

2019-2020

GOALS PROGRAM

(Giving Opportunities, Accelerating Learning, and Socialization)

Student Handbook



**DeWitt-Lavaca
Special Education Cooperative**

*Together We Achieve
The Extraordinary*

Name: _____

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GOALS



DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative

**P.O. Box 737
402 Hubbard
Yoakum, TX 77995
(361) 293-2854**

Yoakum Independent School District

Excellence in Education

2019-2020 School Calendar

School Holidays

Sept. 2	Labor Day
Nov. 25 - 29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Jan. 20	M. L. King, Jr. Day
Mar. 16 - 20	Spring Break
Apr. 10	Good Friday
May 25	Memorial Day

In-Service (Student Holiday)

Monday - Friday	Aug. 5 - 9
Monday (Comp Day)	Oct. 14
Monday	Jan. 6
Monday (Comp Day)	Feb. 17

Workday (Student Holiday)

Monday - Tuesday	Aug. 12 - 13
Tuesday	Jan. 7
Friday	May 22

State Assessment Testing

STAAR	Dec 9 - 13, Apr. 7 - 9, May 4 - 15, June 22 - 26
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Bad Weather Days

Monday	Jan. 20
Monday	Feb. 17

Early Release Days

Friday	Dec. 20
Thursday	May 21

Important Dates

Teachers Report	Aug. 5 - 13
First Instructional Day	Aug. 14
Stock Show	To Be Announced
Begin/End Six Weeks	
Baccalaureate	May 17 @ 8:00 p.m.
Commencement	May 22 @ 8:00 p.m.

Six Weeks Dates

1 st Six Weeks	Aug. 14 - Sept. 20	27 days
2 nd Six Weeks	Sept. 23 - Nov. 1	29 days
3 rd Six Weeks	Nov. 4 - Dec. 20	30 days

TOTAL First Semester 86 days

4th Six Weeks Jan. 8 - Feb. 21 31 days

5th Six Weeks Feb. 24 - Apr. 9 29 days

6th Six Weeks Apr. 13 - May 21 29 days

TOTAL Second Semester 89 days

ANNUAL TOTAL 175 days

Total Instructional Minutes 78,750

July 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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January 2020

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August 2019

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February 2020

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September 2019

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March 2020

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October 2019

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April 2020

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November 2019

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May 2020

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December 2019

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June 2020

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To the Parents/Guardians and Students of the GOALS Program:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. The administration and staff want this year to be an exciting, engaging and educational one for all students. For this to happen, we must all work together—students, parents, teachers, and administrators as well as outside agencies involved. It is my hope that each student of the GOALS Program takes full advantage of opportunities to make some positive changes in behavior and academic performance.

The GOALS Program is based upon the 4 C's – caring, commitment, consistency, and communication. We are committed to providing a caring and consistent program and helping students improve their communication skills so they may be successful in their respective home campuses. Behavior strategies, social skills, and interventions are emphasized along with increased academic rigor to ensure transitional success.

This handbook will furnish helpful guidance and information to all of our students and their parents/guardians. However, state and federal regulations do change periodically. Any changes in legal mandates for schools or educational programs will be considered policy. If at any time you have questions or concerns that are not addressed in this handbook, please feel free to contact the GOALS administration.

Again, welcome to the GOALS Program. We wish you a productive and successful school year!

Sincerely,

Tessa L. Sanchez
M.Ed. Administration
Multi-District Programs Principal

Giving Opportunities, Accelerating Learning, and Socialization

GOALS Program

PHILOSOPHY

GOALS is committed to accepting the unique and diverse challenges involved in enhancing the learning objectives of all of our students. We will provide the students a learning opportunity where they can participate in research-based instruction, behavioral management strategies, and social skills curriculum in order to make behavioral and academic progress.

Regardless of the length of time a student is enrolled, each student will leave GOALS knowing how it feels to be successful. The primary goal of the GOALS program is to improve behavior, social skills, and then focus on academic learning.

MISSION

The mission of the GOALS Program is work as a team to help students achieve their best by providing guidance and services to improve their social, behavioral, and academic skills in order to be successful in their respective home campuses.

GOALS

1. The student will be provided the opportunity to learn how appropriate behavior can enable him or her to return to the home campus.
2. The student will work on academic achievement to acquire confidence in his or her scholastic ability and will strive to meet his or her potential. The GOALS curriculum will include the students' schedule on their home campus, as much as possible, as well as a weekly social skills education class. Special programs will be implemented as dictated by the ARD and/or GOALS administrator.
3. The student will gain confidence that will allow himself/herself to act appropriately in challenging situations with the assistance of a counselor/play therapist, as applicable to the individual student needs.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The GOALS Program practices a consistent discipline philosophy throughout all school facilities through a highly structured environment. Our intent is to foster students' development of their own discipline, their own self-control, and their own self-understanding. To help accomplish this goal, we may use multiple agency involvement including Mid-Coast Council Services, Gulf Bend Center, and others. Disruptions will not be tolerated. If a student chooses to break a rule, consequences will be fairly administered immediately. The GOALS Program follows the Member District Student Code of Conduct and Juvenile Probation Orders for

identified special education students, which may need to deviate from the regular Member District discipline philosophy, rules, expected behaviors and/or level system. Such deviations shall be addressed at the time of placement through the ARD process and the development of a Behavior Intervention Plan.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students' responsibilities for achieving a positive learning environment at school or school-related activities shall include:

1. Attending all classes daily on time.
2. Being prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments.
3. Being properly attired and in dress code.
4. Exhibiting respect toward others.
5. Conducting themselves in a responsible manner.
6. Paying required fees and fines.
7. Refraining from violations of student code of conduct.
8. Obeying all school rules, including safety rules.
9. Seeking changes in school policies and regulations in an orderly and responsible manner through appropriate channels.
10. Cooperating with staff in investigation of disciplinary cases and volunteering information when the student has knowledge relating to the offense.

Parents have the responsibilities to:

1. Make every effort to provide for the physical needs of the child.
2. Teach the child to pay attention and obey all rules.
3. Be sure their child attends school regularly and promptly report and explain absences and tardies to the school.
4. Encourage and lead the child to develop proper study habits at home.
5. Participate in meaningful parent-teacher conferences to discuss their child's school progress and welfare.
6. Attend parent training workshops for the home reinforcement of study skills and specific curriculum objectives.
7. Keep informed of school policies and academic requirements.
8. Participate in school related organizations.
9. Be sure their child is appropriately dressed at school and school related activities.
10. Discuss report cards and school assignments with their child.
11. Bring to the attention of school authorities any learning problem or condition that may relate to their child's education.
12. Maintain up-to-date home, work, and emergency telephone numbers and other pertinent information at the school.
13. Cooperate with school administrators and teachers.
14. Be sure their child attends school tutorials when required or as the need arises.

15. Submit a signed statement that they understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in this plan.
16. Control their child. Under Family Code #33.01, a student's parent/guardian is legally liable for property damaged proximately caused by:
 - a. The negligent conduct of the student if such conduct is reasonably attributed to the negligent failure of the parent to exercise that duty, or
 - b. The willful or malicious conduct of a student who is at least 10 but under 18 years of age.

ADMISSION

The GOALS program works in coordination with the twelve school districts that make up the DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative. A student is considered for GOALS as an alternative behavioral setting when the district has exhausted home campus resources and/or the student commits a criminal activity. Prior to GOALS placement, the student should have a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) completed, followed by a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) addressing the specific behaviors that are occurring by the BIP to offer additional alternatives, conducted a manifestation determination in an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee, and determined if the placement will be considered a disciplinary placement or an educational placement. The GOALS administrator should be contacted and consulted throughout the process. Discipline records should be sent prior to placement. Immunization records, emergency contacts, schedule of classes, and free and reduced lunch application should also be sent prior to enrollment to GOALS. The admission to GOALS does not eliminate the home campus from ownership of the student. The attendance continues to be reported to the home campus. The home campus will send work weekly for the student and maintain the student's grading and report card.

If a student enrolls in one of the twelve school districts and was previously serving time in an alternative behavioral setting, a GOALS placement can be considered. An ARD meeting will be scheduled at GOALS for determining if GOALS is the most appropriate educational environment. Not all students that have an ARD meeting for a possible GOALS placement will end up at GOALS.

ASBESTOS

The Yoakum Independent School District Asbestos Plan documentation is available through the administrator's office.

ATTENDANCE

In Texas, a child between the ages of 5 and 19 – depending on when the child's birthday falls – is required to attend school and district-required tutorial lessons, unless otherwise exempted by law. School employees investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. These attendance requirements also apply to any District-required tutorial sessions. If your child is absent, a note must accompany him or her on the day when he or she returns to GOALS. The note will be forwarded to the home campus.

To receive credit in a class, a student must be in attendance for at least 90% of the instructional days during the school year. A student who is in attendance less than 90% of the instructional days shall **not** be given credit for the class unless the attendance committee finds that the absence(s) are the result of extenuating circumstances.

The District accepts the following absences as extenuating circumstances for the purpose of granting credit for a class:

1. An excused absence based on personal sickness or death in the family, quarantine, weather or road conditions making travel dangerous, any other unusual cause acceptable to the attendance officer.
2. Days of suspension.
3. Participation in court proceedings or child abuse/neglect investigation.
4. A migrant student's late enrollment or early withdrawal.
5. Days missed as a runaway. Runaway status must have been filed with the local police department.
6. Completion of a competency-based program for at-risk students.
7. Late enrollment or early withdrawal of a student under Texas Youth Commission.
8. Teen parent absences to care for his or her child.
9. Participation of a substance abuse rehabilitation program.
10. Students approved to participate in school-related or school-sanctioned activities shall not be counted absent from school.
11. Dental and medical appointments, other than emergencies, should be scheduled outside of school hours if possible. If a child needs to visit a physician or dentist for treatment, every effort shall be made to permit the child to keep the absence classified as excused. Appointments with all licensed practitioners will be recognized.
12. Absence required by state or local welfare authorities.
13. Approved college visitation.

If the attendance committee finds that there are no extenuating circumstances for the absence or if conditions established by the committee for earning or regaining credit are not met, the committee shall deny credit for the class. A student whose petition for credit is denied may appeal the attendance committee's decision to the Board of Trustees. (See Student/Parent Complaints)

The District shall provide the following alternative ways for a student to make up work or regain credit lost because of absences:

1. Summer school for credit
2. Credit by exam

At GOALS, the attendance continues to be reported to the student's home campus on a daily basis. The home campus is responsible for maintaining the attendance record and reporting truancy. Students are expected to bring notes for absenteeism to GOALS and they will be forwarded to the home campus.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

When returning to GOALS after an absence, a student must bring a note from his/her parent, doctor, or other entity that describes the reason for the absence; notes signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will be considered a forgery and the student will be disciplined.

If a student does not bring a note within 3 days of the absence, it will be recorded as unexcused.

If a student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, a doctor's note will be required or the absences could be recorded as unexcused.

Classification of absences (ACCORDING TO THE STATE OF TEXAS) shall be as follows:

1. Excused
 - a. Personal illness – a doctor's statement will be required for three consecutive days and after the ninth absence of the semester.
 - b. Serious illness or death in the immediate family.
 - c. Medical or dental appointment.
 - d. Religious Holy Days as specified in the Texas Education Code.
 - e. Parent request days – There may be times when circumstances dictate that parents must take their children out of school for family reasons and other justified reasons; therefore, certain absences may be classified as excused on request of parents **when approved in advance by the administrator**. Requests may not exceed three days per year and requests will not be granted for days designated as semester test days. Student academic progress will also be taken into consideration before requests are approved/denied.
2. Unexcused
 - a. Any absence which is known and approved by parents, but which cannot be classified as an excused absence according to the above policy defining.
 - b. Truancy – Students absent from school without prior permission of parent(s) or guardian(s), or absent from class without the administrator's permission, shall be considered truant and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

A student who has been absent for any reason is encouraged to make up specific assignments missed and/or to complete additional in-depth study assigned by the teacher to meet subject or course requirements. It is the student's responsibility to find out the assignments and make up the work within three days or the period of time designated by the teacher or administrator. Failure to make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

A student who must leave school during the day must sign-out at the office and bring a note from his or her parent that morning. A student who becomes ill during the school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the office.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

3 unexcused absences – A letter to parents from home campus will be mailed home.

- copy of letter to judge's office
- copy of letter in disciplinary file

5 unexcused absences – Home Campus Administrator will file on student in Municipal Court.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

7 excused absences – A certified letter will be sent to parents by the home campus.

90% RULE: (Excused and Unexcused Absences)

9 absences – certified letter sent to the parents by the home campus

- Home Campus Administrator will file on student in Municipal Court

After a student has obtained 9 absences in a semester, all other absences will be unexcused unless accompanied by a doctor's statement or approved in advance by the administrator.

If extenuating circumstances exist, the attendance committee has the right to waive the "make up policy."

BUS DISCIPLINE

Safety of students while riding on district transportation is a top priority for the District and DLSEC. Students are expected to comply with all bus expectations and procedures, and misbehavior will not be tolerated. Student misbehavior on the bus will be handled in cooperation of the student's home campus administrator and the GOALS administrator. Typically, the GOALS administrator will address misbehavior that occurs on the way to GOALS while misbehavior on the way home will be addressed by the home campus administrator.

General guidelines for bus consequences administered by GOALS:

1. On the first Bus Conduct Report, the GOALS administrator or designee will confer with the Parent/Guardian and inform the Parent/Guardian of the future consequences if their child chooses to violate the rules on the bus again.
2. On the second Bus Conduct Report, the GOALS administrator or designee will confer with the student and the student will be suspended off the bus for one school day.
3. On the third Bus Conduct Report, the GOALS administrator or designee will confer with the student and the student will be suspended off the bus for two school days. The parent/guardian will be notified by the administrator. A behavior plan will be put in place, if it has not been placed by the ARD committee. If a Bus BIP is in place, it will be considered and adjusted as necessary.
4. On the fourth Bus Conduct Report, the GOALS administrator or designee will confer with the student, and the student will be suspended from the bus for three school days. The parent/guardian will be notified by the administrator.
5. Any student who engages in serious behavior on the bus, which threatens the safety of the driver or other students riding the bus, may be suspended from riding the bus on their first or second Bus Conduct Report. In addition, they will be subject to any of the other consequences listed in the BIP. The Parent/Guardian will be notified by the administrator. Bus consequences may be altered as the GOALS Administrator and Home Campus Administrator in accordance with the home campus policies, procedures, and the student's BIP.

CALENDAR

GOALS students will follow Yoakum ISD calendar regardless of their home district.

CAFETERIA SERVICES

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers free and reduced price meals based on a student's financial need. Information can be obtained from the home campus. The form must be completed and approved by the student's home campus. If the form is not turned in, the student's parents are liable for the cost.

CAMERAS

Texas Education Code requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, to place, operate, and maintain video cameras with audio recording capability in certain self-contained classrooms and other special education settings for students with disabilities, upon the request of a parent, trustee, or staff member, for the purpose of promoting the safety of students with disabilities in these classrooms.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are to be turned off before entering the building and turned into the staff upon entering the building. Cell phones found on students will be confiscated. Phones will be safely secured in the office and returned to students when they leave for the day.

A parent or guardian may obtain the confiscated cell phone from the administrator. A fine may be imposed as an accelerated consequence for continued possession of a cell phone.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A change of residence, mailing address, or telephone number should be reported to the home campus and GOALS office immediately. This is for emergency purposes.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Parents of a student with a communicable or contagious disease are asked to telephone the administrator so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. A student with certain diseases is not allowed to come to school while the disease is contagious. A list of these diseases can be obtained from the school nurse.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are responsible for conducting themselves properly, in a manner appropriate to their age and level of maturity. The GOALS campus reserves the right to search backpacks and items brought onto the campus, at any time. Students are expected to adhere to all rules and guidelines from their home district and campus in addition to those listed below. Student responsibilities for achieving a positive learning environment at school or school-related activities include:

1. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others.
2. Behave in a responsible manner.
3. Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
4. Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
5. Be well groomed and dress appropriately according to GOALS dress code.
6. Obey all campus and classroom rules, including safety rules.
7. Respect the rights and privileges of other students and of teachers and other GOALS staff.
8. Respect the property of others, including GOALS property and facilities.
9. Rapping is not allowed.
10. Participate in social skills.
11. Participate in activities to support the Fitnessgram and PE.

12. Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety order and discipline.
13. Avoid violations of the individual students' behavior plan and the GOALS Program.

The GOALS Program has authority and control over a student during the regular school day and while going to and from school on district transportation. The jurisdiction includes any activity during the school day on school grounds; attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location; and any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location.

The GOALS Program rules of student conduct apply to all school-sponsored and school-related activities, on or off campus. Students who violate these rules will be subject to disciplinary action and shall be referred, when appropriate, to legal authorities for criminal prosecution for violations of law.

While a student is attending GOALS, he/she is not allowed on his/her home campus for any school-related activities or functions without the consent of the Home Campus Administrator and GOALS Administrator unless the ARD committee has stated otherwise with the consent of both Administrators.

Students at school or school-related activities are prohibited from:

1. Cheating or copying the work of another.
2. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or damage property.
3. Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
4. Directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward or in front of other students or District employees.
5. Insubordination, such as disobeying directives from school personnel or school policies, rules and regulations.
6. Being disrespectful or directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward teachers, other school employees, or visitors.
7. Playing with matches or fire, or committing arson.
8. Stealing from students, staff, or the school.
9. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by the District, other students, or District employees.
10. Disobeying school rules about conduct on buses.
11. Scuffling or fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse.
12. Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail; that is obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
13. Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements that school officials have reasonable cause to believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
14. Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual conduct disruptive to other students or the school environment whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.
15. Assaulting a teacher or other individual.
16. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person, possessing, using, or being under the influence of: marijuana or a controlled substance; a dangerous drug; glue that can be abused, aerosol paint, or relating to volatile chemicals.
17. Possessing or selling look-alike drugs or items attempted to be passed off as drugs and contraband.
18. Bringing a firearm to school. Federal and state law requires EXPULSION for this conduct.
19. Possessing, smoking or using tobacco products.
20. Hazing.
21. Possession of a radio, Walkman, paging device, cellular telephone, other electronic devices, laser pointer, skateboard, or roller blades.
22. Violating dress and grooming standards.

23. Behaving in any way that disrupts the school environment or educational process.
24. Engaging in any conduct constituting felony criminal mischief as defined by law.
25. Membership or participation in any secret society, fraternity, sorority, or gang.
26. Possessing any weapon prohibited by law or by school policy, including a firearm, switchblade knife, metallic knuckles, ammunition, chemical dispensing device, zip gun, club, fireworks, razors, chains, or any other object to be used to threaten or injure. The possession or use of articles not generally considered weapons may be prohibited when, in the principal's or designee's judgment, a reasonable apprehension of danger exists to the student in possession, other students, staff, or school property by virtue of possession or use.
27. Rapping or playing inappropriate music.

In the case of the student being allowed on the home campus for activities, students guilty of serious first offenses may be suspended for a period of time up to 3 day for each offense. They may be expelled for up to one year. If the serious first offense occurs in the last grading period of a semester, the removal may be extended to the end of the following semester. Minor offenses shall first be remedied by using one or more discipline management techniques. Administrators shall have discretion to determine which techniques are reasonable and appropriate to the offense. Persistent, defined as two or more, violations of the code in general or repeated occurrences of the same violation shall result in the proceedings to remove the student to an alternative education program or expulsion.

Cases of misconduct are recorded and maintained in the GOALS administrator's office and the home campus administrator's office.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF DISCIPLINE WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE STUDENT AND BY MAIL. The county probation department will also be notified, if applicable.

CONFERENCES

Students and parents may expect teachers to request a conference 1) if the student is not maintaining passing grades or achieving the expected level of performance; 2) if the student presents any other problem to the teacher; or 3) in any other cases the teacher/administrator considers necessary.

GOALS encourages a student or parent who wants information or wants to raise a question or concern to confer with the appropriate teacher, counselor, or principal. A parent who wishes to confer with a teacher may call the office for an appointment during the teacher's conference period or request that the teacher call the parent during a conference period or at another mutually convenient time.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is limited to spanking or paddling the student and is governed by the behavior intervention plan approved by the ARD committee. Parental permission must be obtained prior to corporal punishment. A witness will always be present if and when corporal punishment is implemented.

A record shall be maintained of each instance of corporal punishment.

COUNSELING

The GOALS Program will provide counseling services as dictated by each individual student ARD. In addition, a counselor will be on the GOALS campus weekly in order to establish and assist with social skills. A permission form will be obtained from the parent/guardian for these services. Family counseling is also available for those who are in need or request assistance.

DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students will be held responsible for replacing or purchasing any property to which they have caused damage. Additional disciplinary and legal actions may occur.

DISCIPLINE

A student who violates the behavior intervention plan shall be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary measures are applied depending on the nature of the offense. In addition, when a student commits drug-and alcohol-related offenses or any other criminal act, he or she may also be referred to legal authorities for criminal prosecution.

When imposing discipline, the GOALS administrator shall adhere to the following general guidelines:

1. Discipline shall be administered when necessary to protect students, school employees, or property and to maintain essential order and discipline.
2. Students shall be treated fairly and equitably. Discipline shall be based on a careful assessment of the circumstances of each case. Factors to consider shall include:
 - a. Seriousness of the offense
 - b. Student's age
 - c. Handicapping condition
 - d. Frequency of misconduct
 - e. Student's attitude
 - f. Potential effect of the misconduct on the school environment

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF DISCIPLINE WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE STUDENT AND BY MAIL.

VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco and Weapons – Under state and federal law, a student is not allowed to possess, sell, give away, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, guns, or other weapons on school property or at a school-sanctioned activity, on or off school property. Having one of these items in a privately owned vehicle that the student had driven to school and parked on GOALS property is also prohibited.

Disruptive Activities – State law prohibits a student from participating in disruptive activities. That includes acting alone or with others to:

- Interfere with the movement of people in an exit, an entrance, or a hallway of a GOALS building without authorization from an administrator.

- Interfere with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use force, violence, and/or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Disrupt classes while on GOALS property or on public property that is within 500 feet of GOALS 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.
- Interfere with the transportation of students in GOALS vehicles.

Gangs and Other Prohibited Organizations – Under state law, a student is prohibited from membership or involvement in a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school:

- The administrator will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student.
- The administrator ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the administrator considers to be a valid objection.
- The administrator ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the administrator considers to be a valid objection.
- The administrator will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

Students Taken into Custody

State Law requires GOALS to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

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

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

The administrator will immediately notify the Superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the administrator considers to be a valid objection to

notifying the parents. Because the administrator does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

GOALS staff is also required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony or offense or for certain misdemeanors.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The GOALS Program dress code is as follows:

1. Jeans or shorts must be blue, khaki, or black. Bottoms may not be oversized or baggy; they must be worn at the waist. No torn or frayed clothing. Clothing should be an appropriate length. Pants/shorts must have belt loops.
2. White shirt with no writing or designs. This may be a t-shirt.
3. A belt will be worn at all times.
4. Shirt must be tucked in at all times.
5. Shoes must be tennis shoes. No sandals or boots may be worn.
6. No jewelry of any kind. This includes watches, rings, earrings, or any other piercing.
7. Boys must be clean-shaven. Sideburns shall not extend below the ear lobe. Hair must be neat and clean and cut to be out of the eyes and off the collar.
8. Hair styles for male and female students will not be distracting, such as unusual designs, dyes, cuts, lines or braids. No hair extensions, dyes, or hair art (e.g., lines) are allowed.
9. Coats, sweaters, sweat shirts, or jackets are not allowed in the classroom. If they are worn to school, they will be left at the front door.
10. Fingernails must be groomed, trimmed, and clean. No artificial nails are allowed.
11. No tattoos are allowed to be visible. It is the student's responsibility to cover any tattoos prior to arrival each day.

EMERGENCY BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS

In order to protect students' and others' safety due to aggressive and unsafe behaviors, emergency behavior interventions are utilized. GOALS staff strives to minimize the use of behavior interventions through verbal redirections and positive behavior supports; however, emergency procedures through the use of physical escorts, holds, and restraints are used when appropriate and only as a last resort. GOALS staff utilizes the Satori Alternatives for Managing Aggression © (SAMA) methods for containment.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Students, teachers, and other GOALS employees shall participate in frequent drills of emergency procedures as mandated by Texas law. When the alarm is sounded, students must follow the direction of the teachers quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Parents are asked to complete an emergency care form each year that includes a place for parental consent for school officials to obtain medical treatment for the student, as permitted by law. Parents shall also be asked to supply other information that could be required in case of an emergency; parents should update this information as often as necessary.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CLOSING

In case of emergency, school personnel and students will be notified of school closing by radio and television stations.

Radio	107.9 FM KIXS – Victoria 95.1 FM KVIC – Victoria 92.5 FM KYOC – Yoakum
TV	Ch. 25 KAVU Ch. 19 KVCT (local cable ch.7)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A GOALS student is not allowed to participate nor go to any extracurricular activities at his/her home district under trespass order. (See student's home district Student Handbook or Code of Conduct for more details.)

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Students must meet all requirements of the ARD in order to take part in the graduation exercises.

HALL INSTRUCTIONS

Students will be escorted at all times while in hallways and to the restroom.

HARASSMENT

Harassment will not be tolerated at GOALS. Students are expected to treat other students and GOALS employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop.

A substantiated complaint against a student will result in appropriate disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense and the Student Code of Conduct.

GOALS staff encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent harassment in any form in the public schools. Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with a teacher, counselor, administrator or designee.

Harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or disability

Students must not engage in harassment behaviors motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, or disability directed toward another student.

A student who believes he or she has been harassed by another student or by a District employee is encouraged to report the incident to the administrator or Title IX Coordinator. The allegations will be investigated and addressed.

The student or parent may appeal the decision of the administrator regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with policy FNCL.

IMMUNIZATION

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate of statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student should be not immunized. The immunizations required are: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles (rubella), mumps, rubella, and haemophilus influenza. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Texas Department of Health. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a United States licensed physician that states that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required would be harmful to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a lifelong contraindication.

If a student's religious beliefs conflict with the requirement that the student be immunized, the student must present a statement signed by the student (or by a parent if the student is a minor) that states that immunization conflicts with the beliefs and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member. The statement must be renewed yearly.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS is supervised by an assigned teacher or aide. In this setting, the student receives assignments in each course to the extent possible, with little or no opportunities for social interaction with peers. The objective of ISS is to deter misbehavior. Lack of cooperation of the student may increase the length of the stay or additional consequences may be imposed.

LEVEL SYSTEM

The GOALS Level Support System is a supplement to each secondary student's (grades 6-12) behavior intervention plan and will take those targeted behaviors within the BIP and provide the student with a visible sense of checks and balances for his daily progress. Students will be able to see a cause and effect relationship between their behavior and the consequences, both deemed positive and negative, they receive. When students make a poor choice and a level change is made, they will be able to connect this to their actions. When they are able to attribute successes and set backs to factors they can control, they then will possess the understanding and willingness to focus on specific strategies they can use to become successful.

LOITERING

The GOALS administrator is authorized to refuse entry onto school grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school and to request any unauthorized person or persons engaging in unacceptable conduct to leave school grounds.

The administrator or designee is authorized to request assistance of law enforcement officers in cases of emergency and to seek prosecution to the fullest extent of the law when persons violate the provisions of policy

which is described in YISD policy manual regarding trespassing on school grounds, damage to school property, loitering and disruptive behavior.

LOST AND FOUND

Found articles should be turned in at the office. When you lose something, turn in a description of the article to the office immediately.

MEALS

All meals, whether delivered by the cafeteria or brought in by the student or parent, must be consumed within scheduled breakfast and lunch times. Any outside meals must be ready-to-eat meals that do not require heating. Microwave use is not allowed by students or for student meals.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

A student who must take prescription or nonprescription medicine during the school day must have his/her parent or guardian bring a written request form and the medicine, in its properly labeled container, to the administrator or GOALS nurse before school. The school nurse, the administrator, or trained teacher will either give the medicine at the proper times as directed. GOALS guidelines require a PHYSICIAN'S WRITTEN authorization to administer any medication when medication is needed for more than 10 days or is required to be kept at school. Parents should notify GOALS staff immediately when medication changes are made regardless of being taken at school or strictly at home.

MENINGITIS

What is MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

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

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

HOW SERIOUS IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

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

HOW IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS SPREAD?

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

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

HOW CAN BACTERIAL MENINGITIS BE PREVENTED?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons with whom you make intimate contact (e.g., kissing).

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people travelling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85-90%). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within 7-10 days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to 5 years.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOU OR A FRIEND MIGHT HAVE BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

Seek prompt medical attention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources of information on all communicable diseases.

You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov and the Texas Department of Health: www.tdh.state.tx.us.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. The school asks parents:

- To encourage their children to put a high priority on their education and to commit themselves to making the most of the educational opportunities the school provides;
- To stay informed on school activities and issues; and
- To monitor their children's progress and contact teachers as needed.

PEST CONTROL

On a monthly basis or as needed, pesticides will be applied in and around the GOALS facilities. Information regarding the application of pesticides is available from DLSEC at 361-293-2854 or Yoakum ISD at 261-293-3162.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

1. “Restraint” – the use of physical force or a mechanical device to restrict the free movement of all or a portion of the student’s body. TEC 37.0021(b)(1), 19 TAC 89.1053(b)(2)
2. A school employee, volunteer, or independent contractor may use restraint only in an emergency. 19 TAC 89.1053(c).
3. “Emergency” – a situation in which a student’s behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others, or imminent, serious property destruction, 19 TAC 89.1053(b)(1)
4. Limitations on restraint
 - a. Limited to the use of such reasonable force as is necessary to address the emergency. 19 TAC 89.1053(b)(1)
 - b. Discontinued at the point at which the emergency no longer exists. 19 TAC 89.1053(c)(2)
 - c. Implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the student and others. 19 TAC 89.1053(c)(3)
 - d. Shall not deprive the student of basic human necessities. 19 TAC 89.1053(c)(4)
5. Training on restraint
 - a. Not later than April 1, 2003, a core team of personnel on each campus must be trained in the use of restraint, and the team must include a campus administrator or designee and any general or special education personnel likely to use restraint. 19 TAC 89.1053(d)(1)
 - b. After 1, 2003, personnel called upon to use restraint in an emergency and who have not received prior training must receive training within 30 school days following the use of restraint. 19 TAC 89.1053(d)(2)
 - c. Training on restraint must include prevention and de-escalation techniques and provide alternatives to the use of restraint. 19 TAC 89.1053(d)(3)
 - d. All trained personnel shall receive instruction in current professionally accepted practices and standards regarding behavior management and the use of restraint. 19 TAC 89.1053(d)(4)
6. Documentation on restraint
 - a. On the day restraint is utilized, the campus administrator or designee must be notified verbally or in writing regarding the use of restraint. 19 TAC 1053E(1)
 - b. On the day restraint is utilized, a good faith effort shall be made to verbally notify the parent(s) regarding the use of restraint. 19 TAC 89.1053E(2)
 - c. Written notification of the use of restraint must be placed in the mail or otherwise provided to the parent within one school day of the use of restraint. 19 TAC 89.1053(e)(3)
 - d. Written notification regarding the use of restraint must be placed in the student’s special education eligibility folder in a timely manner so the information is available to the ARD committee when it considers the impact of the student’s behavior on the student’s learning and/or the creation or revision of a behavioral intervention plan (BIP). 19 TAC 89.1053(e)(4)

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s original ideas or writing as one’s own without giving credit to the true author. Plagiarism will be considered cheating, and the student shall be subject to disciplinary action that may include loss of credit for the work in question.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Students are prohibited from engaging in public displays of affection (PDA) on school property or within 300 feet of the school grounds. Violators of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

RADIOS, CD PLAYERS, PAGING DEVICES, CELLULAR PHONES, LASER LIGHTS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND GAMES

Students are not permitted to possess such items as radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorder, cameras, paging devices, cellular phones, laser lights or electronic devices or games at school or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property. If a student is found in possession of one of these devices, the student is subject to disciplinary action, and the device will be confiscated.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

A student shall not be released from school at times other than regular dismissal hours except with administrative permission. A student leaving school because of illness, doctor/dentist appointment, or other emergencies that may arise, after receiving permission from the administrator must sign-out at the administrator's office on the sheet provided. The student is expected to sign-in when returning to school, if returning that day, or otherwise bring a note from his/her guardian the next day.

REPORT CARDS

Students will follow the home campus reporting period. Grades and report cards will be maintained by the home campus and sent to the parent by the home campus.

Progress reporting will follow the home campus schedule and be completed by the home campus.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Student safety on campus and at school-related functions is a high priority of the GOALS Program. Although the program has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensure school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the student code of conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the administrator, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report safety hazards, such as intruders on campus.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other GOALS employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

SECRET SOCIETY

Students shall not become members or promise to become members of any organization composed wholly or in part of students of public schools below the rank of college or junior college which seeks to perpetuate itself by taking in additional members from the students enrolled in such school on the basis of the decision of its membership, rather than upon the free choice of any student in the school, who is qualified under the rules of the school, to fill the special aims of the organization.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

All students are expected to treat one another courteously, with respect for the other person's feelings; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop. All students are prohibited from engaging in offensive verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other intimidating sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors, that the other student regards as offensive or provocative.

Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with the teacher, the administrator or designee.

A complaint alleging sexual harassment by another student or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by a staff member may be presented by a student and/or parent in a conference with the administrator or designee. The first conference with the student ordinarily will be held by a person who is the same gender as the student. The conference will be scheduled and held as soon as possible within five days of the request. The administrator will coordinate an appropriate investigation, which ordinarily will be completed within 10 days. The student or parent will be informed if extenuating circumstances delay completion of the investigation.

The student will not be required to present a complaint to a person who is the subject of the complaint.

If the resolution of the complaint is not satisfactory to the student or parent, the student or parent, within 10 days, may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee by following procedure set out in Board policy (FNCJ (LOCAL)). If the resolution by the Superintendent or designee is not satisfactory, the student or parent may present the complaint to the Board as provided by policy.

SMOKING

A student shall not smoke or use tobacco products on school property or at any school-related or school-sanctioned activity, on or off school property, as provided by law.

STUDENT/PARENT COMPLAINTS

A student's school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the home district until the student withdraws or graduates. This record moves with the student from school to school. The home campus receives a copy of all GOALS paperwork and maintains the student folders on the home campus.

By law both parents whether married, separated or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18 or a dependent for tax purposes. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records if the school is given a copy of the court order.

The home campus administrator is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. Records may be reviewed during regular school hours upon completion of the written request form. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

Parents of minor or of a student who is dependent for tax purposes, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate education interests are the only persons who have general access to a student's records. "School officials with legitimate educational interest" include any employee, agents, Trustees of the District, cooperatives which the District is a member, or facilities with which the district contracts for the placement of handicapped students, as well as their attorneys and consultants, who are:

1. working with the student;
2. considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities under IDEA or an individually designed program for a student with disabilities under Section 504;
3. compiling statistical data or;
4. investigating or evaluating programs.

Certain other officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records. The District forwards a student's records on request and without prior parental consent to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Parental consent is required to release the records to anyone else. When the student reaches 18 years of age, only the student has the right to consent the release of records.

The parent's or student's right of access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records. Materials not considered educational records, such as teachers' personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher and records pertaining to former students after they are no longer students in the District, do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

A student over 18 and parents of minor students may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requester has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, parents and the student are not allowed to contest a student's grade in a course through this process. Parents or the student have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the District is not in compliance with the law regarding student records.

Copies of student records are available at a cost of \$0.10 per page up to fifty pages, the fifty-first page is \$0.15 up to the seventy-fifth page, all other pages are \$0.25, payable in advance. Parents may be denied copies of a student's records:

1. after the student reaches age 18 and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes;
2. when the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education;
3. if the parent fails to follow proper procedures and pay the copying charge; or
4. when the district is given a copy of a court order terminating the parental rights.

If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, upon written request of the parent, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge.

Certain information about District students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it, unless the parent objects to the release of any or all directory information about the child. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days after the issuance of this handbook. Directory information includes: a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation of officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received in school, and most recent previous school attended.

TEXTBOOKS

State-approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class; a student is required to use these books carefully. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher; a student who is issued a damaged book should report that fact to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school shall lose the right to have free textbooks assigned until the book is returned or paid for by the parent or guardian. All school books must be turned in and all damages paid for before checking out of school or receiving final grades.

The home campus will be responsible for sending textbooks over to the GOALS campus for students in attendance.

TRESPASS ORDERS

Once a student is assigned to the GOALS program, he/she must not be on the home campus or any other school. The student may not attend school functions either at the home campus or away while assigned to the GOALS campus. The student is not to be on any Yoakum ISD property at any time. If the student violates this directive, trespassing charges will be filed. Senate Bill 1 covers trespass orders under the law.

For educational placements, the students' home campus administrator may allow for attendance at school functions.

VANDALISM

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

VISITORS/VIOLATIONS

Parents and other visitors are welcome to visit District school. All visitors must first report to the administrator's office. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the administrator's approval, and such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. **Nonresident students may not visit the classes.**

The reason for this regulation is not to keep outsiders from the campus as much as it is to protect our student body. In this day and age, with the drug problems, etc., it is to the benefit of all that no nonstudent be on the school campus during the school day. Persons caught on the school grounds without permission shall be asked to leave immediately. If they do not comply, they shall be subject to arrest and charges with violation of Article 4.23-Texas Education Code, Loitering on School Property.

ARTICLE 4.23 – TEXAS EDUCATION CODE, LOITERING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

"Any person loitering or loafing upon the ground of any public school in session, after being warned to leave by the person in charge of the school, shall be fined not less than \$25.00 or more than \$200.00"

Article 295-a of the Penal Code, Prohibiting Disruptive activities at School

This section states in part:

1. "No person or group of persons acting in concert may willfully engage in disruptive activity or disrupt a lawful assembly on the campus or property of any private or public school or institution of higher education or public vocational and technical school or institute."
2. "Disruptive activity means:
 - a. Seizing control of any building or portion of a building for the purpose of interfering with any administrative, educational, research, or other authorized activity.
 - b. Preventing or attempting to prevent by force, violence or the threat of force or violence any lawful assembly authorized by the school administration.
 - c. Disrupting by force or violence or the threat of force or violence of a lawful assembly in progress.
 - d. Obstructing or restraining the passage of any persona at an exit or entrance or hallway of said campus or property, or preventing or attempting to prevent by force or violence or by threats thereof the entry or exit of any person to or from said property without the authorization of the administration of the school.
 - e. A lawful assembly is disrupted when any person in attendance is rendered incapable of participating in the assembly due to the use of force or violence or due to reasonable fear that force or violence is likely to occur.
3. "A person who violates any provision of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200.00 or by confinement in jail for not less than ten days or more than six months or both."

Article 295-c of the penal code. Disrupting Activities

The article provides in part:

Section a. "Any person who, on school property or on public property within five hundred feet of school property, shall alone or in concert with others willfully disrupt the conduct of classes or other school activities shall be guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be issued a fine not to exceed \$200.00."

Section 2. Definitions

- A. "School property" as used herein shall include public school campuses or school grounds upon which any public school is located, and any grounds or buildings used by a school for assemblies or other school activities.
- B. "Public property" as used herein shall include any street, highway, alley, public park or sidewalk.
- C. Conduct which disrupts the educational activities of a school includes:
 - 1. Emission by any means of noise of an intensity which prevents or hinders classroom instruction;
 - 2. Enticement or attempted enticement of students away from classes or other school activities which students are required to attend;
 - 3. Prevention or attempted prevention of students from attending classes or other school activities which students are required to attend.

WEAPONS

A student shall not go onto the school premises with a firearm, explosive weapon, or knife, unless pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the district. The student shall not interfere with normal activities, occupancy, or use of any building or portion of the campus by exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use the firearm, explosive weapon, or knife.

Federal law now states that any person found to be in possession of a firearm on school grounds or any related school activity will be subject to an expulsion period of one-year.

Any violation of the weapons policy as stated in District Discipline Management Plan, city ordinance, state law and/or federal law may result in the student being arrested by law enforcement officials.

Students will be subject to electronic scanning for metal objects, including but not limited to items that can be utilized as weapons, prior to entering the facility and at administrator's discretion.

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

When a student withdraws from GOALS a parent/guardian must send a written request to the administrator specifying the reason for withdrawal and the final day the student will be in attendance. The student must be withdrawn from their home campus.

It is the student's responsibility to see that all textbooks, library books, fines and fees are cleared.

MEMBER DISTRICT COMPUTER USE POLICY

The use of the GOALS computer internet and e-mail resources is a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be taken away from students at any time for inappropriate use of the resources.

GOALS reserves the right to monitor any and all internet, email, and other activity on the computers purchased and maintained, in whole or in part, by GOALS. The GOALS campus reserves the right to change, at any time, the terms and conditions of usage of District resources.

Some information on the internet or that may be transmitted by e-mail may be inappropriate for students, obscene, defamatory, inaccurate, derogatory, abusive, profane, threatening, racially offensive or illegal. GOALS shall take every reasonable precaution to prevent such information from being viewed by students, but students must understand that they are responsible for their own actions. The possession of such materials may be disciplined. The District reserves the right to determine conduct which is inappropriate.

Prohibitions:

1. Acquiring, storing or displaying any obscene, racially offensive or otherwise objectionable material.
2. Attempting improper unauthorized access to any other computer system.
3. Willfully preventing or impairing the use of the Yoakum ISD/GOALS computer equipment for legitimate purposes by other users.
4. Doing anything that might bring the Yoakum ISD/GOALS or its faculty into disrepute.
5. Engaging in any illegal activity.
6. Distributing or releasing personal information, including but not limited to a person's address, telephone number, e-mail address, etc., without that person's permission, or if the person is less than 18 years old, without the permission of that person's parent or legal guardian.
7. Violating the provisions of the Texas Education Code and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regarding students' right to privacy.
8. Publishing any information which may violate or infringe upon the rights, either statutory or common law, of any other person.
9. Conducting or soliciting any business for monetary profit unless specially permitted in writing by GOALS.
10. Submitting, publishing, displaying, possessing, using, retrieving or distributing information that contains pornographic, defamatory, abusive, threatening, profane, obscene, or information otherwise inappropriate or offensive to an average person in the community, material at school, on school property, within 300 feet of school property, or at a school related activity.
11. Reposting or forwarding personal communication without the author's prior consent.
12. Violating copyright infringement laws.
13. Using impolite or abusive language or other methods of communication.
14. Changing or altering computer sites that do not belong to the user.
15. Making defamatory or derogatory remarks about a person that would violate common or statutory laws.
16. Uploading or downloading software or computer files with the purpose to damage Yoakum ISD/GOALS or another member's computer, internet or electronic mail resources (i.e., computer viruses).
17. Attempting to or harming or destroying data of another user's or entity's computer, internet or email resources, including other students, and Yoakum ISD/GOALS.
18. Seeking to gain or gaining unauthorized access to other computer resources.
19. Committing fraud on another person or entity.
20. Any political activity prohibited by law.

Yoakum ISD/GOALS shall not be responsible for any financial obligations students incur from use, either authorized or unauthorized, of District resources.

Resources could fail or malfunction, and that the District shall not be responsible for student losses. Students must understand that they should make personal backups of their material in the resources.

Students must understand that their use of computer resources is for primarily educational, not personal purposes, and that any information contained on the resources related to their usage are accessible by Yoakum ISD/GOALS. An individual search may be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that he or she have violated this policy.

To the extent applicable, the GOALS Student Code of Conduct and any other disciplinary rules apply to use of District resources.

Student pictures may be utilized for the Yoakum ISD web page. The parent gives permission for publication of students' pictures on the Yoakum ISD web page by signing the handbook agreement form.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE INTERNET

The internet is a vast, global network, linking computers at universities, public and private schools, science labs, libraries and other sites. Through the internet, one can communicate with people all over the world through a number of discussion forums, as well as through electronic mail. In addition, many files are available for downloading on the internet, many of which are of educational value. Because of its enormous size, the internet's potential is boundless. The internet expands classroom resources dramatically by making many resources from all over the world available to students, teachers, and media specialists, including original sources materials. It brings information, data images, and even computer software into the classroom from places otherwise impossible to reach, and it does this almost instantly. Access of these resources can yield individual and group projects, collaboration, curriculum materials, and idea sharing not found in school without internet access.

As a hands-on classroom tool, the use of online telecommunication networks can be a motivator for students in and of itself, and their use encourages the kind of independence and autonomy that many educators agree is important for students to achieve in their learning process.

Because class, race, ability, and disability are removed as factors in communication while using the internet, it is a natural tool for addressing the needs of all students.

With access to the internet, your site can become a valuable source of information as students and staff begin to become producers and publishers of knowledge.

However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse. It is the purpose of these guidelines, as well as the contact for on-line use, to make sure that all who use the Yoakum ISD/GOALS internet connection, both students and faculty, use this valuable resource in an appropriate manner.

Part of the District's responsibility in preparing students for the 21st century is to provide them access to the tools they will be using as adults. We believe that use of this global information network is one of those tools.

PURPOSE

The District's system will be used only for educational purposes consistent with the District's mission and goals. Commercial and/or personal use of the District's system is strictly prohibited. Failure to abide by the regulations

shall result in suspension of the internet account, pending administrative review and actions which may include the revocation of the privilege of use.

GUIDELINES FOR USE

The most important prerequisite for Yoakum ISD/GOALS student/staff to receive an internet account is that he or she takes full responsibility for his or her own actions. The Yoakum ISD/Goals, along with the other organizations sponsoring this internet link-up, will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to internet through this hookup. All users shall assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for his or her actions.

In addition, the Yoakum ISD/GOALS takes no responsibility for any information or materials that are transferred through the internet. All data and information should be considered on its own merits on an as-is basis. The District has no control over the inherent quality of information and files found on the internet.

The Yoakum ISD/GOALS makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection. Neither Yoakum ISD/GOALS nor the sponsor organizations, shall be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting while using the internet connection.

Because of the size of internet, many kinds of materials eventually find their way onto the system. Should a user happen to find materials which may be deemed inappropriate while using his or her Yoakum ISD/GOALS internet account, he or she shall refrain from downloading this material, and shall not identify or share the location of this material. Be aware that the transfer of certain kinds of materials is illegal, and punishable by fine or jail sentence.

No user shall allow other individuals to use their account. In addition, the user is not allowed to give out or share their password.

The Yoakum ISD/GOALS reserves the right to examine all data stored in the machines involved in the internet link to make sure that all users are in compliance with these regulations. Furthermore, the Yoakum ISD/GOALS reserves the right to use electronic means to track and monitor use.

No student shall incur, or attempt to incur, any financial obligation through the use of Yoakum ISD/GOALS telecommunication connection without prior written parental permission.

No user shall use the telecommunication link to perform any act that may be construed as illegal or inappropriate, including the use of the link to gain unauthorized access to other systems on the network.

The Yoakum ISD/GOALS strongly condemns the illegal distribution of software, otherwise known as pirating. Any student(s) caught transferring such files through the Internet, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts permanently revoked. All users should be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

All federal copyright laws apply to materials located or transferred on the Internet or other on-line resources.

Finally, all users should keep in mind that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the school system as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

PARENT INFORMATION APPLICATION OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Please be advised that the disciplinary provisions contained in this code may not be applied in the same manner to all students. Federal law provides that students with disabilities may not be subject to certain disciplinary actions. In addition, these are federally required procedures that the school district must follow prior to disciplining students with disabilities. For further information please contact the Special Education Director, Brian Billstein at 361-293-2854.

Aiding Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts and open enrollment charter schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts and charter schools to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individual(s) listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine if the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals:

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

Please note that a request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally and does not need to be in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline.

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

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If a district or charter school receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year.

However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30th due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

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

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

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals:

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

Contact Person: Tessa Sanchez

Phone Number: 361-293-2854

Section 504 Referrals:

Each school district or charter school must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's or charter school's Section 504 program. Districts and charter schools must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals:

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

Contact Person: Tessa Sanchez

Phone Number: 361-293-2854

Additional Information:

The following websites provide information and resources for students with disabilities and their families.

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](#)
- [Partners Resource Network](#)
- [Special Education Information Center](#)
- [Texas Project First](#)

Yoakum Independent School District Integrated Pest Management Program

According to Section 595.8© of Title 22 Texas Administrative Code, all schools that periodically apply pesticides indoors are required to notify parents or guardians of children attending that school about pesticide use at the time of the child's registration. Notification is the responsibility of the chief administrator of the school or educational institution or day-care.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Yoakum Independent School District periodically applies pesticides as part of an integrated pest management program. All persons applying at Yoakum Independent School District are required to receive special training in pesticide application and pest control. In addition, Yoakum Independent School District has a policy that requires use of non-chemical pest control tactics whenever possible that pesticides may periodically be applied.

Should you have any further questions about pesticide use, including the types and timing of treatments, you may contact:

Eric Thiry
315 East Gonzales Street
Yoakum, TX 77995
361-293-3162

Please complete
the following pages beyond this
sheet and
remove them from this book to
return to the
GOALS Teacher.

CONSENT FOR TREATMENT OF A MINOR

Counseling is provided at the GOALS campus on a weekly basis by licensed and/or certified counselors. Play therapy may be used with elementary students based on effectiveness.

We/I the undersigned, _____, parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of minor child _____, give you full and unconditional authority to proceed with treatment as your judgment indicates. This consent is given by me/us as parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of said minor child. It is clearly understood that you are hereby fully released from any claims and demands that might arise or be incident to the treatment provided that your duties are performed with standard care and responsibility to the best of your professional ability. Counseling will take place while the student is at the GOALS campus.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Mother/Guardian

Father/Guardian

GOALS PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK RECEIPT

Name of Student: _____

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand, and agree to abide by the rules, regulations, and procedures in this handbook.

Signature of Student: _____

Date of Signature: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Date of Signature: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Date of Signature: _____

VIDEOTAPE & PHOTOGRAPH PERMISSION FORM

Date: _____

Dear Parent:

We would like to request your permission to videotape and/or photograph your child during the year. These images may be used in making a portfolio, to share with other educators regarding multi-district programs, in the newspaper, in the Cooperative's newsletter or website, for presentations explaining our programs, and/or in recording activities for our classroom photographic albums. These images may be used on bulletin boards or will be sent home to parents. Videotaping has also proven to promote student safety.

My child, _____

- May be videotaped and photographed.
- May be identified by his/her full name.
- May not be identified by his/her full name.
- May not be videotaped and photographed.

Thank you in advance for your consent regarding videotaping and photographing your child.

Sincerely,

GOALS Administrator

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

The persons listed below will be considered emergency contacts and persons whom school personnel are authorized to release your child to during the school day.

Contact Name:	Relation to student:	Phone Number:

I authorize the named physician or, in the absence of other person/parent/physician, the school officials to render such treatment as maybe deemed necessary in an emergency. (Must be completed and initialed for authorization.)

Physician _____ Phone Number: _____ (Initial _____)

Known medical allergies:

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____