22 high school credits & standard GPA (not local) equivalent to 3.0 or higher, college readiness test scores, STAAR exam participation. Scholarship money may be available to participating Texas public universities to include up to a two-semester scholarship for kids graduating two semesters early. The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission (nor scholarship) for students. Consult your ASP College Advisor for guidance on whether your grade point average at graduation qualifies you for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law. You can apply to any college or university you choose. However, the scholarship will only apply toward participating universities.

## **Valedictorian And Salutatorian Requirements**

Graduating seniors with the highest and second highest cumulative local weighted grade point average as determined at the end of the 5th grading period will be eligible to serve as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively. 16 week dual credit grades will not be available to be calculated in the final rankings. The Valedictorian shall be the eligible graduate with the highest local GPA; the Salutatorian shall be the eligible graduate with the second highest local GPA. In the event of a tie for Valedictorian, the student with the highest number of AP and Dual Credit classes taken shall be declared the Valedictorian. If still tied, the person with the highest SAT score will be designated Valedictorian. All courses and corresponding numeric grades earned to determine GPA must not be modified in content and must be identified by the state as a regular, honors, and/or AP course in order to qualify for Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Each ILTexas High School shall have a Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Candidates shall be in attendance at the awarding High School continuously, commencing with enrollment no later than the first day of the second six-week grading period of the student's junior year until graduation. The Valedictorian shall be the eligible graduate with the highest local GPA; the Salutatorian shall be the eligible graduate with the second highest local GPA.

All senior Honors students are recognized at Graduation based on the following criteria:

| <b>Honor</b> | <b>Criteria</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|
|--------------|-----------------|

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Highest Honors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 97.5+ Local GPA</li> <li>● Completed a minimum of 15 community service hours per year (enrolled at ILTexas)</li> <li>● Has successfully completed a min. of 5 dual credit and/or AP courses.</li> <li>● Exemplifies the ILTexas Core Leadership Traits</li> <li>● Demonstrated growth in language proficiency (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese), as measured by ACTFL Guidelines</li> </ul> |
| High Honors    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 95+ Local GPA</li> <li>● Completed a minimum of 15 community service hours per year (enrolled at ILTexas)</li> <li>● Has successfully completed a min. of 3 dual credit and/or AP courses.</li> <li>● Exemplifies the ILTexas Core Leadership Traits</li> <li>● Demonstrated growth in language proficiency (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese), as measured by ACTFL Guidelines</li> </ul>   |
| Honors         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 90+ Local GPA</li> <li>● Completed a minimum of 15 community service hours per year (enrolled at ILTexas)</li> <li>● Exemplifies the ILTexas Core Leadership Traits</li> </ul>   |

**Graduation Honor Cords**

|                                      |                          |                               |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Academic Success Program Recognition | Navy and Silver          |                               |
| Chinese National Honor Society       | Purple                   |                               |
| Spanish National Honor Society       | Red and Gold             |                               |
| Eagle Scout / Gold Award             | Red, White, Blue         |                               |
| Highest Honors                       | Gold                     |                               |
| High Honors                          | Silver                   |                               |
| Honors                               | White                    |                               |
| Leadership                           | White and Maroon         | *15 documented service hrs/yr |
| National Honor Society               | Gold and Blue            |                               |
| Red Cross                            | Red                      | *donate at least 3 times      |
| Top Ten                              | Yellow and White         |                               |
| Tri-Literacy                         | Red, Yellow, Blue        | *intermediate proficiency     |
| JROTC                                | Scarlet, Gold, and Black |                               |
| For Discussion:                      |                          |                               |
| JWAC                                 | Red, White, Blue         |                               |

**GRADING SYSTEM AND GRADE REPORTING**

**Kindergarten and 1st Grade Standard Based Report Cards**

- E - Excellent** Progress towards mastering standard
- S - Satisfactory** Progress towards mastering standard
- N - Needs Support**
- U - Unsatisfactory** progress towards mastering standard
- M -Met** Standard



## Evaluation of Credits for Transfer Students

ILTexas accepts credits from other schools accredited by the State of Texas and accredited schools from other states. Courses will be evaluated by a counselor to determine if the course meets the requirements for graduation from a Texas high school, as well as from ILTexas. All transfer grades earned in accredited schools will be converted to ILTexas grading scale and course designation consistent with ILTexas standards (though only courses taken at ILTexas count towards GPA class rank).

## Evaluation of Foreign Transcripts

A transfer student who has been attending a non-US affiliated foreign school should have his/her transcript evaluated for appropriate placement at an ILTexas high school by the Principal or his/her designee. In most cases the student will not be placed higher than the eleventh grade and no more than eight credits will be awarded per school year.

Courses will be evaluated by a counselor to determine if the course meets the requirements for graduation from a Texas high school, as well as from ILTexas. All transfer grades earned will be converted to ILTexas grading scale and course designation consistent with ILTexas standards (though only courses taken at ILTexas count towards GPA class rank).

## Grade Conversion for Transcripts with Letter Grades

Conversion of letter grades to numerical grades for students transferring in with letter grades from accredited schools will be based on numerical equivalents (reminder: only courses taken at ILTexas count towards GPA/class rank). Conversion of out-of-country students' grade equivalency will be determined by evaluation of the students' transcripts. A plus or a minus attached to a letter grade shall be converted as follows:

|         |         |         |        |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| A+ = 98 | B+ = 88 | C+ = 78 | D = 70 |
| A = 95  | B = 85  | C = 75  | F = 69 |
| A- = 92 | B- = 82 | C- = 72 |        |

Student academic evaluation is achieved through the use of a grading system. An average grade of 70 is required for successful completion of a course. The grading system of ILTexas shall be in accordance with the following scale:

| <b><u>On 100 Scale</u></b> | <b><u>On 4.0 Scale</u></b>  |
|----------------------------|---|
| A 90 – 100                 | 4.0   |
| B 80 – 89                  | 3.0   |
| C 70 – 79                  | 2.0   |
| *D 70                      | 1.0 (for transfer of grades from <b><u>dual credit</u></b> courses) |
| F.....69 and below         | 0.0   |

To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of 70 or higher based upon specific course or campus standards and meet minimum attendance requirements. Guidelines for grading must be in compliance with headquarters policy and shall be communicated to students and parents upon the student's enrollment.

## Semester Average

85% Average of the three grading periods 15% End of semester exam

## Six Weeks Averages and Weighting of Grades

- Students will have a minimum of three grades per week per subject entered into the gradebook.\*
- Students will have a minimum of three exam or major project grades per grading cycle entered into the gradebook.
- Quizzes shall be weighted as exams

2-5: Exams and Major Projects- 50%      Daily Assignments and Homework – 50%

6-8: Exams and Major Projects- 50%      Daily Assignments and Homework – 50%

9-12: Exams and Major Projects- 50%      Daily Assignments and Homework – 50%

\*Math, Reading Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

One-half credit may be earned in one semester. Students who fail either semester of a yearlong course may be permitted to continue the course and by cumulative grade average of 70 or higher for both semesters to receive credit for both semesters. Grades from correspondence courses, credit by exam, summer school, online courses, dual credit courses or credit recovery may be averaged with regular session semester grades to earn credit for both semesters of a yearlong course.

## End Of Course Exams

### End-of-Course (EOC's) Required for Graduation

- English I (reading and writing on a single test and given one score)
- English II (reading and writing on a single test and given one score)
- Algebra I
- US History
- Biology

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation, except in circumstances where a student may be eligible to graduate in accordance with a plan approved by an Individual Graduation Committee. (See “Individual Graduation Committee Decisions” below.)

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

**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 purpose of the TSI assessment is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshmen-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges and universities. This assessment may be required before a student enrolls in a dual- credit course offered through ILTexas as well.

## Individual Graduation Committee Decisions

A student who was enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade and who has failed the EOC assessment graduation requirements for no more than two courses may receive a high school diploma if the student has qualified to graduate by means of an individual graduation committee (“IGC”). A student may not graduate under an IGC if the student did not take each required EOC assessment or an approved substitute assessment for each course for which there is an EOC assessment.

Please see the Principal for more information on the makeup of an IGC and all other requirements for graduation.

### **ILTexas High School Academics**

**Students with Disabilities:** Upon the recommendation of the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (“ARD”) Committee, a student with disabilities who is receiving special education services may be promoted and/or permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her Individualized Education Program (“IEP”).

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. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

### **Foundation School Program**

Students who enter high school during the 2014-15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the foundation school program. Within the foundation graduation program are “endorsements,” which are described below. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student’s transcript and diploma. The foundation graduation program also involves the term “distinguished level of achievement,” which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student’s sophomore year, the student and the student’s parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to an appropriate school administrator for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student’s desired college or university. Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn “performance acknowledgements” that will be acknowledged on a student’s diploma and transcript.

Students will need to declare their preferred endorsement area, in writing, by the beginning of their 9th grade year. Students will be able to change their endorsement at any time. An endorsement is basically an opportunity for students to select a “major” during their high school career.

The endorsement areas are:

- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Industry
- Multidisciplinary
- Public Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

NOTE: To earn the STEM endorsement students MUST take Algebra II, Chemistry & Physics in concert with other Foundation + Endorsement Program requirements

ILTexas offers courses to meet endorsements in all areas. There are specific course requirements in the foundation curriculum based on the Endorsement selected.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE FHSP AND GRADUATION PLANS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9 PRIOR TO THE 2014–2015 SCHOOL YEAR MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

### **Grade Classification**

The following standards apply to grade classification. Standing is determined at the start of each school year. Classification is for the complete school year.

### **Core Classification**

*Four English:* I, II, III, IV, and/or other approved English course

*Four Math:* Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and/or other approved Math course

*Four Science:* Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems/Scientific Research and Design and/or other approved Science course

*Four Social Studies:* World Geography, World History, US History, Gov't/Eco, and/or other approved Social Studies course

### **Freshman**

A student entering high school for the first time or having fewer than six credits.

### **To Become a Sophomore**

A student who has earned a minimum of 6 credits with 3 of the 6 earned in Core courses will be classified as a sophomore. Min. of 6 total credits: 3 credits earned from any of the following courses:

- English I
- Algebra I
- Biology
- World Geography or other required social studies

### **To Become a Junior**

A student who has earned a minimum of 12 credits with 6 of the 12 earned in Core courses will be classified as a junior.

Min. of 12 total credits: 6 credits from any of the following courses:

- English I, II
- Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry or other required math course
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or other approved Science course
- World Geography, World History or other required social studies course

### **To Become a Senior**

A student who has earned a minimum of 18 credits with 10 of the 18 in Core courses and who is enrolled in a program that will allow for graduation will be classified as a senior.

Min. of 18 total credits: 10 credits from any of the following courses:

- English I, II, III

- Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry or other required math course
- Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems, Physics, or other required science course
- World Geography, World History, US History, or other required social studies course.

Students that are enrolled in the correct number of credits to graduate in the current school year may also be classified as a senior with principal approval.

### **Class Loads**

ILTexas high schools have 10 period block schedules. All students must be enrolled in all 10 classes, unless they are participating in the dual credit program or a qualifying internship.

### **Credit By Exam (CBE) For Acceleration**

ILTexas uses examinations and guidelines established by the State Board of Education to offer credit and acceleration by exam. Credit by examination may not be available for courses that require students to successfully complete an end-of-course exam.

### **If a Student has Prior Instruction**

A student in grades 6–12 who has previously taken a course or subject (but did not receive credit for it) may, in circumstances determined by the Principal or designee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam on the essential knowledge and skills defined for the course or subject. To receive credit, a student must score at least 70% on the exam.

The Attendance Review Committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to receive credit for a course by passing an exam.

### **If a Student Has Not Taken the Course**

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction or to accelerate to the next grade level. The exams offered by ILTexas are approved by the Board of Directors. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the academic year will be published in an appropriate school publication and on the ILTexas website.

A student in grade 6 or above will earn course credit with a passing score of at least 80 on the exam, or a score designated by the state for an exam that has alternate scoring standards. A student may take an exam to earn course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the approved exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's course sequence, the student must complete the course.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the Principal no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. ILTexas will not honor a request by a parent to administer a test on a date other than the published dates. If ILTexas agrees to administer a test other than the one chosen by the school, the student's parent will be responsible for the cost of the exam.

### **Credit Recovery Guidelines**

The goal of the ILTexas Credit Recovery Program is to assist students deficient in credits. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of their progress toward a diploma and to take full advantage of the assistance available. Please contact the individual campus for additional information. ILTexas utilizes the Plato/Edmentum courseware to assist with credit recovery.

High school students who fail a course may recover credit through the following options:

1. Correspondence
2. Credit by Examination
3. Summer School
4. On-line courses
5. Dual-credit
6. Repeating the class during the school day
7. Credit Recovery class scheduled before or after school

**Plato For Initial Credit**

Plato courses may be used for initial credit under extenuating circumstances, pending counselor and principal’s written approval. The preference is for students to receive face to face instruction in a traditional setting for initial credit; however, there may be scenarios (schedule conflicts, singleton courses, students needing a course not offered, etc.) where we will need to look to the Plato catalog of courses as an option. Plato courses taken for initial credit will receive a weight of 1.0, regardless of level or rigor.

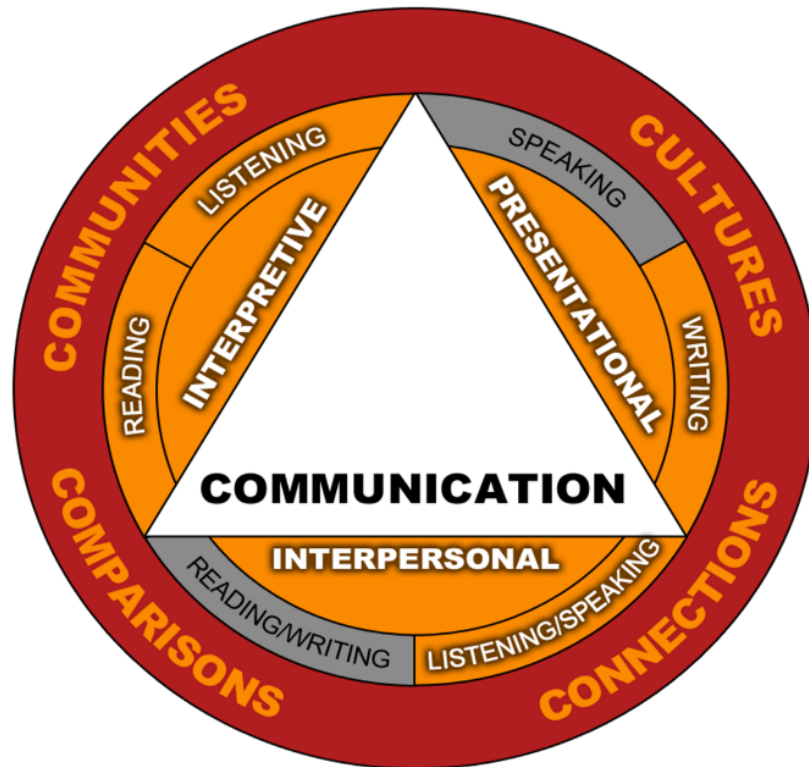
**Summer School**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Course Fees   | Course fees will not exceed \$200 per course   |
| Purposes  | * Credit Recovery for high school students, and<br>* Initial Credit (pending counselor and administrator approval) |
| State Required Summer School (No Fee)   |  |
| * ESY (Extended School Year) for special education students who may qualify                             |  |
| * Accelerated instruction for all high school students who must re-take End of Course (EOC) assessments |  |

The following information pertains to all grade levels:

- Any cost associated with any Credit Recovery or courses for acceleration outside of the school day will be the responsibility of the student and parent.
- Course progress will be checked weekly and good attendance and effort must be evident or the student may be dismissed from the credit recovery course with no refund.
- For dual credit courses, transportation to and from the college campus either outside of the school day or during the school day will be the responsibility of the student and parent.
- Seniors planning to participate in graduation must provide proof of credit earned and recorded at least seven school days before graduation. All other students must provide proof of credit prior to the start of the following school year in order to receive credit that would result in promotion to the next grade level. Reclassification is only done each year prior to the start of school except when students are classified as juniors who are enrolled in courses for the second semester that would enable them to graduate if completed successfully will be reclassified as seniors at mid-term. Students must seek prior approval from appropriate campus staff before enrolling in any of the credit recovery options.
- Students should refer to existing guidelines for details regarding Correspondence, Credit by Exam, Dual-Credit, Summer School and On-line Courses.
- Final decisions regarding placement in credit recovery rest with the campus principal.

**SECONDARY LANGUAGE PROGRAMING FOR GRADES 6-12**



## What's my proficiency level?

| Basic User  |   | Independent User   |   | Proficient User  |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>NOVICE LOW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can give lists</li> <li>Uses only memorized phrases</li> <li>Occasional short sentences</li> </ul> <p><i>"I can communicate about familiar topics."</i></p>   | <p><b>NOVICE MID</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks in lists</li> <li>50+ words</li> <li>No creations</li> <li>Can introduce self and others</li> </ul> <p><i>"I can survive and cope in country."</i></p> | <p><b>NOVICE HIGH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks in phrases</li> <li>Speech is still limited to memorized material</li> <li>Can ask for and give simple directions</li> </ul>   | <p><b>INTERMEDIATE LOW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks in complete sentences</li> <li>Can hold simple conversations about everyday topics</li> <li>Can ask and answer questions on familiar topics</li> </ul> | <p><b>INTERMEDIATE MID</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can create with language using some memorized phrases</li> <li>Created language is mostly related to self</li> <li>Can handle a simple situation or transaction</li> <li>Can create my own questions and answer someone else's</li> </ul>      | <p><b>INTERMEDIATE HIGH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can use language to do a task that requires multiple steps</li> <li>Can handle a situation that may have a complication</li> <li>Can present a point of view with reasons to support</li> <li>Ask and answer and variety of questions</li> <li>Can tell a story in the past, present and future with errors</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>ADVANCED LOW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can participate in most informal and some formal conversations</li> <li>Narrates and describes in paragraphs</li> <li>Can rephrase and describe unfamiliar words</li> <li>Speech may be somewhat irregular, strained, and tentative</li> <li>Can convey intended message without confusion</li> <li>Can narrate a story in the past, present, and future</li> </ul> |   | <p><b>ADVANCED MID</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrates and describes in the past, present, and future with few errors</li> <li>Communicates well about concrete topics, especially familiar topics</li> <li>Can handle an unexpected turn of events</li> </ul>   |   | <p><b>ADVANCED HIGH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can communicate with ease about a variety of topics</li> <li>Does better discussing concrete rather than abstract topics</li> <li>Can paraphrase and describe words to compensate for unknown vocabulary</li> </ul>                               |   |
| <p><i>"How can I jump a level?"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combine your words and phrases into full sentences.</li> <li>Practice asking questions.</li> <li>Keep learning new words.</li> </ul>   |   | <p><i>"How can I jump a level?"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speak in more full sentences.</li> <li>Keep the conversation going by asking follow up questions.</li> <li>Keep learning new words.</li> <li>Talk around words that you don't know.</li> <li>Practice talking about past events.</li> </ul> |   | <p><i>"How can I jump a level?"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work on supporting your opinion.</li> <li>Try to speak with fewer hesitations.</li> <li>Add more details to explain complex matters.</li> <li>Practice discussing more advanced topics, like politics and abstract topics.</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Parrot</b>   |   | <b>Survivor</b>  |   | <b>Reporter</b>  |   |

\*Based on 2012 ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines

## NEW to ILTexas Student Transcript Evaluation and Language Placement Policy

*Placement into a language course is based on a student's home language, language credits earned in another school and/or performance on an ILTexas approved language proficiency test.*

### **Steps to take to place a newly enrolled student into a language course**

- Please review the student's transcript and withdraw paperwork before making any placement decisions
- Please reach out to the headquarters Chinese or Spanish Director if you have any questions regarding placement or testing.
- All ILTexas students will enroll in both a Chinese and Spanish course from 6-12 grade
- Decisions should be made using the following criteria

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

### **Alcohol-Free School Notice**

In order to provide a safe and alcohol-free environment for students and employees, all alcoholic beverages are prohibited on ILTexas property at all times, and at all school-sanctioned activities occurring on or off school property. Student violators are subject to possible prosecution, as allowed by law, as well as the disciplinary terms of the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Drug-Free School Notice**

ILTexas believes that student use of illicit drugs is both wrong and harmful. Consequently, ILTexas prohibits the use, sale, possession, or distribution of illicit drugs by students on school premises or any school activity, regardless of its location. ILTexas also prohibits the use, sale, possession, or distribution of look-alike substances and/or synthetic substances designed to imitate the look and/or effects of illicit drugs. Student violators are subject to possible prosecution, as allowed by law, as well as the disciplinary terms of the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Tobacco-Free School Notice**

Smoking (including electronic cigarettes, cigars, and pipes) and using tobacco products are prohibited in school buildings, vehicles, or on or near school property, or at school-related or school-sanctioned events off school property. Students may not possess tobacco products at any of the locations or activities listed above. Student violators are subject to possible prosecution, as allowed by law, as well as the disciplinary terms of the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

All school facilities have been inspected for asbestos by a licensed Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act ("AHERA") inspector. An Asbestos Management Plan has been created for each ILTexas campus in accordance with federal regulations. Parents may view the Asbestos Management Plan by contacting the Principal. Copies of the management plan are also available at a reasonable charge.

### **Bacterial Meningitis Information**

State law requires ILTexas to provide the following information:

What is bacterial meningitis?

Meningitis is an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It is usually caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. Viral meningitis is the most common and least serious. Most



people completely recover from viral meningitis. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and may involve complicated medical treatment.

What are the symptoms of bacterial meningitis?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill but not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Children (over one year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pain, drowsiness, or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash or tiny red-purple spots that can occur on any part of the body.

How is Bacterial Meningitis diagnosed?

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

How serious is Bacterial Meningitis?

Bacterial meningitis is a very serious disease. If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. Even with prompt treatment, some cases may result in permanent disabilities such as loss of hearing, loss of vision, mental retardation, paralysis, or limb amputations. Bacterial meningitis can also be fatal.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs that cause meningitis live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, sharing drinking containers, eating utensils or cigarettes). The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks or even months. Being a carrier helps to stimulate your body's natural defense system. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Bacterial meningitis can be prevented by limiting the number of people you kiss and by not sharing food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes.

Vaccines that help prevent meningitis are required for young children, if there is a meningitis outbreak in the community, and for people traveling to foreign countries where there is a high risk of getting the disease. A vaccine that can prevent meningitis in adolescents and young adults is state mandated for students in grades 7–12 and unvaccinated first year college students ages 19–21. Administer booster dose if the most recent dose given was when the student was younger than age 16. The vaccine is safe and effective (85%-90%). It can cause mild side effects such as redness and discomfort at the injection site lasting up to two days

What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis? You should seek prompt medical attention.

Where can you get more information?

Your family doctor and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health

department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about the meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the Texas Department of State Health Services: [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us).

### **Emergency Medical Treatment**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity and the parent cannot be reached, ILTexas staff will seek emergency medical treatment unless the parent has previously provided a written statement denying this authorization. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the campus registrar to update any information.

### **Student Illness**

When your child is ill, please contact ILTexas to let us know he or she will not be attending that day. Students must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication and must be free of vomiting/diarrhea without the use of diarrhea suppressing medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

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

### **Dispensing Of Prescription Medications At School**

ILTexas recognizes medication orders provided by health-care professionals (MD, DO, DDS, APN, PA, etc.) that are licensed by the State of Texas and have authority to write prescriptions.

Medication must be filled by a pharmacist licensed by the State of Texas. **In accordance with the Texas Board of Nursing's Nurse Practice Act, ILTexas will not administer medications prescribed or filled in Mexico.**

All prescriptions MUST be in the ORIGINAL and properly labeled containers. Prescription labels must include the student's name, name of medication, date filled, dosage, how the medication is administered, time/or frequency to give the medication, and physician's name printed on the bottle. All prescriptions shall be accompanied by a "Permission to Administer" form and signed by the parent. It must state the instructions on the prescription label and must include the parent's daytime phone numbers. Permission forms are available through the clinic and are active for one school year. If a prescription changes, the parent/guardian must complete a new permission form.

- Parents should deliver medications to the clinic or nurse's office for their children. Please **do not** send medications to school with the student.
- Paperwork must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and prescribing physician.
- NO Student should EVER have any medications in their backpack, purse, or on themselves.
- Medication will be secured, stored and administered only in the nurse's office.

### **Dispensing Of Over-The-Counter (Otc)/Non-Prescription Medications At School**

Nurses can provide some OTC (Over-the-counter) medications to students with prior parental consent as provided by Hazel Health (Telemedicine MD visit).

Medication packaged as a physician's sample or OTC must be provided by the parent/guardian and accompanied by a written, signed prescription by the doctor, including all information listed above.

Prescription and OTC medications will only be given if the parent's and physician's current phone numbers are on file in the nurse's office.

Non-prescription medication must be provided by the parent or guardian labeled with the student's name and in the original manufacturer's container. OTC medications will be kept in the nurse's office ONLY if a medication administration form signed by the prescribing physician is provided.

NO aspirin will be given to students. Herbal, experimental, trial or medications not approved by the FDA will not be administered to students, unless the medication is required by the student's Individualized Education Program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.

**Any student found taking medication or giving medication to another student will be subject to school disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct.**

### **Asthma And Anaphylaxis Medications**

Asthma and anaphylaxis are life-threatening conditions, and students with those conditions are entitled to possess and self-administer prescription medication while on school property or at school-related events. Student possession and self-administration of asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school requires the student to demonstrate his or her ability to self-administer the medication to the student's physician or other licensed health care provider and the school nurse, if available. Requirements also include written authorization from the student's parent and physician or other licensed health care provider on file in the school office indicating the student is capable of independently administering his or her own asthma or emergency anaphylaxis medication. Medication in a student's possession must be in an original container with a prescription label. Please note that most pharmacies will place a label on the inhaler device upon request.

### **Severe Allergic Reaction**

It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the nurse is aware of any student's hypersensitivities to food/environment/insects. An Allergy Action Plan is advised for any student with a known history of anaphylactic reaction and is available from the school nurse. Students requiring medication for the treatment of an allergic reaction (Examples of medication include Benadryl in a lotion or pill form, Epi-pen, or topical creams) must have a signed Allergy Action Plan and a "Permission to Administer" form on file in the nurse's clinic.

### **Communicable Diseases**

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. Parents of students with a communicable or contagious disease should notify the Campus Principal or designee so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. School authorities will report those students who are suspected of having a reportable condition. A list of reportable conditions can be found on the DSHS website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/>.

Any student excluded from school attendance for reason of communicable disease may be readmitted by one or more of the following methods, as determined by the local health authority:

- Certificate of the attending physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant attesting that the child does not currently have signs or symptoms of a communicable disease or to the disease's non-infectiousness in a school setting;
- Submitting a permit for readmission issued by a local health authority; or
- Meeting readmission criteria as established by the commissioner of health.

## **Immunizations**

The State of Texas requires that every child in the state be immunized against vaccine preventable diseases caused by infectious agents in accordance with an established immunization schedule.

To determine the specific number of doses that are required for your student, please read “2023–2024 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K–12” document issued by the TDSHS. Specific immunization information is available on the TDSHS website at <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/>.

Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber- stamp validation.

## **Provisional Enrollment**

A student can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if he or she transfers from one Texas school to another, and is awaiting the transfer or the immunization record.

A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate required vaccine. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school. ILTexas shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, then the student is not in compliance and ILTexas shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

A student who is homeless, as defined by the McKinney Act (42 U.S.C. § 11302), shall be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. ILTexas shall promptly refer the student to appropriate public health programs to obtain the required vaccinations.

## **Exclusions from Immunization Requirements**

Exclusions from immunization requirements are allowable on an individual basis for medical reasons, reasons of conscience (including a religious belief), and active duty with the armed forces of the United States.

To claim exclusion for medical reasons, the student must present a statement signed by the student’s physician (M.D. or D.O.), duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States who has examined the student, in which it is stated that, in the physician’s opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student’s household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

To claim an exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, a signed Texas Department of State Health Services (“TDSHS”) affidavit must be presented by the student’s parent, stating that the student’s parent declines vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including because of the person’s religious beliefs. The affidavit will be valid for a period of two years. The form affidavit may be obtained by writing the TDSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347, or online at <https://corequest.dshs.texas.gov/>. The form must be submitted to the Campus Principal within 90 days from the date it is notarized. If the parent is

seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student. Students, who have not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.

To claim exclusion for armed forces, the student must prove that he or she is serving on active duty with the armed forces of the United States.

### **Immunization Records Reporting**

ILTexas' record of a student's immunization history, while private in most instances, may be inspected by the Texas Education Agency, local health departments, and TDSHS and transferred to other schools associated with the transfer of the student to those schools.

### **STEROID NOTICE**

ILTexas does not permit steroid use. A notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the school gym or in each other place in a building where physical education classes are conducted for 7th grade and higher.

### **Law Enforcement Agencies**

#### **Questioning of Students**

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

1. The Principal or designee shall verify and record the identity of the official and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
2. The Principal or designee ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent, unless the interviewer raises what the Principal or designee considers to be a valid objection.
3. The Principal or designee ordinarily will be present during the questioning or interview, unless the interviewer raises what the Principal or designee considers to be a valid objection.

When the investigation involves allegations of child abuse, special rules apply.

#### **Students Taken into Custody**

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

1. Pursuant to an order of the juvenile court;
2. Pursuant to the laws of arrest;
3. By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in conduct that violates a penal law, delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision, or conduct that violates a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court;
4. By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court;
5. Pursuant to a properly issued directive to apprehend; or
6. By an authorized representative of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services ("TDFPS"), a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in Section 262.104 of the Texas Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.

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

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

### **Child Abuse Reporting And Programs**

ILTexas provides child abuse anti-victimization programs and cooperates with official child abuse investigators as required by law. The school also provides training to its teachers and students in preventing and addressing incidents of sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse or maltreatment. Assistance, interventions and counseling options are also available.

The school's administration shall cooperate with law enforcement investigations of child abuse, including investigations by the Texas Department of Protective and Family Services. School officials may not refuse to permit an investigator to interview a student who is alleged to be a victim of abuse or neglect at school. School officials may not require the investigator to permit school personnel to be present during an interview conducted at school.

Investigations at school may be conducted by authorized law enforcement or state agencies without prior notification or consent of the student's parent, if necessary.

### **Plan For Addressing Sexual Abuse And Other Maltreatment Of Children**

#### **What is Sexual Abuse of a Child?**

The Texas Family Code defines "sexual abuse" as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as, in certain circumstances, failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct harmful to a child.

#### **What is Other Maltreatment of a Child?**

Under State law, "other maltreatment" of a child includes "abuse" or "neglect," as defined by the Texas Family Code sections 261.001 and 261.401.

#### **Reporting Obligation**

Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services ("DFPS"). Reports may be made by contacting one of the following:

- Texas Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400 or, in non-emergency situations only; <http://www.txabusehotline.org>;
- Your local police department; or
- Call 911 for emergency situations.

ILTexas has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children (the "Plan"). The Plan is addressed in this section of the Handbook.

## **Methods for Increasing Awareness Regarding Sexual Abuse or Other Maltreatment of Children**

For Staff: ILTexas annually trains staff in all content areas addressed in the Plan. Training is provided by campus staff, administrative staff, or outside agencies as determined by the campus administration.

For Students: School counseling staff will address issues to increase awareness regarding sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children and anti-victimization programs with age appropriate conversation and materials no less than once per school year. These discussions will occur in classroom group settings.

For Parents: Parents must be aware of warning signs indicating that their child may have been or is being sexually abused or otherwise maltreated. A child who has experienced sexual abuse or other maltreatment should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that evidence of sexual abuse or other maltreatment may be more indirect than disclosures or signs of physical abuse. It is important to remain calm and comforting if your child, or another child, confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing in coming to you.

The fact that the abuser is a parent or other family member does not remove your obligation to protect the child. Parents who permit their child to remain in a situation where he or she may be injured or abused may also be subject to prosecution for child abuse. And, if you are frightened for your own safety or that of your child, you should call 911 or 1-800-252-5400.

Also remember that parents are legally responsible for the care of their children and must provide their children with safe and adequate food, clothing, shelter, protection, medical care and supervision, or arrange for someone else to provide these things. Failure to do so may be considered neglect.

The Principal or designee will provide information regarding counseling options available in your area for you and your child if your child is a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment. The DFPS also provides early abuse intervention through counseling programs. Services available in your county can be accessed at the following web address: [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Programs\\_Available\\_In\\_Your\\_County/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp).

These websites are also helpful:

- Texas Education Agency – Prevention of Child Abuse Overview:
  - [http://tea.texas.gov/Texas\\_Schools/Safe\\_and\\_Healthy\\_Schools/Child\\_Abuse\\_Prevention/Child\\_Abuse\\_Prevention\\_Overview/](http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/Safe_and_Healthy_Schools/Child_Abuse_Prevention/Child_Abuse_Prevention_Overview/)
- Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs:
  - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/>
- Promoting Healthy Families in Your Neighborhood:
  - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/packet.pdf>
- Signs of Child Abuse:
  - <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html>
- DFPS – Prevent Child Abuse (HelpandHope.org)
  - <http://helpandhope.org>
- DFPS – How to Report Child Abuse or Neglect
  - [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_us/report\\_abuse.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_us/report_abuse.asp)
- Texas Attorney General – What Can We Do About Child Abuse?

- <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/what-can-we-do-about-child-abuse>
- Texas Association for the Protection of Children
  - <http://www.texprotects.org/about/PCAT/>
- Texas Council on Family Violence – Abuse Prevention Links
  - <http://www.tcfv.org/>

### **Likely Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse or Other Maltreatment**

Psychological and behavioral signs of possible sexual abuse or other maltreatment may include:

- Nightmares, sleep problems, extreme fears without an obvious explanation.
- Sudden or unexplained personality changes; becoming withdrawn, angry, moody, clingy, “checking out” or showing significant changes in eating habits.
- Depression or irritability.
- An older child behaving like a young child, for example, bedwetting or thumb sucking.
- Developing fear of certain places or resisting being alone with an adult or young person for unknown reasons.
- Resistance to routine bathing, toileting, or removing clothes, even in appropriate situations.
- Play, writing, drawings, or dreams of sexual or frightening images.
- Refusal to talk about a secret he or she has with an adult or older child.
- Leaving clues that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues.
- Using new or adult words for body parts.
- Engaging in adult-like sexual activities with toys, objects or other children.
- Developing special relationships with older friends that may include unexplained money, gifts, or privileges.
- Intentionally harming him or herself, for example, drug/alcohol use, cutting, burning, running away, and sexual promiscuity.
- Thinking of self or body as repulsive, dirty, or bad.
- Becoming increasingly secretive about Internet or telephone use.

Physical symptoms of possible sexual abuse or other maltreatment include:

- Stomachaches or illness, often with no identifiable reason.
- Difficulty in walking or sitting.
- Stained or bloody underwear.
- Genital or rectal pain, itching, swelling, redness, or discharge.
- Bruises or other injuries in the genital or rectal area.
- Unexplained soreness, pain or bruises around mouth, sexually transmitted disease, or pregnancy.

Any one sign does not necessarily mean that a child has been sexually abused or maltreated, but the presence of several signs is the time you should begin asking questions and seeking help. Often signs first emerge at other times of stress, such as during a divorce, death of a family member or pet, problems at school or with friends, or other traumatic or anxiety- inducing events.

### **Actions That A Child Who Is A Victim Of Sexual Abuse Or Other Maltreatment Should Take**

During student awareness sessions concerning sexual abuse and other maltreatment issues, students will be encouraged to tell a trusted adult in a private and confidential conversation if they have been



a victim of sexual abuse or other maltreatment or have been in situations that make them feel uncomfortable in any way. School employees are trained to take appropriate actions to help the child obtain assistance and to follow proper reporting procedures. Older students will also be provided with local crisis hotline numbers to obtain assistance.

### **Available Counseling Options**

A list of counseling providers can be found at:

- [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Programs\\_Available\\_In\\_Your\\_County/](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/)

## **FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION**

### **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

ILTexas prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religions, gender or sex, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law. ILTexas also prohibits dating violence, as defined by this Handbook. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of school policy.

### **Discrimination**

For purposes of this Handbook, discrimination against a student is defined as conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or sex, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law and that adversely affects the student.

### **Prohibited Harassment**

Prohibited harassment of a student is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on the student's race, color, religion, gender or sex, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

- Affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student's academic performance; or
- Otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities.

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes; name calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of 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-Related Harassment**

In compliance with the requirements of Title IX, ILTexas does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. Sexual harassment of a student, including harassment committed by another student, includes unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:

- Affects the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or
- Otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities.

Examples of sexual harassment of a student may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

ILTexas also does not tolerate sexual harassment of a student by school employees. Romantic or inappropriate social relationships between students and school employees are prohibited. Any sexual relationship between a student and a school employee is always prohibited, even if consensual.

Sexual harassment of a student by a school employee includes both welcome and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- A school employee causes the student to believe that the student must submit to the conduct in order to participate in a school program or activity, or that the employee will make an educational decision based on whether or not the student submits to the conduct; or
- The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it:
- Affects the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities; or
- Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment.

Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student’s gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student’s gender, or the student’s failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender.

Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student’s or the harasser’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

## **Dating Violence**

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 partner. Examples of dating violence against a student may include physical or sexual assaults, name-calling, put-downs, threats to hurt the student or 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, attempts to isolate the student from friends and family, stalking, or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

For purposes of this Handbook, dating violence is considered prohibited harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

- Affects the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment;

- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with the student’s academic performance; or
- Otherwise adversely affects the student’s educational opportunities.

### **Retaliation**

ILTexas prohibits retaliation against a student alleged to have experienced discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, or another student who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation. 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.

A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a school investigation regarding discrimination or harassment is subject to appropriate discipline.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation (“prohibited conduct”) or believes that another student has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, the Campus Principal, or the designated Compliance Coordinator. Any school employee who receives a report of prohibited conduct must immediately relay the report to the Campus Principal.

Upon receipt of a report of prohibited conduct, the Campus Principal will immediately notify the appropriate Compliance Coordinator designated to investigate the complaint, as follows:

1. Reports of prohibited conduct based on sex, including sexual harassment will be directed to the local Title IX Coordinator: Regina Jones
2. Reports of prohibited conduct based on age will be directed to the Chief Legal Officer.
3. Reports of prohibited conduct based on disability will be directed to the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator: Charles Hairgrove, Executive Director of Special Populations.
4. A student shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the conduct. Reports of prohibited conduct against a Campus Principal should be submitted to the designated Compliance Coordinator. Reports against a Compliance Coordinator may be directed to the CEO.

### **Investigation of Complaints**

Students and parents are encouraged to report potential prohibited conduct as soon as possible, so that the school may conduct a thorough and efficient investigation. After receiving a complaint of potential prohibited conduct, the school may, but need not, require the student to prepare a written report. Oral complaints will be reduced to written form. When appropriate, the school may take interim action to avoid additional opportunities for discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the Compliance Coordinator or designee shall promptly authorize and undertake an investigation. Following completion of the investigation, the Compliance Coordinator or designee will prepare a written decision regarding the complaint, including a determination of whether prohibited discrimination or harassment occurred.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and any others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding

the allegations. If the results of the investigation establish that prohibited conduct occurred, the school shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the prohibited conduct and prevent its recurrence. The school may take disciplinary action based on the results of an investigation, even if the school concludes that the conduct did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct prohibited by law or policy.

### **Confidentiality**

To the greatest extent possible, ILTexas will 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 and comply with applicable law.

### **Appeal**

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through the process set forth in the “Parent and Student Complaints and Grievances” process beginning on page 44 of this handbook. The student and/or parent shall also be informed of his or her right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

## **FREEDOM FROM BULLYING AND CYBER-BULLYING**

ILTexas prohibits bullying as defined by this section, as well as retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process. Bullying means 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 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; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the School; or
- Infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Cyberbullying means 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, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

The school’s bullying policy applies to:

- Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
- Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately-owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
- Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying:
  - Interferes with a student’s educational opportunities; or

- o Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced any form of bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to the Principal or designee, a teacher, counselor, or other school employee. A report may be made orally or in writing, and may be submitted anonymously. Any school employee who receives notice that a student has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the Principal or designee. The Principal or designee will notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any student witnesses of available counseling options.

The Principal or designee shall provide notice of incident of alleged bullying to:

- A parent or guardian of the alleged victim on or before the third business day after the date the incident is reported; and
- A parent or guardian of the alleged bully within a reasonable amount of time after the incident.

### **Investigation of Report**

The Principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited harassment and, if so, proceed under that policy instead. The Principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report, and shall take prompt interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

The Principal or designee shall prepare a written report of the investigation, including a determination of whether bullying occurred. If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the school shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

ILTexas may take action based on the results of an investigation, even if the school concludes that the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying under this policy.

Discipline for bullying of a student with disabilities shall comply with applicable requirements under federal law, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 *et seq.*). ILTexas may not impose discipline on a student who, after an investigation, is found to be a victim of bullying, based on that student's use of reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying.

The Principal, or the Principal's designee, may make a report to the police department of the municipality in which the school is located or, if the school is not in a municipality, the sheriff of the county in which the school is located if, after an investigation is completed, the Principal or designee has reasonable grounds to believe that a student engaged in conduct that constitutes an offense under Section 22.01 (Assault) or 42.07(a)(7) (Harassment), Texas Penal Code.

### **Confidentiality**

To the greatest extent possible, ILTexas shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation.

## **Appeal**

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through the ILTexas grievance procedure.

## **STATE-MANDATED SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAM**

Students are screened according to the Texas Board of Education Rules and the school health programs mandated by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

### **Dyslexia and Related Disorders**

From time to time, students may be tested and, where appropriate, treated for dyslexia and related disorders in accordance with programs, rules, and standards approved by the state. The program approved by the state must include screening at the end of the school year of each student in kindergarten and each student in the first grade. Parents will be notified should ILTexas determine a need to identify or assess a student for dyslexia and related disorders.

### **Fitness Testing**

According to requirements under state law, ILTexas will annually assess the physical fitness of students. ILTexas is not required to assess a student for whom, as a result of disability or other condition identified by rule or law, the assessment exam is inappropriate.

### **Vision and Hearing Screening**

All children enrolled in Texas schools must be screened for possible vision and hearing problems in accordance with regulations issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Students in certain grade levels identified by state regulations shall be screened for vision and hearing problems annually. A student may be screened using photo screening to detect vision disorders.

Screening records for individual students may be inspected by the TDSHS or a local health department, and may be transferred to another school without parental consent.

**Exemption:** A student is exempt from screening requirements if screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the individual is an adherent or a member. To qualify for the exemption, the individual or, if the individual is a minor, the minor's parent, managing conservator, or guardian, must submit to the Campus Principal or designee on or before the day of admission an affidavit stating the objections to screening.

### **Spinal Screening**

Certain students must be screened at various times set by law for abnormal spinal curvature before the end of the school year. The screening requirement for students may be met if the child has been screened for spinal deformities during the previous year.

A parent who declines participation in the spinal screening provided by ILTexas must submit to the Superintendent or designee documentation of a professional examination which includes the results of a forward-bend test. This documentation must be submitted to ILTexas during the year the student is scheduled for screening or, if the professional exam is obtained during the following summer, at the beginning of the following school year.

**Exemption:** A student is exempt from screening if the screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the individual is an adherent or

member. To qualify for the exemption, the student’s parent, managing conservator, or guardian must submit to the Superintendent or designee on or before the day of the screening procedure an affidavit stating the objections to screening.

### **Texas Risk Assessment for Type II Diabetes**

All first, third, fifth, and eighth grade students will be screened for a skin marker that may indicate high levels of insulin in the blood which results from insulin resistance. If the screening reveals abnormal results, the parent/guardian is notified through the referral process.

### **Referrals**

Referrals should be returned to the school nurse as soon as possible after a specialist is seen. When referrals are not returned to the campus, the school nurse follows up with parents/guardians to determine whether or not the student was seen and treated. The State of Texas requires each school district to report screening results at the end of each school year.

**For questions regarding any of the above health policies, please refer to your campus Nurse.**

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Engaging Our Parents**

ILTexas believes in the importance of partnerships that support education. We believe that parents are an essential partner in the education of students, and over 30 years of research supports this belief. We know that a parent is a child’s first and most important teacher, and a great deal of learning occurs before children begin school. We rely on the guidance parents provide their children and the insights they provide us as educators.

Parental involvement in education is necessary in order to create a stronger, safer, and more enriching future for our ILTexas students.

We invite you to help us help your child by practicing some of these basic standards of good parenting:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| • Read together   | • Monitor and limit the use of electronics                                 |
| • Establish a daily family routine  | • Schedule and keep daily homework time                                    |
| • Monitor out-of-school activities and social media                       | • Talk regularly with your children and listen to what they have to say    |
| • Communicate positive values: respect, hard and work, and responsibility | • Express high expectations and offer praise encouragement for achievement |

*Furthermore, you are highly encouraged to join your campus Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO is an essential part of ILTexas. Campus PTOs work hard at enriching our students’ education and building stronger bonds between the campus and the home. Although the PTO works very closely with the campus and campus principal, it is a separate entity.*

### **Communication**

A healthy school environment requires ample and appropriate communication between all members of the school community. Communication requires regularly scheduled progress conferences, reports, and timely responses to other issues that arise. If you feel this is not occurring, please contact your student’s teacher first, then the appropriate school Administrator. Appropriate

communication is respectful of the time, opinions, and feelings of others. It is directed toward the person charged with solving the problem or knowing the answer to the question. To help you determine who the appropriate individual is with ownership of an issue, please consult the school's directory.

### **ILTexas.Org**

The ILTexas website is a primary source of communication for our parent community. All families are encouraged to regularly view the website and social media pages for updated information. Please make the ILTexas website one of your "favorites." All important information is posted on the front page of the website. Also visit websites and social media pages of all ILTexas campuses.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parents will be actively involved in their child's education. They will have scheduled meetings with their child and teacher periodically during the year to review goals and progress. Methods in which the child can be supported outside of school in order to expand on the learning occurring at school will be discussed. Parents will want to participate in the demonstration and presentation nights. They are encouraged to share their knowledge, talents and interests/expertise with students in large and small groups or with students working on individual projects.

### **Parent Volunteers (Volunteers In Public Schools - VIPS)**

The International Leadership of Texas volunteer program, Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS), consists of all people who donate their time and talents to assist our schools in enriching the learning environment. Everyone who volunteers in our schools is a VIPS volunteer. Some of the volunteers are mentors, tutors, business partners, PTO members, booster club backers, Campus Improvement Committee (CIC) participants, and homeroom parents. All campuses will have a Volunteer Coordinator working with the VIPS program. The Volunteer Coordinator will assist the school in meeting the educational needs of the students by matching the volunteers' abilities/preferences to those needs.

Strong parental involvement is a key component of any successful school. Parents, as well as relatives and friends, are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available through the campus Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO aims to:

- Facilitate communication between the school and parents as well as between parents
- Provide essential support to the school and its staff
- Promote age appropriate social activities for students
- Foster a sense of inclusion and community within our school family

### **Volunteer Background Checks**

All volunteers who will be working in the school or around students must consent to a background check, which will be conducted by the school headquarters. Volunteer Background Checks are completed entirely electronically and must be completed every school year. See our volunteer link: <https://www.iltexas.org/volunteer>

### **Visitor Policy**

Everyone coming to ILTexas must first check in with the receptionist. Visitors, parents, guests, and service workers will be given a visitor's pass to wear and will be checked in via the Raptor system. School visitations are not permitted during school hours without prior approval from the Campus Principal. Parents may not visit students in classrooms without an escort and may not visit teachers



unannounced. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment with the office manager or by emailing with the teacher. We would like to be considerate of our teachers; therefore; please allow 24-hour notice. Please also see Lunch Visitation.

### **Disruptions**

In order to protect student safety and sustain an educational program free from disruption, state law permits ILTexas to take action against any parent, person – student or nonstudent – who:

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

### **Visitor Screening**

ILTexas uses Raptor Technologies visitor registry program to screen and identify those individuals who are listed as Registered Sexual Offenders who might try to enter the School. Upon entering the school, a visitor will present a valid state or government issued photo identification card (usually a person's driver license) to the front desk attendant and it will be scanned into the Raptor system. Once completed, a visitor's badge will be issued with the person's name and photo, the day's date, the time, and the destination within the building for the visit. When the visitor leaves the building, an entry will be made that the person has left the building. If you have any questions about the screening system, please contact the school Principal.

### **Returned Checks**

In the event the bank returns a check for non-sufficient funds, repayment must be made by money order or cash and will include a \$30.00 returned item-handling fee to cover bank charges. By submitting payment by check, you agree to this policy as allowed by law. A student may be restricted from extracurricular activities and records will be held until full payment is received. After three occurrences of returned checks from one family, all future fees must be paid by money order, cashier's check or cash. When paying by cash, always request a receipt.

## **Financial Need**

Any family in need of financial assistance with school fees of any kind should contact the Campus Principal.

## **SCHOOL PROPERTY**

### **Technology, Textbooks And Library Books**

ILTexas is committed to preparing students to be highly successful citizens in a global economy and have developed a technology program for one-to-one computing for all students. This program will immerse our students into a technology-rich learning environment to prepare for the workplace and life. ILTexas will issue electronic chromebooks to students in grades 4-12, and they are considered property of ILTexas. ILTexas will charge an annual use and maintenance fee, as described in the “Chromebook Use Agreement” distributed to each student and parent. ILTexas may waive or decrease the fee for economically disadvantaged students. As long as the student is enrolled in ILTexas schools, the student management system will remain on the device.

State-approved textbooks and additional curriculum materials are provided free of charge for each subject or class, except for dual credit courses. Materials must be used by the students as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued damaged materials should report the damage to the teacher. Students must also take proper care of library books. Students will be required to pay a fine for lost, damaged, or overdue materials.

Students must return textbooks and supplemental materials to the teacher at the end of the school year or when the student withdraws from school. Any student failing to return issued materials in an acceptable condition loses the right to free textbooks and educational materials until the student and/or parent pay for the damages. However, a student will be provided textbooks and educational materials for use during the school day. ILTexas may reduce or waive the payment requirement if the student is economically disadvantaged. Release of student records, including official transcripts, will be delayed pending payment for lost or severely damaged textbooks.

## **ILTEXAS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)**

### **Introduction**

ILTexas provides students and employees with extensive technology resources, including computing facilities, local area networks, Internet access, and email addresses. Our goal is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication within our own community and the world. As a member of the ILTexas community, I agree to follow School rules and commit to the School’s values. We must all agree to support the needs of the School community even if they may conflict with one’s personal desires.

### **ILTexas Technology Ownership**

- ILTexas owns all systems, software, and email addresses. Content created with the School’s technology tools and saved on the School network is the property of the School.
- Computer resources at ILTexas are a limited resource and are reserved for educational and school-related business.
- If I leave the School community, I may take copies of anything I have created. However, this content can continue to be used by the School for educational purposes.

- I must return all technology items including Chromebook, chargers, any other technology items received, at the end of the year. This device/equipment cannot be sold or given to anybody else, and at the end of the year needs to be returned back. ILTexas reserves the right to charge the appropriate cost of the device/equipment if it is unreturned or damaged or is sold or given to a third party.

#### My Use of School Computing Resources

- I will help to create a positive atmosphere by allowing those engaged in academic work priority use of the computers.
- I will respect the work and the privacy of others throughout the International Leadership of Texas Education network.
- I will use my applications, email accounts, and International Leadership of Texas Education network space appropriately for school-related activities.
- I will not intentionally save or install files and/or software on School equipment without the authorization of a teacher or the network administrators.
- I will not use ILTexas technology resources for commercial activity, for seeking monetary gain, or for political purposes.

#### System Security

- I will log on to the network utilizing the ILTexas issued device only as myself while at school and at home for any and all instructional purposes.
- I am responsible for my individual account and will take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use my account.
- I will not share my login credentials with anyone.
- I will also not access anyone else's accounts or credentials
- I will immediately notify a faculty or staff member if I have identified a possible security problem or my account has been compromised.
- I will not intentionally introduce a virus or other harmful code anywhere on the ILTexas network, and I will make an effort to keep my home computer free from viruses and other destructive materials. If my files are accidentally infected, I will seek help from a member of the technology staff.
- I know that any electronic devices brought on this campus are subject to search without notice or warning should a school administrator deem it necessary. I will refrain from using any device or software that masks my use of school resources. This includes but is not limited to anonymizers and any application or hardware device that circumvents network security, logging, or tracking procedures such as incognito mode.
- Content about ILTexas anywhere on the World Wide Web should observe all aspects of the School's Acceptable Use Policy.
- Official School files or documents are not to be posted on non-ILTexas sites.
- Individuals who post content on World Wide Web sites away from ILTexas should not present content as if it represents any official views of ILTexas.
- The official ILTexas website represents the School. No representation of ILTexas should be made on any other website.

#### Intellectual Property and Privacy

- I will not copy or transfer any copyrighted software to or from computers on the ILTexas network without the permission of the technology staff in my building. This includes but is not limited to web browsers, MP3 players, and games.
- I will not plagiarize words or phrases that I find in books, on the Internet, on CD-ROMs, or on other online resources.
- I will respect the rights of copyright owners, including those who have created music, images, video, software, etc.
- I should have no expectation of privacy when I use on-line resources since materials are owned by the site and can be redistributed without an author's permission. I should check each site's privacy and security policies carefully before posting or adding content I may not wish to be viewed by others presently or in the future.
- I will not repost a message sent to me privately without the permission of the person who sent the message.
- I will not post private or false information about another person.

#### Inappropriate Language and Harassment

- I will not display, access, send or store any offensive, inappropriate, or pornographic messages or images.
- I will not use or share inappropriate language, image, content, video, audio on ILTexas Technology network, device, accounts or any other ILTexas medium.
- I will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language on any and all uses of computers at ILTexas, whether in public or private messages or the classroom/virtual classroom.
- I will not post information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks and cyberbullying.

#### I understand the following:

- I continuously represent ILTexas whenever and wherever I use school computing resources, even if I am using these resources away from or outside of the School's network.
- I may be held responsible for any online behavior or content that connects me to the School or implicates the School in that behavior.
- If I knowingly enable others to violate these rules, I may lose my School network, e-mail, or World Wide Web access.
- ILTexas has software and systems in place that monitors and records all activities and traffic on the School computing resources. I should expect only limited privacy in the contents of my personal files on the School network.
- Tampering with ILTexas technology tools or another person's work is unacceptable, and I could lose all rights to use computers at the School, including my user account and network access.
- Violations of the ILTexas policy including social media policy and AUP are subject to disciplinary action ranging from loss of computing privileges up to and including suspension and/or expulsion (or termination for employees).
- ILTexas makes no guarantee that the services provided will be error-free or without defect. The School will not be responsible for any damage suffered including, but not limited to, loss of data or disruption of service.

**ILTEXAS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) PARENT PERMISSION FORM AND USER AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand, and have explained and discussed the Acceptable Use Policy to my student. I further understand that should a violation of the AUP occur, access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be initiated.

Student's Name (PLEASE PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

(If the student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the ILTexas Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. ILTexas has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for ILTexas to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold ILTexas responsible for materials transmitted on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian's Name (PLEASE PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Note: This form is included as part of the Year to Year registration process via Skyward. You only need to complete the electronic form; there is no need to print/return this form.*



## Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) FAIR NOTICE FOR PARENT COMMUNITY

### What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- May be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture.

### Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviors to the school principal.

### What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- to ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others;
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- to understand the factors contributing to the threat maker's behavior;
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker; and,
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

### What behaviors warrant a Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment to be initiated?

A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviors including, but are not limited to:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill;
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill others (clear, direct, and plausible);
- online threats to harm/kill others;
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices);
- fire starting;
- sexual intimidation or assault; and,
- gang related intimidation and violence.

### Collection Notice

IL Texas is subject to personal information privacy laws, and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from online source is only obtained from open source sites. ~~ILTexas will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists.~~ Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in

### What Parents and Students Need to Know

- Any threat must be reported to the school principal
- Investigations may involve the school counselor, the police or other community agencies
- Investigations may involve locker or personal property searches
- Interviews will be held with the threat maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- Parents of students who are directly involved will be notified
- Threatening behavior may result in disciplinary action
- an intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

## ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS

### **Surveys And Activities**

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

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

Parents will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation.

### **“Opting Out” Of Surveys And Activities**

Parents have the right to receive notice of and deny permission for their student’s participation in:

1. Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding;
2. School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from their student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information;
3. A non-emergency, invasive physical examination, or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by ILTexas in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student (exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam of screening permitted or required under state law.)

### **Annual Notice Of Parent And Student Rights (Annual FERPA Confidentiality Notice)**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s educational records. These rights include the following:

#### **The Right to Inspect and Review**

Parents and/or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s educational records within 45 days of the day the school receives an access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Principal or designee a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. ILTexas will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student for the time and place where the records may be inspected.

If circumstances effectively prevent the parent or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the student’s educational records, ILTexas shall provide the parent or eligible student with a copy of the records requested to make arrangements for the parent or eligible student to inspect and review the requested records.

If the student's educational records contain information on more than one student, the parent or eligible student may inspect and review or be informed of only the specific information about that student.

### **The Right to Seek Amendment of the Student's Educational Records**

Parents or eligible students may ask ILTexas to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Campus Director/Principal or designee a written request that clearly identifies the part of the record they want changed, and specifies why it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights. ILTexas will decide whether to amend the record as requested within a reasonable time after receiving the request. If ILTexas decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent of eligible student, the School will notify the parent of eligible student of the decision and advise them to their right to a hearing to challenge the content of the student's education records on the grounds that the information contained in the educational records is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights.

If, as a result of the hearing, ILTexas decides that the information in the educational record is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights, it shall inform the parent or eligible student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information in the record or stating why he or she disagrees with the decision of ILTexas. If the school places an amended statement in the student's educational records, ILTexas is obligated to maintain the amended statement with the contested part of the record for as long as the record is maintained and disclose the statement whenever it discloses the portion of the record to which the statement relates.

### **The Right to Consent Prior to Disclosure**

Parents and/or eligible students have the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A "school official" is a person employed by ILTexas as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Directors; a person or company with whom ILTexas has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, ILTexas discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled, so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.



## **The Right to File a Complaint**

Parents and/or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education (“Office”) concerning alleged failures by ILTexas to comply with the requirements of FERPA. These complaints should be addressed as follow:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW. Washington, D.C. 20202

## **Access to Medical Records**

Parents are entitled to access their student’s medical records.

## **Notice for Directory Information**

Under FERPA, ILTexas must, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student’s education records. However, ILTexas may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless a parent or eligible student has advised ILTexas, in writing, to the contrary. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School to include this type of information from a student’s education records in certain school publications.

ILTexas has designated the following categories of information as directory information for the purpose of disclosure relating to school-related purposes:

- Student name;
- Address;
- Telephone listing;
- Electronic mail address;
- Photographs (including video image);
- Date and place of birth;
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received;
- Dates of attendance;
- Grade level;
- Most recent educational institution attended;
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams.

School-related purposes are those events/activities that ILTexas conducts and/or sponsors to support the School’s educational mission. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Extracurricular programs or events (school plays, concerns, athletic events, graduation ceremonies, etc.).
- Publications (newsletters, yearbook, etc.).
- Honor roll and other student recognition lists.
- Marketing materials of ILTexas (print media, website, videos, newspaper, etc.).

ILTexas has designated the following categories of information as directory information for purposes

of disclosure to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, but only for secondary students:

- Student’s name, address, and telephone number.

ILTexas shall not release directory information except for the purposes indicated above, namely, disclosure relating to school-sponsored/school-affiliated purposes or for the purposes of disclosure to military recruiters and institutions of higher education for secondary students.

A PARENT OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY OPT OUT OF THE RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION FOR EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE PURPOSES BY SUBMITTING A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THIS “NOTICE OF PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS (ANNUAL FERPA CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE).”

**FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT: DIRECTORY INFORMATION OPT OUT FORM**

“Directory Information” means information contained in an educational record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The law permits ILTexas to designate certain personal information as “directory information,” which may be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it as proscribed in school policy.

To prohibit ILTexas from releasing your student’s directory information, you must circle NO adjacent to the appropriate statement(s) below, sign the form, and return it to your student’s school. **Completion of this form is optional. However, if you do not circle NO or return this form, directory information about your student may be released** in accordance with ILTexas policy.

If you have more than one student enrolled, you must complete a separate for each student.

**PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO**

**For all students:**

|     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| YES | NO | I give permission for my student’s name and photograph to be included in the ILTexas yearbook.   |
| YES | NO | I give permission for my student to be videoed, photographed, or interviewed at school by local media or ILTexas personnel for use in educational purposes.  |
| YES | NO | I give permission for my student’s artwork, projects, photographs, etc. to be used or displayed in any ILTexas communication devices. Examples include media coverage, printed materials, marketing, and websites. |

**For secondary students only:**

|     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| YES | NO | I give permission to release my student’s directory information to <b>institutions of higher education</b> . |
| YES | NO | I give permission to release my student’s directory information to <b>military recruiters</b> .              |

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Student’s Full Legal Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Parent/Guardian Full Legal Name  
or Eligible Student Full Legal Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature  
or Eligible Student Signature

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

*Note: This form is included as part of the Year to Year registration process via Skyward. You only need to complete the electronic form; there is no need to print/return this form.*

**INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS USE**  
**OF STUDENT WORK**  
**IN SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS**

Occasionally, ILTexas wishes to display or publish student artwork, photos taken by the student, or other original work on the school's website, a website affiliated or sponsored by the school (such as a classroom website), and in school publications. ILTexas agrees to use these student projects in this manner.

**Parents: Please complete if you are opting out of use of student work in school publications:**

I, parent of\_\_\_\_(student's name), **do not give** ILTexas permission to use my child's artwork, photos, or other original work in the manner described above.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_

*Note: This form is included as part of the Year to Year registration process via Skyward. You only need to complete the electronic form; there is no need to print/return this form.*

**INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE COMMITMENT FORM**

Electronic communications at school and at school-related functions are subject to regulation by ILTexas.

This Electronic Communication Device Commitment Form grants authority and permission to ILTexas to regulate electronic communication devices when these devices are brought to and/or used while on school property or when attending school related functions and events. Such communication devices include but are not limited to cellular phones, pagers, PDAs, and pocket computers. These regulations are made necessary in light of the unique opportunities these devices create for violations of law and school policies, and to perpetrate conduct disruptive of an educational environment essential to the school’s educational program. These concerns are exacerbated by electronic security protections and the personal size of these devices, which are often carried concealed in pockets and purses.

Therefore, all students who would possess or use such devices on school property or at school-related activities are required to sign this form together with their parent, guardian or other adult person having the authority of a parent for school purposes.

Each of you, by your signature below, agrees to the following:

- The possession and use of cellular phones, PDAs, smart watches, wireless speakers/earbuds, and other electronic communication devices by a student on school property or at school-related events is subject to regulation by ILTexas.
- If a student possesses such devices on school property or while attending school-related events, ILTexas is authorized and has my full consent to confiscate, power on or off, manipulate and do all things necessary to search my device and recover or intercept communications (including but not limited to text messaging) when reasonable suspicion exists that such device has been used to transmit or receive communications in violation of law, the Student Code of Conduct, school policy or regulation.
- I further understand, agree and consent that an electronic communication device used or possessed in violation of law, the Student Code of Conduct, school policy or regulation is subject to confiscation and that ILTexas is not liable for any loss of or damage to confiscated devices.

**SIGNATURE LINES AND DATES**

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This form is included as part of the Year to Year registration process via Skyward. You only need to complete the electronic form; there is no need to print/return this form.*



**ILTexas Physician's Diet Modification Form**

**(to be returned to the school nurse and forwarded to Nutrition cashier)**

PART 1 OF 2: STUDENT AND PARENT IDENTIFICATION

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

*As the parent/guardian, I give permission of The International Leadership of Texas to contact the Physician's office noted below regarding my child's dietary needs. \**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*\* (Parent Signature)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

COMPLETE PART 2, NEXT PAGE

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture School Meals Program requires that all questions be answered in order for any dietary modification or substitution to be made in school meals. This form must be signed by a licensed physician.**



**ILTexas Physician's Diet Modification Form**

**(to be returned to the school nurse and forwarded to Nutrition cashier)**

PART 2 OF 2: PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT (COMPLETE PART 1 ON PREVIOUS PAGE)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (Physician) declare the child listed above to possess either a life-threatening food allergy or disability:

**LIFE THREATENING FOOD ALLERGY: OMIT THESE FOODS (circle all that apply):**

Fluid Milk    Peanuts    Tree Nuts    Eggs    Shellfish    Wheat    Soy    Other:

**DISABLING DIAGNOSIS REQUIRING DIETARY MODIFICATION (please describe):**

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Can the student consume foods where the allergen is an ingredient in the food product?

Yes                      No

**Explain** (Example: Any foods that contain eggs or milk are unacceptable):

2. Explanation of why this disability restricts diet:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Major life activities affected by the life threatening food allergy or disability (check all that apply):

|                                 |  |  |                                   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eating | <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for self | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing manual tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Breathing               | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning |

4. Foods to substitute (substitutions, if any, must be noted below):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Physician's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Clinic/Facility Name:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_



International Leadership of Texas

**Notice of Complaint /Formal Grievance**

To file a formal complaint, please complete this form and submit it to the appropriate campus administrator within the time established in the Board approved Student/Parent Handbook. All complaints will be heard in accordance with the aforementioned policies or any exceptions outlined therein.

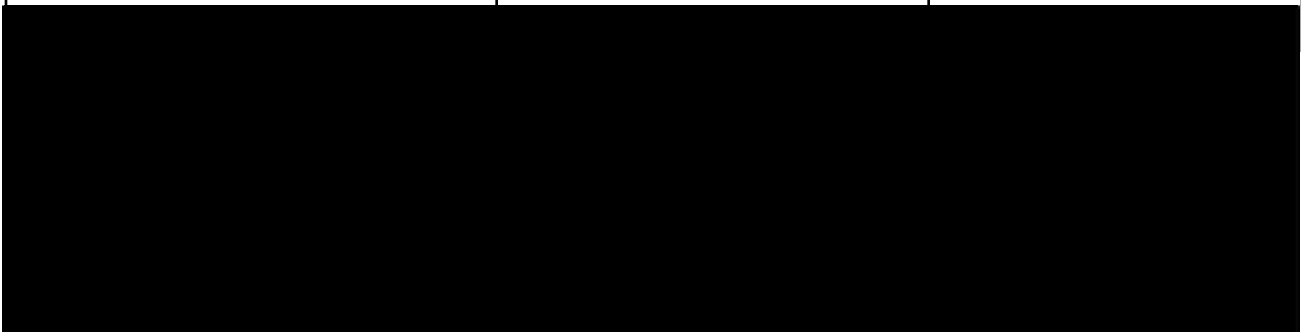
**PLEASE INDICATE THE LEVEL OF GRIEVANCE ACCORDING TO WHERE YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS:**

- Level I (Principal) • Level II (Executive Director-OPR) • Level III (Superintendent) • Level IV (School Board)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Complainant's Name and Address:   | 2. Complainant's Phone Number:           |
| 3. Complainant's Email Address:  | 4. Complainant's Campus (if applicable): |
| 5. If you will be represented in pursuing your complaint, please identify that individual or organization:<br>Name: _____<br>Address: _____<br>Telephone: _____<br>Email: _____                        |  |
| 6. Describe the decision or circumstances causing your complaint/grievance (give specific, factual details):<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |  |



|   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 7. <u>What was the date of the decision or circumstances causing your complaint?</u> _____  |   |                                     |
| 8. Explain how you have been harmed by this decision or circumstance:<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____  |   |                                     |
| 9. Describe any efforts you have made to resolve your complaint informally and the responses to your effort:<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |   |                                     |
| 10. <u>With whom did you communicate?</u><br>_____<br>_____   | 11. <u>On what date (s)?</u><br>_____<br>_____                          |                                     |
| 12. Please describe the outcome or remedy you seek for this complaint:<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____  |   |                                     |
| 13. <u>Signature of Complainant:</u><br>_____<br>_____  | 14. <u>Signature of Complainant's Representative:</u><br>_____<br>_____ | 15. <u>Date of Filing:</u><br>_____ |





## INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS

### Student Bill of Rights

1. ILTexas students have the right to create student-led clubs that are sponsored by an ILTexas staff member.
2. ILTexas students have the right to be respected by faculty members (including substitutes) at all times.
3. ILTexas students have the right to a safe and supportive learning environment (in person and online) which is free from any type of discrimination.
4. ILTexas students have the right to challenge the ideas of ILTexas staff (in a respectful way that does not disrupt the school grounds or learning environment).
5. ILTexas students have the right to utilize the grievance process.
6. ILTexas students have the right to be a Statesman/Stateswoman who advocates for their rights as well as the rights of others.
7. ILTexas students have the right to express themselves (must be done so in a manner that continues to show respect for others and does not disrupt the learning environment).
8. ILTexas students have the right to engage in uncomfortable, yet healthy, conversations in Leadership Classes such as those on race, discrimination, and life choices.
9. ILTexas students have a right to confide in a Counselor and be referred to a Crisis Counselor.
10. ILTexas students have a right to declare a “self-red flag” during class to seek out assistance from Counselor or Nurse in tandem with the wellness app.
11. ILTexas students have a right to self-advocate regarding their education.

The ILTexas Student Bill of Rights is a product of the Student Equity Advisory Council (SEAC). The SEAC is comprised of two students from each ILTexas High School. Members of the 2020-2021 SEAC who authored the initial Student Bill of Rights are: **Austin Crumley Sickles, Darien Hardy, Patton Caday, Amyrah Simmons, Lauren Cook, Anissa Okpo, Lyric Darius, Cadence Banks, Jonathan Nativi, Ivanna Alfonso, and Fernando Quintana.**