Texas Leadership Charter Academy Junior High School

Student Handbook

3300 Thomas Ave. Bldg R. #13
Midland, Texas 79703

Office: (432) 242-7117

Office hours are 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Board of Directors
President-Raymond Meza
Vice President-Tommy Olive
Secretary/Treasurer-Bridget Carr
Board Member-Walt Landers
Board Member-Ron Ledbetter
ACADEMICS

ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY (No Pass – No Play)
A student’s eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities is in accordance with UIL standards, which can be found on the following website: http://www.uil.utexas.edu. These standards can also be viewed on campus upon request.

GRADES/REPORT CARDS
Report cards will be sent home during the week following the last day of the six week grading period. All TLCA Junior High School students receive report cards with the numerical grading system in every subject. In accordance with state law, any grade below 70 is failing. Report cards must be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the school. Students receive report cards every six weeks grading period. Progress reports for students with an average of 75 or below will be sent at regular intervals of three weeks.

GRADE REPORTING DATES 2016-2017

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PROMOTION

Junior High
To be promoted from seventh to eighth grade, a student must:
- Meet the state requirement of 90% attendance
- At the end of the school year, in each subject area, have an average of at least 70%

To be promoted from eighth grade to ninth grade, a student must:
- Meet the state requirement of 90% attendance
- At the end of the school year, in each subject area, have an average of at least 70% or successfully complete summer school in the failed course
- Pass the required portion(s) of the state assessment test in accordance with state Student Success Initiative (SSI) regulations
High School

Ninth Grade
To be promoted from ninth grade to tenth grade, a student must:
- Meet the state requirement of 90% attendance
- Acquire at least six (6) credits toward graduation

Tenth Grade
To be promoted from tenth grade to eleventh grade, a student must:
- Meet the state requirement of 90% attendance
- Acquire at least twelve (12) credits toward graduation

Eleventh Grade
To be promoted from eleventh grade to twelfth grade, a student must:
- Meet the state requirement of 90% attendance
- Acquire at least eighteen (18) credits toward graduation

Twelfth Grade
To graduate with a high school diploma, a student must:
- Meet the state requirement of 90% attendance; and
- Minimum/Foundation Graduation Plan: Acquire at least 22 credits in accordance with the Texas Education Code; or
- Recommended Graduation Plan: Acquire at least 26 credits in accordance with the Texas Education Code; or
- Distinguished Graduation Plan: Acquire at least 26 credits in accordance with the Texas Education Code AND meet any of the following combination of options a total of four times:
  1. Original research/project that is: (a) Judged by a panel of professionalism the field that is the focus of the project; or (b) Conducted under the direction of the mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience; (c) Related to the required curriculum set forth in §74.1 of this title (relating to the Essential Knowledge and Skills);
  2. Test data where a student receives: (a) A score of three or above on the College Board advanced placement examination; (b) A score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination; or (c) A score on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) that qualifies the students for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic scholar Program of the College Board or as part of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PAST score shall count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of hours received by the student; or
  3. College academic courses, advanced technical credit courses, and dual credit courses, including local articulation, with grades of 3.0 or higher.
- Foundation Plan with Endorsements: Acquire at least 26 credits in accordance with the Texas Education Code and House Bill 5.
- Foundation Plan with Endorsements and a Distinguished Level of Achievement: Acquire at least 26 credits in accordance with the Texas Education Code and House Bill 5 AND meeting the following conditions:
  o Earning a total of four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
  o Earning a total of four credits in science
  o Completing the remaining curriculum requirements
  o Completing the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement
  o A student must earn distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for top 10% automatic admission.
A student must also earn four performance acknowledgments for outstanding performance:

- in dual credit courses by earning 12 hours with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- in bilingualism
- on an AP test or IB exam
- on the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT
- for earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

**MISCELLANEOUS PROMOTION INFORMATION**

- The Student Success Initiative (SSI) established by the State of Texas requires that all students in fifth grade, eighth grade, and graduation level meet the minimum standard on reading and math STAAR/EOC test in order to be promoted to the next grade level or to receive a high school diploma.
- Accelerated instruction will be provided to assist struggling students.
- For a student who fails to successfully complete the criterion for promotion, consideration for promotion will be given by the Charter System’s Grade Placement Attendance Committee. A number of factors will be examined by the committee to include the student’s initiative in attempting to complete the academic requirement.

**GENERAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POLICIES**

*TLC Academy will follow The Texas Education Code and The Texas Administration Code with regard to legal requirements for Academic Achievement. This guide is a general overview and not all requirements may be listed in this local policy;*

**ATTENDANCE**

**Absences**

Regular daily attendance is essential for a student to receive the greatest benefit from instruction. In support of this critical need, Texas Education Code Subchapter C, Section 25.092 states that a student must be in attendance at least 90% of the instructional days of the school year to receive credit.

Accrual of excessive absences is subject to review and possible referral for truancy in accordance with state law and local TLCA policy. In the event a student’s absence for personal illness exceeds three consecutive days, the student shall present a statement from a physician or health clinic which verifies the illness or other condition requiring the student’s extended absence from school. If the student has missed 9 days, a physician’s or clinic’s statement of illness will be required for every subsequent absence. The student and/or parent is required to deliver a physician’s or clinic’s statement of illness within 3 school days to the school secretary of the student’s assigned campus or this absence will be deemed unexcused.

When a student is absent, the school must have a note from the parent or guardian concerning the student’s absence(s) within 3 school days. The note must include the following:

- Student’s name
- Dates missed
- Reason/Excuse
- Parent’s signature
Parent’s home and work phone numbers
Should the parent call and notify the school that the student is absent, a note must also be provided to
the school office on the day the student returns for documentation purposes. The school keeps a file of
all notes received for audit purposes. The state provides a list that determines designation of excused or
unexcused absences. A student absent from school for any portion of a school day shall provide a note
to the campus office upon return that describes the reason for the absence. Before a student may leave
campus at any time during the school day, a note must be provided to the campus office describing the
reason for the absence. The note shall be signed by the student’s parent or, if the student is eighteen
years or older, or is an emancipated minor, by the student.

Perfect Attendance Awards
Perfect Attendance Awards go to the students that go above and beyond to be at school. In order for a
student to receive a perfect attendance award for the year, the following requirements must be met:

- The student must be enrolled before September 1 of the school year.
- The student must not miss a day of school.
- The student must not have 3 or more tardy occurrences or early outs for any reason

Excused Reasons

- Illness – After three (3) consecutive days missed, the school must have a doctor’s note
- Death in the immediate family excused up to (3) days with documentation
- Religious holidays – must notify the principal’s secretary in advance (Students will receive
  attendance credit for the days.)
- Doctor’s appointments – must have doctor’s note
- Court ordered / legally related absence – accompanied by legal documentation
- Any days lost for athletics/UIL activities
- Student is absent to visit with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who is an active duty
  member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or is
  immediately returned from continuous deployment of at least four months outside the locality
  where the parent, stepparent, or guardian regularly resides. TLCA will excuse up to 5 days for
  this purpose in a school year. An excused absence for this purpose must be taken no earlier than
  60 days before the date of deployment or no later than 30 days after the date of return from
  deployment.
- Students who have a doctor’s appointment, are present at any point during the day, and provide
  a doctor’s note upon return to school will be counted present for the school’s official daily
  attendance.
- A student will have one (1) day per excused absence to make up work missed during the
  absence. In the event of an unclear excuse or unusual circumstances, the principal or his/her
  designee will make the final determination. Accrual of excessive absences is subject to review
  and possible referral for truancy.

Unexcused Reasons

- Vacations scheduled during school days
- Baby-sitting
- Oversleeping
- Missing the bus
- Car trouble
- This list is an example and may not include all reasons that might be deemed unexcused.
Should an absence be unexcused, the student may still complete the work which he/she missed; however a minimum of 20 points will be deducted. Work must be turned in within 24 hours of returning to school. A maximum grade of 80 will be given for work completed following an unexcused absence.

**Truancy**
The TLCA truancy officer will begin a truancy intervention plan when a student violates the truancy laws of the State of Texas. The truancy intervention plan could include the following measures:
- Mandatory counseling
- Community service
- Saturday detention
- Mandatory parental counseling

Should the truancy intervention plan fail to correct the poor attendance habits of the student and absences continue to be a problem, the school will file the proper truancy charges with the City of San Angelo and the case will be adjudicated. Truancy cases can be filed against either the parent for contributing to the truancy of a minor or against the student for failure to attend; depending upon the age of the student and the particular circumstances of the case.

Truancy will result in a grade of zero for all work missed.

**ARRIVAL**
The first bell rings at 7:55 a.m. and the official TLCA Junior High School instructional day begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Campus doors will open at 7:00 a.m. The office doors will not open until 7:45 a.m. Students dropped off before 7:55 a.m. should proceed to the gym. Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria from 7:00 a.m. – 7:35 a.m.

Parents must pick up their child promptly at the assigned dismissal time. Parents must submit a written notice to the school’s administration and present proper identification if they require other pickup arrangements.

**DISMISSAL**
Students should be picked up promptly at dismissal times OR when their activities or practices have concluded. Junior High school students are involved in numerous activities before, during, and after the school day. Therefore, it is important that parents and students and coaches/sponsors communicate about when and where students will complete their activities. There will be no supervision for students who are not picked up by 4:10.

At dismissal time, please observe designated procedures for pick up. Please be sure that all people designated to pick up your child are on the vehicle registration form; otherwise, the student will not be released to them. Parent/guardian must submit written notification and proper identification to the appropriate campus administration if they require designation of other pickup arrangements. Vehicles should not be left unattended in student pickup areas and should only be parked in designated spaces. Never block others so that they cannot exit the parking lots and please be considerate.

**LEAVING CAMPUS**
Upon arrival on school grounds, students may not leave campus at any time or for any reason without checking out in the office. A student requesting to leave school during the day must bring a note from his/her parent/guardian and be checked out by the parent/guardian in the school office. Every parent/guardian must show picture identification to school personnel when signing out their child for any reason. The school nurse or office personnel may also determine if a student should be sent home.
due to illness and will notify the student’s parent/guardian. To minimize interruptions in the classrooms, students will be called to the office by the office staff. Should a parent/guardian find it necessary to pick up a student early for an appointment, the parent/guardian will need to come to the office and sign out the student. In order to minimize the loss of instructional time, the office will not send for the child until the parent/guardian arrives at school.

When scheduling appointments, please try to schedule them for after school hours, on weekends, or during school breaks. If an appointment has been scheduled during school hours, please have a copy of the doctor’s note for our office records or send it with your student the next day. Please send a positive message to students about the importance of being in school every day. Visitors to the school campus are required to sign in at the receptionist desk and show their state identification card.

See Cafeteria Services section for the Lunch Policy.

**TARDY POLICY**

Each child's most important teacher is the parent. The goal of TLCA Junior High School is to meet the educational, as well as the social and emotional needs of each student. It is the honor of TLCA to join the parent/guardian and the school community in providing the best education possible. Being in school and being at school on time is critical. Students who are late not only miss out on important instructional time, but they also interrupt the flow of instruction in the classroom.

Students are allowed to enter the building at 7:15 a.m. and must be in their first period class by the 8:00 a.m. tardy bell. Furthermore, junior high school students must be on time to each subsequent class period in order to avoid other tardy occurrences in those courses. Punctuality is considered a desirable trait. Students who arrive tardy to classroom instruction disrupt the learning environment for others. The following procedures will be used by TLCA Junior High School in dealing with tardiness:

- 3 Tardies=2 Lunchtime Redirection Assignments
- 6 Tardies=2 After School Detention Assignments
- 7 Tardies=2 Days of ISS
- 8 Tardies=3 Days of ISS
- 9 Tardies=5 Days of ISS
- 10 Tardies=ISS/Suspension/Behavior Contract

Three tardy occurrences disqualifies a student from perfect attendance award consideration. Excessive tardiness/midday outs/pick-ups may result in disciplinary action.

**WITHDRAWAL PROCESS**

Parents choosing to withdraw their students should notify the campus registrar’s office to sign withdrawal paperwork at least three days in advance whenever a child will be moving out of the area or changing to another school. Parents are required to follow administrative procedures for official withdrawal and must indicate on the withdrawal form the name of the Charter System or Independent School District and campus or private school in which the student will attend. A student who is withdrawing from school must turn in all books. Students must pay for lost or damaged books. All
records must be clear with the school at the time of withdrawal. It is the parent’s responsibility to check with the school regarding their student’s lunch balance at the time of withdrawal. Any unclaimed funds will not be refunded thirty (30) days after last day of the student’s enrollment.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN**
The charter system works to maintain compliance with federal and state law governing asbestos in school buildings. A copy of the charter system's Asbestos Management Plan is available in the Operations Manager’s Office. If you have any questions or would like to examine the plan in more detail, please contact Scott White, the charter system's Chief Operations Officer, at (325) 653-3200, ext. 7005.

**BACKPACKS/PURSES/ATHLETIC BAGS**
Only clear or full mesh backpacks/bags are allowed in buildings. Students will not be allowed to carry athletic bags or return to them once they are in their designated drop area. Girls may not carry a purse. They will be allowed to have a small zipper bag for personal items in their backpack.

**CAFETERIA SERVICES**
Students have a designated lunch period which is from 11:51 a.m.-12:36 p.m. on normal school days. The lunch time will vary on early dismissal days, late start days, and days in which TLCA High School operates on an activity schedule. Students are expected to bring a lunch from home or purchase one in the cafeteria. Junior and senior students may leave campus for lunch so long as the parent/guardian signs a permission form. Campus administration reserves the right to revoke this privilege at any time. Lunches from home should include a drink and appropriate plastic ware, if needed and microwaves are available.

**Meal Prices** **(Do not have Current Pricing for 2016-17)**
- Breakfast $; Reduced price is $--
- Lunch $; Reduced price is $
- Meal prices are subject to change.
- A la carte items (if available are priced separately) and free and reduced meals do not apply to a la carte items.

Parents may view recent purchases, check balances, make online payments, and set-up low balance alerts by signing up for a My School Bucks account at www.myschoolbucks.com. Cash and check payments may also be made at the appropriate campus administrative office. Payments may take 24 hours to post to student accounts.

If a student would like to purchase a second tray or additional milk the student will need parent permission. The Texas Department of Agriculture states these are not part of the reimbursable meal program and must be charged at full price.

**Lunchtime Food Deliveries**
Due to strict federal standards in regard to Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) and the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Competitive Food Nutritional Standards (20.13), TLCA is restricted in the
types of foods that can be consumed in the same location reimbursable meals are served. Therefore, ANY outside food or beverage from a non-school establishment or non-school source must be purchased by parents/guardians and delivered to the office by the parents/guardians OR be brought from home as a sack lunch.

TLCA personnel will not accept deliveries of food and/or beverages from delivery drivers. Students may not accept deliveries of food and/or beverages from delivery drivers. Furthermore, students are not allowed to “share” foods from outside sources with friends and classmates. Should the sharing of food at lunch tables become a concern and in violation of the federal and state competitive rules of reimbursable meals, campus administration reserves the right to establish isolated tables for students with food from outside establishments.

Parents/guardians may give written permission for their student to accept food and/or beverages from adults other than the parent/guardian. For example, if a youth minister is visiting with a student at lunch, the parent may grant written permission for that person to bring lunch to the student.

Should a student be withdrawing or graduating and have a positive lunch balance at the end of the school year, the parent must submit a written request to the campus office for the balance no later than June 30. Any unclaimed lunch balances after June 30 will not be refunded and all accounts will be cleared. Students who are continuing their enrollment will have cafeteria balances carried forward.

**Lunch Charges**
TLCA has implemented a "$10 charge policy." Each student will be allowed a $10 charge limit before being served an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich and milk. Negative balance notices are sent home with students at least once a week and higher balances may also be mailed home. If you have any questions, please contact the District Food Service Coordinator, Monica Goodroe at 325-653-3200 ext. 7013.

**CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**
Students will be held responsible for the care of school property. Restitution will be expected for any damage caused by student negligence, misuse, or vandalism.

**CHANGE OF HOME ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER**
Parents should provide the school with accurate, updated information regarding parent/guardian names, addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contacts, and doctor’s telephone numbers. If any of information changes during the school year, please notify the school office immediately. All parents/guardians must provide the school with accurate phone numbers in order that they can be reached during the school day, if necessary.

**COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY**
TLCA’s Tele-computing Network provides network and Internet access to students, administrators, faculty, and staff. TLCA believes that the Internet offers valuable, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. With worldwide access to computers and people comes the availability of material that may not be
considered of educational value in the context of the school setting. TLCA blocks all adult only, alcohol, chat, drug, gambling, hate, discrimination, hacking, illegal, lingerie, murder, nudity, personals, pornography, sex, and tobacco related web sites. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information.

The Charter System firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the Charter System. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here for the student to be aware of the responsibilities he/she is about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a TLCA user violates any of these provisions, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action and future access could be denied.

The following policy for acceptable use of technology infrastructure, including the Charter System’s wide area network (WAN), local area network (LAN), email system, Internet, and hardware/software, shall apply to all TLCA administrators, faculty, staff, and students. All technology equipment is the property of TLCA and shall be used under the supervision of authorized Charter System personnel. Authorized Charter System personnel include the Chancellor, Superintendent, and Technology Director.

**Electronic Mail**

**Terms and Conditions**

- Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law is prohibited.
- This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Copyrighted, threatening, harassing, or obscene material, and material protected by trade secret.
  - Forgery, or attempted forgery, of electronic mail messages is prohibited.
  - Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities.
  - Any attempt to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other users.
- While electronic mail offers tremendous opportunities of educational value, it also provides opportunities for unethical and inappropriate use of the system. The use of electronic mail is a privilege, not a right, and unethical or inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. By accepting an account, the user agrees to refrain from unethical and inappropriate use of electronic mail.
- This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Sending messages to everyone in the Charter System or everyone on a campus without permission from your campus principal or authorized personnel.
  - Sending unsolicited junk mail, chain letters, jokes, or advertisements.
  - Sending messages relating to political lobbying.
  - Sending messages that contain racist, sexist, or inflammatory comments.
  - Sending messages that contain obscenities or abusive language.
  - Sending messages that use someone else's name as the sender.
  - Sending messages that are inconsistent with the school's code of conduct.
  - Using the email system to request home phone numbers and later making inappropriate phone calls to the numbers.
  - Using the email system to provide addresses or other personal information that others may use inappropriately.
Fair Use Guidelines for Educational Multimedia

In creating multimedia presentations, a student or teacher is likely to use copyrighted material. This has raised multiple questions about the legal use of copyrighted material for educational purposes. A set of clear guidelines on the use of multimedia in education was approved late in 1996. These guidelines outline the limits of acceptable use of copyrighted materials in educational fair use situations. The multimedia guidelines are not law. The guidelines are simply an agreement between those who own the copyrights and those who wish to use copyrighted materials on what will be permitted under a claim of fair use. Compliance under the guidelines does not mean the use is “legal.” It means that the copyright holder agrees not to sue someone who uses their materials within these limits. The new agreement on Fair Use Guidelines for Educational Multimedia provides concrete limits on the types and amounts of material that may be included in works created by teachers and students.

When speaking of fair use and multimedia, one must follow the four tests of fair use that apply to ALL uses of copyrighted materials in schools:

- The purpose and character of the use – whether the use is of a commercial nature or for nonprofit educational purposes.
- The nature of the copyrighted work – factual information cannot be copyrighted; creative works is almost always copyrighted.
- The amount and importance of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
- The effect of the use upon the potential market for a value of the copyrighted work.

Additionally, one of the first notations in the new multimedia guidelines is that all materials used in multimedia works created by students and teachers should be properly cited as being taken from the works of others. The guidelines also state that multimedia works made from the copyrighted materials of others may be used only in support of the education of students in nonprofit educational institutions.

Use of Multimedia Work

Multimedia works created by students can be:

- Used in the class for which they were created.
- Retained in portfolios maintained by the student for job interviews, college applications, etc.

Multimedia works created by teachers can be:

- Used in face-to-face instruction.
- Assigned to a student to be viewed on their own.
- Displayed at conferences and workshops.
- Retained in portfolios for job interviews, evaluations, etc.

Multimedia work containing copyrighted material may be kept:

- For students:
  - Indefinitely, as long as its use is personal.
- For teachers:
  - Two years from the date the work was first used with a class.
  - Beyond the two year window, permission to retain and/or use the material is required for EACH portion of copyrighted material used.

How Much Material Can Be Used?
The guideline specifies the amount of material from a single source that may be used during a single year/term. If a teacher reaches this theoretical limit, any additional material in a presentation would require permission.

The limits PER TERM are:

- **Motion media (film, video, television)** – up to 10% or 3 minutes, whichever is less, of an individual program.
- **Text (prose, poetry, play, etc.)** – up to 10% or 1000 words, whichever is less, of a novel, story, play or long poem. Short poems of less than 250 words may be used in their entirety. Only three poems by one poet or five poems by different poets from an anthology may be used. For poems longer than 250 words, only three excerpts from one poet or five from works by different poets in an anthology are permitted.
- **Music, lyrics and music video** – up to 10% but not more than 30 seconds from a single work. It makes no difference if the work is being used as a musical work on its own or it is an incidental accompaniment to some visual material.
- **Illustrations, cartoons, and photographs** – a work may be used in its entirety but only if no more than five images from a single artist or photographer are used in a multimedia work.

**How Many Copies?**
An educator may make only two copies (including the original) of the multimedia work. An additional copy may be made if one of the copies is lost, stolen, or damaged. If more than one person co-authors the multimedia work, each may have one copy of the work.

**How Can Teachers Distribute Works Via Networking?**
- On a secure network (Charter System network).
  - Real time, after a class review, or self-study.
  - Password or PIN required.
- Network which restricts copying.
- On an unsecure network (Internet)
  - For 15 days from first assignment or use.
  - After 15 days, on reserve.
  - No copies.

**Other Restrictions**
The opening screen of the multimedia work and any accompanying printed materials must contain a notice that the work contains copyrighted materials which have been used under the fair use exemption of the U.S. Copyright Law. While teachers and students may make alterations to copyrighted material if the purpose is to support specific educational objectives, the author must clearly indicate that such alterations have been made.

Source of Information: “Copyright and Multimedia” by Carol Simpson (copyright 1996) Permission was given by author to use in conjunction with teacher workshops or in staff handbook.

**General Network Regulations and Guidelines**
- Users shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else’s computer files, programs, or disks.
- Users shall not let other persons use their name, logon, password, or files for any reason (except for authorized Charter System personnel).
 Users shall not use or try to discover another user’s password.
 Users shall not use TLCA computers or networks for any non-instructional or non-administrative purpose (e.g. game or activities for personal profit) during active hours of employment.
 Users shall not use a computer for unlawful purposes such as, but not limited to, the illegal copying or installation of software.
 Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by TLCA without permission from authorized Charter System personnel.
 Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer’s memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan Horse, or similar name.
 Users shall not deliberately use the computer or access TLCA’s Network/Internet to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not deliberately access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.
 Users shall not intentionally damage the system or information belonging to others, misuse system resources, or allow others to misuse system resources.
 Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher, campus administrator, or authorized Charter System personnel.
 Users shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) unless they have written permission from authorized Charter System personnel.
 Students and employees who access the TLCA system from personal computers, during school hours or after, are subject to these procedures. This includes the Internet and email.

**Network/Internet Use – Terms and Conditions**

 Acceptable Use – The purpose of using the Network/Internet in our school is to support research and education by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Charter System. Transmission or downloading of any material in violation of school regulations or any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secrets.

 Privileges – The use of the Network/Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges. Authorized Charter System personnel will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, authorized Charter System personnel may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of TLCA may request that specific user accounts be denied, revoked, or suspended.

 Privacy – Be aware that all email, files, and other information saved or transmitted on Charter System equipment are not private or confidential. All information is subject to the provisions of the Texas Public Information Act. Authorized Charter System personnel have the authority to view, monitor, erase, etc. any email, file, or other information saved or transmitted on Charter System equipment. This authority is primarily used to monitor all Internet activity, including but not limited to web pages, search queries, blocked content, images, videos, etc.

 Network Etiquette – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to:
  o Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
  o Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or use any other inappropriate language. Foul language and inappropriate or illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
Do not reveal the personal home address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.

Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or supporting illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt network use by other users.

All communications and information accessible via the network should not be assumed to be private property.

- Warranties – TLCA makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. TLCA will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. TLCA specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

- Security – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Network or Internet, you must notify a system administrator or authorized Charter System personnel. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Attempts to logon to the Network as anyone other than yourself may result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

- Vandalism – Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy TLCA equipment, materials, networks, or data of another user. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, attempts at gaining unauthorized access, or changing online materials without permission.

A student who transmits, takes, or participates in the taking or communicating of images, videos, music, communication or other information whether posted online (YouTube, MySpace, etc.), transmitted electronically or saved electronically including, but not limited to, email, instant messaging, flash drives, etc. may be subject to school discipline measures to include the following:

- Illegal activity
- Immoral activity
- Harassment or bullying
- Behavior not becoming of a TLCA student
- Sexual content
- Anything deemed inappropriate by TLCA administration

**DISCIPLINE SYSTEM**

Good discipline means that the classroom is as free as possible from confusion, disorder, and anti-social behavior. Good discipline means that each student and the group as a whole operate freely within a structured framework which they understand, accept, and incorporate into their behavior without constant reminder or punishment.

Discipline is more than outward pressure. It involves inner understanding and acceptance. The goal of discipline is to develop self-discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include corporal punishment, detention, suspension (in-school AND out-of-school), transfer of enrollment, and expulsion.
For a detailed description of TLCA’s disciplinary system please see the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

**General Schoolwide Discipline**

All students will be referred to the campus principal should their choices for behavior become a hindrance to the learning of others or a distraction to the overall environment of TLCA. Students involved in extra-curricular activities may find that they will be disciplined by their coach/sponsor IN ADDITION to the general discipline plan.

Eight Step Progressive Discipline Plan
- **Step 1-Teacher Action**
  - Verbal Reprimand; Warning; Parent Conference; Student Conference; Change of Seating; etc...
- **Step 2-Two AFTER SCHOOL Detention Assignments**
- **Step 3-Three AFTER SCHOOL Detention Assignments**
- **Step 4-Three Days of IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION and a Behavior Contract**
  - The Discipline Committee, chaired by the principal, will determine an appropriate course of action in order to correct the behavior of the student
  - Further disciplinary referrals could result in the revocation of the student’s ability to attend The Texas Leadership Charter Academy
- **Step 5-Five Days of IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION and an appointment with the Discipline Committee**
  - The Discipline Committee, chaired by the principal, will determine an appropriate course of action in order to correct the behavior of the student
- **Step 6-Three Days of OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION**
- **Step 7-Three More Day of OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION**
- **Step 8-The Discipline Committee, chaired by the principal, will decide upon enrollment status of the student in question**

Progressive Discipline Plan Caveats
- Plan may be circumvented as a result of a severe infraction.
- Corporal punishment may be used in lieu of a detention assignment.
- Starts over at semester unless the student gets to Step 5 before the semester break. At which point, the student automatically start at Step 4 in the Spring Semester.
- No practice, games, etc. until IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION is served.

Detention Guidelines
- 35 minute time period after school. 4:00-4:35.
- Practices and activities are no excuse to miss a detention assignment.
- Transportation is no excuse to miss a detention assignment.
- Students may have the option to take corporal punishment or make arrangements for transportation AFTER detention.
- Detention will begin on the day following the discipline conference.

**School of Choice**
- The Texas Leadership Charter Academy is a school of choice.
- The environment is structured with a greater focus on rules and discipline than a traditional secondary school.
- We will still learn and we will still have fun.
- Despite the stricter nature of the structure of The Texas Leadership Charter Academy, you will find that the learning environment is much more suited to the individual student.
Should you decide that the structure is not a fit to your learning style; you may choose to attend your local traditional public school based upon your residency status.

**DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL MATERIALS**

Vendors or parents are prohibited from soliciting funds or merchandise or taking orders on campus without prior approval of the principal. Written handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials may not be sold, circulated, or distributed on campus by anyone without the approval of the principal. Posting signs on school property is prohibited.

**DRESS CODE**

The Texas Leadership Charter Academy School Board has implemented a mandatory dress code for all elementary, middle school, and high school students. There are many positive reasons for a school dress code, including:

- A dress code encourages students to express their individuality through personality and academic achievements, not outward appearances.
- A dress code puts the focus on academics, not fashion, because they project a neat, serious, businesslike image.
- Schools with dress codes have fewer discipline problems because students aren't distracted.
- Dress codes can be less expensive.
- Dress codes eliminate the visible differences between financially challenged and wealthy children.
- Dress codes eliminate pressure to wear brand name clothing, "gang colors," etc.
- Dress codes create a sense of school pride and belonging.

**Basic Dress Code Requirements:**

1. A parent may be required to bring a change of clothing for any child wearing an item of clothing that the principal finds to be inappropriate or that interferes with the learning environment.
2. Hats, caps, shower caps, headbands, sweatbands, and beanies must will not be worn inside any classroom or building during the school day. Girls only may wear headbands that coordinate with their TLCA uniform.
3. Pants must be worn in a proper manner on the natural waist.
4. Boys' shirts must remain tucked in at all times.
5. Boys in grades 3rd-12th are required to wear a belt (black, brown or khaki).
6. Bandanas and skullcaps are not allowed at school functions at any time unless it is part of the athletic uniform. No clothing shall be worn tied around the body.
7. Tattoos must be covered.
8. Gang symbols are not allowed.
9. Nonconforming hairstyles or inappropriate dress of any kind will not be allowed at school. For boys, hair length should be no longer than at the collar, ear lobes and eye brows must be visible, sideburns cannot extend below the bottom of the earlobe and boys must be clean shaven. Boys are not permitted to wear ponytails. No extreme colors or styles for boys or girls as deemed inappropriate by the administration.
10. No inappropriate dress should be worn at any time. Only school uniforms and appropriate outerwear are allowed on campus at all times.

11. Excessive dress code violations will be treated as defiant and disrespectful behavior and may result in a disciplinary referral. 

Administrative review will be the final decision on all of the above items.

Uniform Requirements

TLCA is a school of choice that requires students to wear uniforms. Student uniforms make a statement that students belong to a unique school environment with a strong commitment to educational excellence. The uniqueness of the student does not rest in the apparel they wear, but in the inner qualities and gifts of the student. All students are required to attend each school day in full uniform. Uniforms are to be worn from the first day of school through the last day of school. In order to minimize loss and simplify identification, all clothing should be labeled with the student’s name.

TLCA polo shirts must be purchased from TLC Academy in the campus office.

Shirts

- Solid color, Royal Blue TLCA purchased Polo Shirt with logo on the front.

Pants/Shorts

- Desert Sand or Khaki in color.
- All lower-body clothing should be made of twill, corduroy, or denim material.
- Girls should not wear “form-fitting” pants that are excessively tight or stretchy.
- Boys should not wear “jogger” pants as they have no belt loops.
- Campus administration or designee will determine if pants are acceptable.
- Shorts are allowed and must be no more than 3 inches above the knee.
- No cargo pants or cargo shorts are allowed.

Outerwear

- Outerwear is defined as sweaters, pullovers, jackets, or coats that are designed to worn OVER other clothing.
- Any OFFICIAL TLCA outerwear (Letter Jacket, Sweatshirt) is acceptable.
- Any other outerwear must meet certain criteria:
  - It must be either neutral in color or fit within the color scheme of the TLCA uniform.
  - The only acceptable colors for outerwear would be black, white, gray, royal blue, navy blue, and khaki.
  - Any outerwear must be SOLID in color free from patterns and/or designs.
  - Any logo or symbol on an article of outerwear can be no larger than 1”x1”.
  - The TLCA Dress Code does not allow for clothing with colored trim, stripes, embroidery, or decoration.

Examples of Acceptable Outerwear
Examples of Unacceptable Outerwear

Accessories
- White, black, or navy socks or tights.
- Undershirts must be solid white, black, navy or royal blue without a logo and tucked in.
- White, black, navy or royal blue turtleneck sweaters may be layered underneath the uniform and tucked in.
- Hair accessories must be uniform colors.
- Belts must be black, brown, or khaki in color with a small standard belt buckle. Belts and pants must be worn at the natural waist.

Footwear
- The following are examples of unacceptable footwear:
  - Sandals
  - Flip-flops
  - Wheeled shoes
  - Light up shoes
  - Open-toed shoes
  - Shoes with more than 1” heels or boots with more than 2” heels.
- Shoes must have both closed toe and closed heels.
- Shoe laces may match the color scheme of the shoe but both laces must be a solid matching set.
- Tennis/athletic shoes, dress shoes, and boots are acceptable.
- All shoes and/or boots must be primarily white, black, gray, blue, or brown. This means that they can be mostly white, black, gray, blue or brown with some other accent color(s) in the shoe. The laces may match the colors in the shoe but both laces must be a solid matching set. For example, if the shoes are black with a pink swoosh the laces are allowed to be black or pink but, both laces have to match.
Examples of Acceptable Footwear

Example of Unacceptable Footwear

Spirit Day

- Jeans - Students should wear only blue denim jeans.
- There should be no printed logos or emblems on jeans.
- There should be no rips, holes, defects or skids in jeans.
- Jeans must be worn in a proper manner at the natural waist.
- Shirts - A spirit shirt purchased from athletic or campus organizations or a uniform shirt is allowed.
- No custom made spirit shirts will be allowed.
- There should be no rips, holes, defects or skids in spirit shirts.
- All spirit wear is subject to administrative approval.

Jewelry

- One ring per hand.
- Girls are allowed one earring per ear.
- Boys are not permitted to wear earrings or ear studs.
- No one is permitted to wear rings or studs anywhere on their bodies, except one pair of modest size, gold or silver earrings only through girls’ ears.
- One modest gold or silver necklace is permitted.
- No large chains are allowed.
- All allowed jewelry is at the discretion of the administration.
- Jewelry may not represent or contain inappropriate content as determined by school administration.

Uniform Infractions

- Uniform and/or dress code infractions will be handled by campus administration.
If a violation can be corrected (i.e. shaving), it will be corrected and the student sent back to class. Repeated occurrences will be considered insubordination and may require additional disciplinary action.

If a violation requires a change of clothes, the student will remain in the office or In School Suspension until the violation is corrected. Once the violation is corrected, the student will be sent back to class. Repeated occurrences will be considered insubordination and may require additional disciplinary action.

**DRILLS – DISASTER/FIRE**

An alarm will sound for fire/disaster drills. All classrooms will have fire drill evacuation procedures specific to their locations in the building. In a disaster drill, students will be directed by teachers to walk calmly to a predetermined safe location. Once in place, students are to assume the protective position by kneeling with heads down and arms over their heads. Students whose behavior is a hindrance to the safe evacuation of the building or who cause a false alarm will be subject to discipline action by administration.

**DRUG-FREE CAMPUS**

TLCA supports a zero tolerance drug policy. TLCA faculty and staff strongly support an anti-drug message and welcome parent and community support to promote this message.

**Random Drug Searches**

In order to ensure a drug-free learning environment, Texas Leadership Charter Academy (“TLCA”) conducts random drug searches of school facilities.

**Extracurricular Drug Testing**

The Texas Leadership Charter Academy Board of Trustees, in an effort to protect the health and safety of its students from illegal drug and alcohol use and abuse or injuries resulting from the use of illegal drugs and or alcohol has adopted a policy for drug testing of students participating in extracurricular activities OR students desiring the privilege to park a vehicle on campus. The procedure for random and possible initial drug testing of middle school and high school students participating in extracurricular activities as defined in Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy is accomplished in conjunction with an independent drug-testing vendor selected by the Texas Leadership Charter Academy Board of Trustees or its designated campus administrators. To facilitate random testing, the administration will provide the vendor with a list of eligible students and in turn the vendor will randomly select up to ten percent (10%) of the eligible high school or middle school students for random drug testing at each testing period. The number of students selected for each test will be determined by the administration. In the event The Texas Leadership Charter Academy Board of Trustees requires initial drug testing, each student electing to participate in any extracurricular activity OR seeking a parking privilege will be required to submit to a urine drug test at the beginning of each school year or if a student is new to the district, within 30 days of enrollment at TLCA. (See TLCA drug testing policy for further information)

**Student Desks and Backpacks**

Students of The Texas Leadership Charter Academy, whether at school facilities or school-related events outside of school facilities, shall have no expectation of privacy. Student desks and other school property remain at all times under the control and jurisdiction of TLCA, even when assigned to an
individual student. Inspections of school facilities may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time, with or without notice and with or without student consent. Students may be held responsible for prohibited items found in their possession, or in facilities or spaces assigned to them or in their temporary and/or nonexclusive control.

Use of Trained Dogs
TLCA may use or contract for specially trained nonaggressive dogs to sniff out and alert school officials to the current presence of concealed prohibited or illegal items, including drugs and alcohol. Such visits to the school may be unannounced. The dogs shall be used to sniff vacant classrooms, vacant common areas, the areas around student lockers, and the areas around vehicles parked on school property. The dogs shall not be asked to alert on students. If a dog alerts to a locker, a vehicle, or an item in a classroom, it may be searched by school officials. Searches of vehicles shall be conducted as described above.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Each year, parents are required to complete an emergency care form that includes a place for parental consent to school officials to obtain medical treatment for the student, as permitted by law. Other information that may be required in case of an emergency should be provided and updated by the parents as necessary.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

Information about emergency school closing due to inclement weather and other situations will be broadcast on local television and radio stations: KSAN-cable channel 3, FOX-cable channel 10, KLST-cable channel 5, KGNZ-90.9 FM, KCRN-93.9 FM, or KGKL-97.5 FM, OR KGKL 960 AM.

If the school is closed, a message will be on the school recording. If you hear no announcement, come to school. Emergency school closings due to inclement weather and or other situations will also be posted on TLCA’s website at www.texasleadership.net and the school’s Facebook page.

ENROLLMENT

As an open enrollment charter school, TLCA will admit any age/grade appropriate child on a first come, first served basis upon completion of the enrollment packet, provided there is space available. Because there is often a limited number of spaces per grade level, applications will be numbered upon receipt. If more applications are received than there are spaces available a lottery system will be used. After the lottery, applications will be placed on a waiting list in the order they were received.

TLCA reserves the right to deny admission to a student who has a documented history of a criminal offense, juvenile court adjudication, or discipline problems under Texas Education Code chapter 37, subchapter A.

**More information on the Admissions and Enrollment Policy and Siblings of Currently Enrolled Student Policy can be found at www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html

FACULTY CREDENTIALS
Teacher credentials fit the following guidelines:

- High school diploma.
- College degree or professional experience appropriate to position
- Highly qualified status under No Child Left Behind appropriate to teaching assignment, as applicable.
- Professional certification preferred.
- Credentials of individual teachers will be provided upon request.
- From time to time TLCA may hire teachers that are not yet certified or that are certified in another area, but will be asked to obtain the respective credentials as soon as possible. Texas charter schools are not required to hire certified teachers, but TLCA administration requires a certification upon hiring, or the prospective teacher to be working through a teacher certification program.

**FEES**

TLCA reserves the right to charge student fees for various activities. All fees collected are non-refundable. There will be a $15 returned check fee per individual returned check for insufficient funds. Any person writing more than three (3) checks that are returned for insufficient funds will not be allowed to write a check to TLCA and must make future payments to the school in the form of cash or money order.

**More information on the Fees Policy can be found at:** [www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html](http://www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html)

**FIELD TRIPS**

All field trips taken by classes are approved on the basis of their contribution to the educational program of the school. A signed parental permission form is required before the student is allowed to make the trip with the class. Teachers will notify parents prior to all field trips. The school activity funds may be used to pay for up to one parent per seven students with a limit of no more than $200.00 towards parent fees. All other parent fees will be paid by the parents. No student siblings are allowed on class field trips. All students must ride on transportation provided by school or with a parent. Students must be in attendance for the school day to participate in the field trip. Any person other than parent/guardian that attends a field trip as a volunteer must have written consent from the parent/guardian and a criminal background check must performed ahead of time.

Note: All field trip fees paid are non-refundable.

**GAMES**

No one under 7th grade is allowed to attend athletic practices or games without direct parental/guardian supervision. All school Code of Conduct standards apply at games, whether home or away. At away games, students should model exemplary behavior as representatives of our school. No student may leave the gym during the activity without being accompanied by a parent. If a student has a driver’s license and has driven to the activity, they may leave campus but cannot return unless accompanied by a parent.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**
The following information is intended to provide parents and students an opportunity to resolve questions or problems that may arise. A student and/or parent should first discuss a problem with the appropriate teacher during a scheduled conference. No teacher should be confronted inside or outside the classroom. If the teacher’s decision is not satisfactory, the complainant may request a conference with the principal. All conferences should be within ten (10) calendar days of the event or problem in question.

Meetings with administrators and/or teachers must always be made by appointment. Complaints about instructional materials, loss of credit on the basis of attendance, or expulsion must be referred to the principal. A student and/or parent with a complaint regarding possible discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin, or disability, or a sexual harassment complaint should contact the principal. No parent should correct or discipline another student.

**LOCKERS**

Lockers remain under the jurisdiction of the school, notwithstanding the fact that they are assigned to individual students. The school reserves the right to inspect all lockers. Students have full responsibility for the security of lockers and should make certain that they are locked, and that the combination is not given to others.

Searches of lockers may be conducted at any time without notice and without student consent when there is reasonable suspicion to do so, whether or not students are present. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the locker clean and orderly at all times. Anything in a student’s locker is considered to be in his/her possession. Damage to lockers by students may result in fines and/or discipline consequences. TLCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

TLCA admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities of the school. Admission will not be based on gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic, artistic or athletic ability, or the Charter System the child would otherwise attend.

The Title IX, Section 504, Title II and Age Discrimination Act coordinator for TLCA is:

Dr. Walt Landers
Chancellor/CEO
PO Box 61726
San Angelo, TX 76906
(325) 653-3200

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE)**

**Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Education Programs**

Texas Leadership Charter Academy offers career and technology education programs in Audiovisual Productions, Anatomy and Physiology; Forensics; Business Information Management; Marketing; and
Family and Consumer Science. Admission to these programs is based on completing pre-required courses in sequential order.

It is the policy of Texas Leadership Charter Academy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Texas Leadership Charter Academy will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all education and vocational programs. For information about your right or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Walt Landers, at 5687 Melrose Ave., San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-653-3200, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Maria Hendryx, at 5687 Melrose Ave., San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-653-3200.

Notificación pública de no discriminación en Programas Vocacionales (Career and Technology Education Programs)


Es norma de Texas Leadership Charter Academy no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, enmendada; Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada.

Es norma de Texas Leadership Charter Academy no discriminar por raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, enmendada; Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972; Edad la Ley de Discriminación de 1975, enmendada: y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada.

Texas Leadership Charter Academy tomará medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso Inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas de educación y vocacionales.

Para información sus derecho o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Walt Landers, at 5687 Melrose Ave., San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-653-3200, y/o Section 504 Coordinator, Maria Hendryx, at 5687 Melrose Ave., San Angelo, TX 76901, 325-653-3200.

PARENTS IN ACTION

Parental involvement in a child’s education experience is critical to success and encouraged. Our Parents In Action (PIA) organization will promote better relationships between home and school. Notices will be sent with students prior to meetings. Meetings will be scheduled no more than twice a semester. PIA leadership members’ terms of service will be from August to May.

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS
Students should label all belongings. Many items are lost each year, and labels assist the school to return them to the owners. Although the school has a lost-and-found area, items are discarded after an appropriate time for students to claim them.

**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**CELL PHONE POLICY (grades 7-8)**

A new cell phone/personal communication device policy will be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year for students in grades 7-8.

All students will be allowed to use their cell phones during class time for instructional purposes STRICTLY with the teacher’s permission. Phones must be silent and kept in the backpack during instructional time as well as non-instructional time unless directed by their teacher.

**CELL PHONE USER AGREEMENT**

Purpose: The Texas Leadership Charter Academy uses instructional technology as one way of supporting our mission to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need as responsible citizens operating in a global community. Students learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In an effort to be proactive with today’s growing social and interactive technology trends, it is our hope that this new policy will increase awareness and training while putting into practice social and professional etiquette relating to electronic devices. TLCA Junior High will allow cell phones to be used for instructional purposes at teacher discretion. Students in possession of a cell phone must comply with the Cell Phone Policy / TLCA Acceptable Use Agreement.

Cyber Safety: TLCA staff will review cyber-safety rules with students frequently throughout the course of the school year and will offer reminders and reinforcement about safe cell phone behaviors. In addition to the rules outlined in these guidelines, students will be expected to comply with all class and school rules while using personal devices. The use of a cell phone is not a right but a privilege. When abused, privileges will be withdrawn.

Guidelines: Violating the established policy will result in the following:

- First offense- the phone must be picked up by a parent or guardian and the student will pay a $10.00 Fine.
- Second offense- the phone must be picked up by a parent or guardian and the student will pay a $15.00 Fine.
- Third offense-the student will be referred to the campus administrator for disciplinary action, which will include another $15.00 Fine and could include detention, in-school suspension and/or loss of privilege to carry a personal device while on campus.
- Any further infractions will result in the student receiving a permanent removal of personal communication device on school grounds during the school day. Furthermore, students who do not adhere to these guidelines could be subjected to further disciplinary actions.

Students who are in possession of cell phones must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Acceptable Use Policy, and all Board Policies, particularly the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Students may not use their cell phone during instructional time unless otherwise given permission by the teacher. This includes students who are in the hallways or in the restrooms during instructional time. Each teacher has the discretion to allow and regulate the use of cell phones within the classroom and on specific projects. Approved cell phones must ALWAYS be powered off while on school campus, unless
otherwise allowed by a teacher. A student who has a phone confiscated may not use another student’s cell phone. Likewise, a student who has cell phone privileges suspended permanently, may not use another student’s cell phone.

Guideline Infractions: The following are considered more serious offenses/infractions and will be referred directly to the administration to be reviewed for disciplinary consequences:

- Cell phones may not be used to assist any student on assignments, quizzes, or tests without teacher approval.
- Students and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that: While using the data plan of the service provider, the school’s network filters will NOT be applied to a device’s connection to the internet. Therefore, any student who accesses websites that are prohibited by the TLCA Acceptable Use Agreement or Student Handbook will be subject to discipline.
- Texas Leadership Charter Academy High School is authorized to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing technology problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.
- Cell phones should be charged prior to school and run on battery power while at school. TLCA will not provide “charging stations” for students to charge their cell phone.

Students are prohibited from:

- Bringing a Cell Phone on premises that infects the network with anything designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorized data or information.
- Processing or accessing information on school property related to “hacking”, altering, or bypassing network security policies.
- Students may not use their cell phones during a study hall period or in the library.
- Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices: Each user is responsible for his/her own cell phone and should use it responsibly and appropriately. Texas Leadership Charter Academy takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged cell phones, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While school employees will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their cell phones. Please check with your homeowner’s policy and/or any insurance purchased from the cell phone service provider regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover loss or damage.
- Usage Charges: TLCA is not responsible for any possible device charges (i.e. apps a student downloads during class) to your account that might be incurred during approved school-related use.
- School administration may view the contents of any device believed to be used in an inappropriate manner that violates the school code of conduct. If the cell phone is locked or password protected, the student will be required to unlock the device at the request of a school administrator.
- Network Considerations:
  - Users should strive to maintain appropriate bandwidth for school-related work and communications.
  - All users will use the TLCA wireless network to access the internet.
  - TLCA does not guarantee connectivity or the quality of the connection with personal devices on the wireless network.
  - TLCA is not responsible for maintaining or troubleshooting student electronic devices.
• Any violation that is unethical may result in the loss of network and/or cell phone privileges as well as other disciplinary action.
• During the course of the school year, additional rules regarding the use of personal devices may be added or modified.
• Please Note: If the following “Opt-Out Agreement” is not signed and turned in to the Junior High School Office before this policy takes effect, then it will be assumed that you and your child/children are in support of this new policy and the Cell Phone Policy will pertain to them.

**CONFISCATED ITEMS**

Any item that is in violation of the Student/Parent Handbook or deemed inappropriate by administration that is taken up from a student can be picked up by the parent from the principal’s office. The school is not responsible for items taken up from students or for any lost or stolen items.

**PETS**

For health and safety reasons, students may not bring pets/animals to school. Working dogs used to assist students with disabilities are not considered pets and shall be allowed in school.

**REPORTING ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

The law requires that any person who believes that a child is being abused or neglected to report the circumstances to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) abuse hotline within 48 hours of the event that led to the suspicion. Abuse is defined as and includes the following acts or omissions:

- Mental or emotional injury to a student or minor that results in an observable and material impairment in the student’s or minor’s development, learning, or psychological functioning.
- Causing or permitting a student or minor to be in a situation in which the student or minor sustains a mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in the student’s or minor’s development, learning, or psychological functioning.
- Physical injury that results in substantial harm to a student or minor, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the student or minor, including an injury that is at variance with the history or explanation given and excluding an accident or reasonable discipline.
- Sexual conduct harmful to a student’s or minor’s mental, emotional, or physical welfare.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the toll free phone number at 1-800-252-5400 or electronically at: http://www.txabusehotline.org. Call or report 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. State law specifies that an employee may not delegate to or rely on another person or administrator to make the report. Under state law, any person reporting or assisting in the investigation of reported child abuse or neglect is immune from liability unless the report is made in bad faith or with malicious intent. Failure to make the required report may result in prosecution as a Class A misdemeanor. Reporting the concern to another school employee does not relieve the employee of the requirement to report it to the appropriate state agency. Employees must cooperate with child abuse and neglect investigators. Interference with a child abuse investigation by denying an interviewer’s request to
interview a student at school or requiring the presence of a parent or school administrator against the desires of the duly authorized investigator is prohibited.

**SEARCHES**

School officials have the right to search a student’s clothing, personal property, locker, and/or vehicle if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that such a search will uncover articles or materials prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct. The school reserves the right, in unannounced visits, to use specially trained dogs to sniff out and alert to the presence of concealed, prohibited items, and/or illicit substances. The dogs will be used in vacant classrooms and around lockers and vehicles on school property. Searches shall be conducted if a dog alerts on a specific location. Appropriate disciplinary action may result from such searches.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Students must not engage in unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or a school employee. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture, sexual conduct, or requests for sexual favors. All students are expected to treat other students and school employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid any behavior 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.

See the Student Code of Conduct (prohibited behaviors) for information regarding disciplinary sanctions. The school will notify the parents of students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor. The school encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent sexual harassment and sexual abuse in school. To the greatest extent possible, complaints will be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with the teacher, the counselor, the principal or designee, or chancellor, who serves as the Charter System’s Title IX coordinator for students. 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 principal or designee. The conference will be scheduled within five (5) days of the request. The principal will coordinate an appropriate investigation, which ordinarily will be completed within ten (10) days of the date of the request. 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, the student or parent may request a conference with the chancellor, or his/her designee, as the Title IX coordinator, within ten (10) days of the resolution.

**More information on the Sexual Harassment Policy can be found at [www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html](http://www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html)**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Special Education provides for the special needs of students who may require individualized instruction. TLCA incorporates special needs students into a mainstream environment that encourages inclusion.
Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Need Special Education Services

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district’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. For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, 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 to meet the needs of all struggling students. A parent may request an evaluation for special education services at any time. If a parent makes a written request to a school district’s director of special education services or to a district administrative employee for an initial evaluation for special education services, the school must, not later than the 15th school day after the date the school receives the request, either give the parent a prior written notice of its proposal to evaluate the student, a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards, and the opportunity for the parent to give written consent for the evaluation or must give the parent prior written notice of its refusal to evaluate the student and a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards.

If the school decides to evaluate the student, the school must complete the initial evaluation and the resulting report no later than 45 school days from the day the school 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 must be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45 school day timeline. If the 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, the school 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 completion, the school must give you a copy of the evaluation report at no cost. Additional information regarding special education is available from the school district in a companion document titled Parent’s Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process. The following websites provide information to those who are seeking information and resources specific to students with disabilities and their families.

- Texas Project First
- Partners Resource Network

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

Cheryl Bricken
325-653-3200 x7010
Provisión de asistencia a estudiantes que tienen dificultades de aprendizaje o necesitan servicios de educación especial. Si un estudiante tiene dificultades de aprendizaje, sus padres pueden contactar a la persona o personas de la siguiente lista para conocer sobre el sistema de revisión o sistema de remisión de educación general del distrito escolar. Cuando un estudiante tiene dificultades en el salón de clases general, el personal de la escuela debe tomar en consideración los servicios de apoyo disponibles para todos los estudiantes como:

- Servicios de tutoría
- Servicios de recuperación
- Servicios de compensación
- Respuesta a servicios de intervención científicos y basados en investigación y
- Otros servicios de apoyo académico o conductual

Muchas escuelas de Texas utilizan el enfoque de Respuesta a la Intervención (RtI, por sus siglas en inglés) para ayudar a todos los estudiantes, incluyendo a los que tienen dificultades. El RtI está diseñado para prevenir las dificultades de aprendizaje y para cerrar brechas en el aprendizaje de los estudiantes. El enfoque RtI no es obligatorio, pero la Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA, por sus siglas en inglés) alienta a las escuelas a utilizarlo. Los padres deben preguntar al maestro o director de su hijo (a) si la escuela utiliza el enfoque RtI.

Mientras que los servicios de apoyo y las intervenciones funcionan para muchos estudiantes, quizá no funcionen para otros. Estos estudiantes pueden necesitar ser evaluados para servicios de educación especial. Si después de las intervenciones el estudiante sigue teniendo dificultades en el salón de clases general el personal de la escuela debe remitirlo a una evaluación inicial para los servicios de educación especial; además los padres pueden solicitar una evaluación inicial para los servicios de educación especial en cualquier momento. Si los padres solicitan por escrito una evaluación inicial para los servicios de educación especial al director de servicios de educación especial del distrito o a un empleado administrativo del distrito, a más tardar al 15vo día escolar después de la fecha en la que la escuela recibió la solicitud, la escuela debe proporcionar a los padres:

- Notificación previa por escrito de su propuesta para evaluar al estudiante, una copia del Aviso Sobre Procedimientos de Protección Procesales y la oportunidad para los padres de otorgar consentimiento por escrito para la evaluación; o
- Notificación previa por escrito de su rechazo para evaluar al estudiante y una copia del Aviso Sobre Procedimientos de Protección Procesales

Si la escuela lleva a cabo una evaluación del estudiante, el período de tiempo para completar la evaluación y el reporte escrito de la misma es no mayor a 45 días escolares desde el día en que se reciba el consentimiento por escrito por parte de los padres para la evaluación. Sin embargo, el período de tiempo se modifica si el estudiante se ausenta de la escuela durante el período de evaluación durante tres o más días escolares o si la escuela recibe el consentimiento para la evaluación por parte de los padres en 35 o menos de 45 días escolares antes del último día de enseñanza del año escolar. La información adicional sobre el proceso de educación especial está disponible en el distrito escolar en un documento complementario titulado Guía para Padres para el Proceso de Admisión, Revisión y Retiro.

- Texas Project First
- Partners Resource Network

Persona de Contacto
La persona designada para contacto sobre opciones para un estudiante con dificultades de aprendizaje o para la remisión para la evaluación de servicios de educación especial es:
STUDENT RECORDS

TLCA maintains general education records required by law. A student’s school records are private and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters TLCA until the student withdraws or graduates. This record transfers with the student from school to school.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is a minor 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 terminating these rights.

**More information on FERPA can be found at www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html**

A parent/guardian who desires a copy of their student’s school records must submit a written request with the student’s name and grade, as well as the date of request and signature of the parent/guardian to the school office. Please allow 24-72 hours from time of request for processing. The fee for black and white copies is $0.10 per copy and for color copies will be $1.00 per copy. Research fees for records recovery will be at a rate of $15.00 per hour in addition to cost of copies, said fees will be charged to requestor.

The address and phone numbers of the junior high school offices are listed below:

San Angelo-Junior High School (7th-8th)
126 S. Jackson St.
San Angelo, TX 76901
(325) 653-3200

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of a minor or a student who is a dependent for tax purposes, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate educational interests are the only persons who have general access to a student’s records. “School officials with legitimate educational interests” include any employees, agents, consultants, attorneys, cooperatives, or board members of TLCA, who are (1) working with the student; (2) considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student’s case, or an individual education plan (IEP) of a student with disabilities; (3) compiling statistical data; or (4) investigating or evaluating programs.

Certain other officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records. TLCA forwards a student’s records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll without the necessity of parent’s permission. Parental consent is required to release the records to anyone else. When the student reaches 18 years of age, the right to consent to release of records, transfers to the student.
The parent’s or student’s right of access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records.

Copies of student records are available at a cost of duplication, payable in advance. Parents may be denied copies of a student’s records for the following reasons:

- After the student reaches age 18 and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes.
- When the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education.
- If the parent fails to follow proper procedures and pay the copying charge.
- When the school is given a copy of a court order terminating the parental rights.

Certain information about students is considered directory information and will be released by TLCA unless the parent objects. TLCA may release directory information, use in school website or school publications. Such information includes name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in school activities and sports, awards received, school work (no grades), dates of attendance, previous school attended, grade level, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and students picture/photographic image. Parents who object to the release of any or all directory information about the students must present in writing the name of the child and the directory information they object to have released. If the school does not receive a parent objection within 10 days of receipt of handbook acknowledgment, the school will assume that the parent approves release of directory information.

**TELEPHONE USE**

Students are only allowed to use the telephone for emergencies, with the approval of administration. Phone messages will be delivered to students only from their parents/guardian as it is deemed necessary by the principal or assistant principals. No social calls are permitted. Students are not called to the phone nor are messages delivered during class periods except in cases of emergency.

**TEXTBOOKS**

School books used in the classroom are provided by the State of Texas or TLC Academy. When a textbook is issued to the student, the student’s name should be written in the book. Each student is responsible for books issued to him/her. If a book is lost or stolen, a new one will not be issued until the old book is paid for. “Lost” books turned in to the office that do not have a student’s name in the book will be returned to inventory. Should a student’s book be found after being paid for, money will be refunded. Student or parent should provide receipt of payment when requesting a refund.

Students with records not clear due to outstanding textbooks or library books will not be able to check out books the following year until the records are clear. Seniors may not participate in graduation rehearsal or commencement exercises until all records are clear.

**VISITORS**

The public is welcome at our school, and we encourage citizens to watch education in action. However, in order to ensure safety for all, we do require all visitors – including parents and volunteers – register at the reception desk/school office. Student visitors are not allowed. All volunteers must show their state identification card upon entering the school.
When a parent/guardian visits, they must sign in properly and obtain a pass. For the protection of TLCA students, entry to the building will be granted only through the OFFICE DOOR.

Volunteers who work directly with students will be required to pass a background check.

**More information on the School Visitors Policy can be found at www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html**

**HEALTH SERVICES**

**BACTERIAL 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 the 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 it requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death. 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 pain, 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. The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results. 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. Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs 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 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 cause meningitis or another serious illness. Do not share food, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss. 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 traveling to a country where there is a 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 to 10 days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to 5 years. Seek prompt medical attention if you think you may have Meningitis. Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health 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.
Because a student may have a medical condition (including severe or life threatening food allergies) that requires extra attention/care from the school personnel, it is important the parent/guardian visit with the school nurse. The school nurse will then inform others of care as needed. It is imperative that addresses and telephone numbers are kept up-to-date with the school as an emergency can arise at any time during school hours.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

The school requests that parents of students with a communicable or contagious disease telephone the school nurse or principal so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. A student with a communicable disease is not allowed to come to school while the disease is contagious. These diseases include but are not limited to the following: chicken pox, measles, mumps, strep throat, scarlet fever, hepatitis, and mononucleosis. Most communicable diseases require a doctor’s release for the student to return to the classroom. Students with temperature of 100°F or above must not be sent to school.

**HEAD LICE**

Children shall be screened by the school nurse or other school official with consideration for privacy and confidentiality. Screenings may be scheduled or conducted at random throughout the year. When a student is suspected of having head lice, the school nurse or other school official shall inspect the child. When live lice and/or viable nits are found, the school nurse or other school official shall check the student’s siblings and all known household contacts on campus. Parents will be contacted and/or a letter will be sent to the parents of students with active infestations.

Children identified with live lice shall be sent home immediately or excluded from the classroom until an initial treatment is completed. The school nurse or other school official shall provide instruction to the parent and/or guardian regarding identification of active infestation, treatment procedures, and readmission guidelines.

**Readmission**

Children who are sent home for head lice infestation must be free of live lice before the student may return to school. When a student has missed five consecutive days of school related to lice infestation, a warning letter shall be sent to the parent to notify them that the student is immediately required to be at school. With excessive absences, both the student and parent can be subject to truancy laws.

- When a student is examined by the school nurse or other school official and found to have head lice, the teacher and office personnel shall be notified. The parent shall be notified, and the student shall be sent home with head lice treatment information.
- When the student returns to school (presumably on the next day), the student shall be re-examined. If the student is free of lice, the student may return to class. If lice are found, the office and teacher shall be notified. The parent shall be notified and the student shall be sent home again for treatment, if it cannot be determined that treatment was done or with instructions for alternate treatments.
- When the student returns to school for the second time, the student shall be re-examined. If the student is free of lice, the student may return to class. If lice are found, the office and teacher shall be notified and a referral shall be made to the nurse. The parent shall be notified, and the student shall be sent home with instructions from the nurse.
ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Children should only be in school when they can fully participate in their educational program. Therefore, children with the following should stay at home and or will be referred home by the nurse or other school personnel:

- Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) - or any condition that presents with fever must be kept home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications.
- Vomiting - must be vomit free for 24 hours.
- Diarrhea - must keep home until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications.
- Conjunctivitis - (bacterial and/or viral) must be kept home until physician permission has been given to return to school or until symptom free.
- Under state and local Health Department regulations, if your child has certain medical conditions, he/she must be excluded from school for a period of time. The school nurse or principal can provide parents with a complete list of conditions and periods of exclusion. All communicable diseases must be reported to the school office, who will, if the disease is reportable, report it to the Health Department. Some of these diseases include but are not limited to: Amebiasis, Meningitis (specific types), Hepatitis, Polio, Pertussis, MRSA, Chicken pox, Novel Influenza, and Tuberculosis.

IMMUNIZATION

In accordance with the Texas Department of Health immunization schedule, recommendations and adopted by the Texas Board of Health and published in the Texas Register annually, a child or student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school, or institution of higher education. Exclusions from compliance are allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications, reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, and active duty with the armed forces of the United States. Children and students in these categories must submit evidence for exclusion from compliance as specified in the Health and Safety Code, 161.004(d), Health and Safety Code 161.0041, Education code, Chapter 38, Education code, Chapter 51, and the Human Resources code, Chapter 42.

- To claim an exclusion for medical reasons, the child or student must present a statement signed by the child’s physician, duly registered and licensed to practice medicine and state that in the physician’s opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well being of the child or any member of the child’s household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.
- To claim exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, a signed affidavit must be presented by the child’s parent or guardian, stating that the child’s parent or guardian declines vaccinations for the reasons of conscience, including a person’s religious beliefs. This type of affidavit is only valid for two years.
- Affidavit MUST BE obtained by submitting a written request to the Texas Department of State Health Services, 1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756 (Rule 97.62 Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code).

A student may be provisionally enrolled for 30 days, if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age appropriate vaccine. If at the
end of the 30 day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered (Rule 97.66, Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code). In the event that office personnel or the school nurse finds a student is lacking an immunization, the parent will be contacted and will only have the number of school days specified to immunize their child. After that, the student will not be allowed to return to school until proof of immunization is given to the school. Proof of immunization may be in the form of personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber stamp validation.

**MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES IN SCHOOL CHILDREN**

The Texas Health Safety code provides for unlicensed diabetes care assistants to be trained to assist school children who need help with their diabetes management while at school or participating in a school activity. If a school nurse is assigned to a campus and is available, then the nurse shall assist the student with diabetes. If a nurse is not available, an unlicensed diabetes care assistant shall help with student only if the parent or guardian of the student signs an agreement that authorizes the assistant to assist the student and a release of liability for civil damages. School children with diabetes are allowed to self-manage their own diabetes, if capable. The law provides immunity from liability for school employees and school nurses.

**MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AT SCHOOL**

Often, students may be required to take prescription and/or over the counter medications at school for a certain period of time as treatment for a medical condition.

1. Prescribed medication must come to school in the original pharmacy bottle, labeled correctly, with the instructions for dosage on it. This also includes inhalers.
2. If medication is only given 1-3 times per day or time released, it can usually be given at home unless specific times are ordered by the doctor.
3. Parents must sign a medication consent form before medication can be given at school. The parent’s written request must not conflict with the label instructions.
4. Any increase or decrease in dosage must be stated in writing by a physician until a new prescription bottle is provided. Otherwise, school personnel must administer medication as it is stated on the container label, or parents may choose to come to the school and dispense the medication to their student.
5. Over the counter medication must be purchased in the United States and it must be in its original container stating directions and dosage. If school personnel reading the label directions find that the medicine is contraindicated for that student, a parent must come to school and administer the medication (ex: if a student is younger than the recommended age on the label directions, school personnel cannot administer the medicine without a physician’s order).
6. If over the counter medication is given for three (3) consecutive days, a physician’s order is required.
7. Herbal or dietary supplements will not be administered unless the medication will benefit the student’s educational achievement as stated in the student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan and is prescribed by a physician.
8. All medication must be turned in to the office upon arrival on the campus. We do not permit students to carry their own medications and self-administer without prior approval from the physician and the school nurse. A student with asthma or severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma or anaphylaxis medication at school.
and school related events only if he or she has written authorization from his or her parent and a physician or other licensed health-care provider. Self-administration must be done in compliance with the prescription or written instructions from the student's physician or other licensed health care provider.

The student must also demonstrate to his or her physician or health-care provider and to the school nurse the ability to use the prescribed medication, including any device required to administer the medication. The physician’s statement must be kept on file in the office of the campus the student attends. A person standing in parental relation to a student or the student himself, if over the age of 18, may give permission to use an asthma inhaler under these guidelines.

Only designated employees may administer prescription medication, nonprescription medication, and herbal or dietary supplements to students. Exceptions apply to the self-administration of asthma medication (with the physician and parental consent), medication for anaphylaxis (e.g., EpiPen®), and medication for diabetes management, if the medication is self-administered in accordance with policy and procedures. A student who must take medication during the school day must bring a written request from his or her parent and the medicine, in its original, properly labeled container. Contact the school nurse for information on procedures that must be followed when administering medication to students.

**PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS**

A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly prescribed as a mood altering or behavior altering substance. Employees are prohibited by state law from doing the following:

- Recommending that a student use a psychotropic drug.
- Suggesting a particular diagnosis.
- Excluding from class or school related activity a student whose parent refuses to consent to a psychiatric evaluation or to authorize the administration of a psychotropic drug to a student.

**SAFETY TRAINING**

School employees who serve as nurses, licensed health care professionals, head coach, or chief sponsor for extracurricular athletic activities, including cheerleading, sponsored or sanctioned by the school must maintain and submit proof of current certification or training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) issued by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or another organization that provides equivalent training and certification. Employees subject to this requirement must submit their certification or documentation to Human Resources in the Administration Office.

**STAPH INFECTIONS**

Most people have heard of terms like “staph infection,” “antibiotic resistant bacteria,” and “MRSA” (pronounced mersa). Staphylococcal bacteria often referred to as “staph” are commonly occurring bacteria found on the skin, under fingernails, and in the noses of all people. Most staphylococcal species never cause infection. However, when infection does occur due to staph, *Staphylococcus aureus*—one of these species of staph—is usually the cause. While all people have some *Staphylococcus* species on their skin and in their noses, only three or four people have *S. aureus*. Even if they have *S. aureus* on
their skin or in their noses, most people are not ill. Since staph is spread primarily by direct (skin-to-skin) human contact or with direct contact to wound drainage of someone who is carrying or infected with the bacteria, anyone with a break in his or her skin is at risk.

“MRSA” stands for methicillin resistant S. aureus. Initially, MRSA strains were resistant to the antibiotic methicillin, a form of penicillin. Now they are resistant to many antibiotics and are sometimes called “multi-resistant” S. aureus. MRSA is not the only antibiotic resistant bacteria. Initially, infection with MRSA was associated with exposure to health care environments, such as hospitals. However, other MRSA strains have evolved that affect previously healthy persons who have not had contact with health care facilities. MRSA causes the same types of infections as S. aureus that is not resistant to methicillin; however, MRSA may be more difficult to treat and can be rapidly fatal. Staph infections begin abruptly. Symptoms may include a large area of redness on the skin, swelling, and pain followed by a pustule or abscess, boils and carbuncles (red, lumpy sores filled with pus). If left untreated, staph can infect blood and bones, causing severe illness that requires hospitalization.

We cannot eliminate staph because it is everywhere. However, because staph is everywhere and has the potential to cause infection, everyone—not just health care workers—must be involved in prevention. Students and their family members should take the following precautions to help prevent skin infections:

- Encourage frequent hand washing with soap and warm water.
- Encourage students to keep their fingernails clean and clipped short.
- Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or anything contaminated by a wound.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as razors, towels, deodorant, or soap that directly touch the body.
- Clean and disinfect objects (such as gym and sports equipment) before use.
- Wash dirty clothes, linens, and towels with hot water and laundry detergent. Using a hot dryer, rather than air-drying, also helps kill bacteria.
- Encourage students who participate in contact sports to shower immediately after each practice, game, or match.
- Keep open or draining sores and lesions clean and covered. Anyone assisting with wound care should wear gloves and wash their hands with soap and water after dressing changes.

We encourage you to be vigilant in looking for signs and symptoms of staph infections. If you or any family member(s) exhibit symptoms as described above, you are encouraged to contact your family doctor or health care provider.

All information contained in this section as well as more detailed information is available at the Texas Department of State Health Services website at [www.mrsaTexas.org](http://www.mrsaTexas.org)

**STATE MANDATED SCREENINGS**

TLC Academy addresses state mandated screening procedures by conducting screenings for vision, hearing, spinal (scoliosis and kyphosis) and Acanthosis Nigricans (AN). Vision and hearing screening:

- Any student referred by a teacher, principal, parent and physician.
- Students referred by Special Education.
- All students in Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades.
- All students new to the state of Texas.
If a child requires prescription eyewear or hearing aids, please be sure they have these prior to screening dates.

Spinal screening: Students must be screened at least twice during the growth years-ages 10-14. TLC Academy provides spinal screening to all students in the 6th and 9th grades.

Acanthosis Nigricans Screening: Acanthosis Nigricans (AN) serves as an indicator of risk for Type 2 diabetes and other chronic health problems. All students in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades are screened for Acanthosis Nigricans. Parents may exclude their child from the screenings by providing the school in advance with written notification or the results of a screening done by a medical doctor. If exclusion is due to religious reasons the religious affiliation of which the student attends is required to submit a notarized letter stating this screening is against their belief.

**STUDENT ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL**

We will promptly attempt to notify the parent or guardian or a person you have authorized us to notify if we have knowledge that your child has been injured or becomes ill at school. We, of course, will call parents/guardians in such a situation and will also call for emergency assistance. We cannot and will not use public funds to pay individual student medical expenses.

The Texas Leadership Charter Academy holds a supplementary STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE POLICY which covers student accidents on school grounds OR at school sponsored functions. This policy is secondary or supplementary to the student’s primary insurance policy.

**More information on the Wellness Policy can be found at**
[www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html](http://www.texasleadership.net/board_policy.html)

**TRANSPORTATION**

**BUS/VAN RULES**

TLCA provides limited bus service to and from school for students. Conditions governing school bus and van operations are prescribed by the state. In meeting these conditions and assuring as nearly as possible the safe and prompt movement of students for field trips, extracurricular activities, etc., the school has adopted the following rules:

A. Parents’ signature on Student Handbook denotes understanding of the school bus/van rules.
B. Obey bus/van driver and monitor.
C. Students will carry no dangerous or disruptive articles onto the bus/van including, but not limited to, weapons, fire devices, knives or unsheathed pointed objects, animals, narcotics, and intoxicating beverages.
D. The school is not responsible for personal items taken up, or for lost or stolen items.
E. Upon loading, students should move to an open or assigned seat and be seated.
F. Students will remain fully seated with feet on or toward the floor until the bus/van stops at the student’s destination.
G. At no time will a student act toward or address comments to a bus/van driver in a disrespectful manner.
H. Students will not throw, pitch, or shoot articles within the bus/van or out the window.
I. Students will not write on, disfigure, or destroy any part of the school bus/van.
J. Students will not take or handle any emergency equipment.
K. Students will not extend any part of their body, clothing, or other articles out of the bus/van window. They will keep the walkway aisle clear.
L. Students will not smoke or ignite any type of fire device.
M. Students will not consume any intoxicating beverages or narcotics.
N. Students will not litter vehicle with debris, but will instead assist in keeping it safe, clean, and sanitary.
O. Students will refrain from engaging in any disruptive and/or offensive behavior (fighting, scuffling, spitting, loud noises, or using obscene, vulgar, and/or profane language or actions, etc.).
P. In case of an emergency or mechanical failure, all students will remain in the bus/van unless directed by the driver to do otherwise.
Q. Students will never use the emergency door except in an emergency.
R. Students will be discharged from the bus/van only at designated stops.
S. Students will not engage in physical contact while on the bus/van. NO PDA.

If a student chooses to break a rule, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.