

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools Update

September 7, 2018

Last week, Governor Abbott released the School Safety Action Plan Summary and opened with a quote, “We are in this together” attributed to our Superintendent of Schools Dr. Leigh Wall. We are in this together as we continue to find ways to work on behalf of all of our students to make our schools safer and to strengthen and restore the positive school learning environments at each of our campuses.

Keeping Schools Safe and Preventing Threats in Advance

The mission of our District is to prepare all members of the learning community to achieve and succeed through innovative strategies and collaborative relationships, and a crucial component to the success of our mission is to sustain positive school learning environments built on a culture of safety, respect, trust, and social and emotional support.

The District has developed Threat Assessment Teams as part of a comprehensive targeted prevention plan that are in place at all Santa Fe ISD schools, as well as the District, for the school year. The teams received extensive training and work in conjunction with the SFISD Police Department to identify students with concerns, assess their risk and identify intervention strategies to provide the needed assistance to the students.

This week, Santa Fe High School administrators were made aware of a threatening text message that involved a limited number of students at our high school campus. The process to identify and respond to threats worked, and the threat was reported and appropriate actions were taken immediately. This was an isolated incident; however, due to the events our school community has experienced this past year, the Campus and District remain committed to continuous communication regarding any incidents that involve student safety. Appropriate consequences and disciplinary action was taken based on the student code of conduct. No further action was warranted as charges were declined by the Galveston County District Attorney’s Office. We realize the concern and alarm these student behaviors have created, and will work to communicate and meet the needs of parents and students, while recovering and rebuilding trust and support for our students and staff.

The Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct has been developed to provide you with the District’s guidelines on behavior for our students. The Code is the District’s response to the requirements of state

law, specifically found in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. The Code provides methods and options for managing students in the classroom and on school grounds, disciplining students, and preventing and intervening in student discipline problems. The law requires the District to define misconduct that may—or must—result in a range of specific disciplinary consequences including removal from a regular classroom or campus, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) or expulsion from school to the Coastal Alternative Program (CAP) or the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP).

This Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Santa Fe ISD Board of Trustees and developed with the advice of the district-level committee. Because the Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the District's Board of Trustees, it has the force of policy; therefore, in case of conflict between the Code and the student handbook, the Code shall prevail. Please Note: The discipline of students with disabilities who are eligible for services under federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is subject to the provisions of those laws.

This interactive PDF can be downloaded and saved to your computer for quick reference to behaviors the District addresses and the potential consequences of some of those behaviors.

[Download the 2018-19 Student Code of Conduct](#)

Student Privacy

Most SFISD students are minors under the age of 17, and their records are subject to federal privacy laws. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Again, we want our students to accept responsibility for their learning and behavior, and be accountable for their own actions, while we protect their rights and the rights of other minors under the law to privacy. In situations such as the recent threat at the high school, specific identifiable student information and the discipline assigned is protected by this law.

Reminder: The Resiliency Center provides free long-term services at no cost to community members

The Resiliency Center serves as a free long-term resource for healing the Santa Fe community. The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the incident. As a referral hub, the Center works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us

Questions?

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at:
santafeupdates.com/contact-us