

*Alamogordo Public Schools*

'2017~2018

BACK TO  
SCHOOL



**Elementary Parent/Student Handbook**

# Elementary Schools Student/Parent Handbook

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## **NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

The Alamogordo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Alamogordo Public School District does not discriminate in its hiring or other employment practices. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Executive Director of Learning Services and Personnel  
1211 Hawaii Avenue  
P.O. Box 650  
(575) 812-6000

Director of Schools  
1211 Hawaii Avenue  
P.O. Box 650  
(575) 812-6000

The Alamogordo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, age, sexual orientation or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. The Alamogordo Public School District Career and Technical Education department does not discriminate in enrollment or access to any of the programs available which include Agriculture/Industry, Art, Business Management, Communications, Engineering/Computers, Family and Consumer Science, and Health Science Technology. The lack of English language skills shall not be a barrier to admission or participation in the district's activities and programs.

This notice is provided as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding these laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator(s).

Title IX Coordinator  
Director of Schools  
1211 Hawaii Avenue  
P.O. Box 650  
(575) 812-6000

# Welcome to the Alamogordo Public Schools

## I GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Dear Parents,

We are appreciative of the opportunity to have your child in one of our district elementary schools. We recognize the instructional program must emphasize a rigorous and appropriate quality education based on the individual needs of your child. The elementary staff are dedicated professionals very much interested in developing a partnership with you to implement your child's educational program.

This handbook has been prepared to provide information on district kindergarten through grade five programs and requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the teacher, principal, or administration if you have questions, or in the event that a problem should arise. We will gladly work with you in seeing that this school year is safe and productive for your child and informative for you. We thank you for your involvement and interest in the educational process. Listed below are district administrators and elementary principal contacts.

### Elementary Schools and Principals:

Buena Vista	Tena Spitsberg	812-5100
Desert Star	Teresa Irwin	812-5750
Heights	Cathy Jackson	812-5200
High Rolls	Bertha Garza	812-5275
Holloman	Jennifer Knox	812-6100
La Luz	Bertha Garza	812-5300
North	Manuela Sanchez	812-5400
Oregon	Alicia McMurry	812-5600
Sierra	Melissa Cole	812-5800
Yucca	Catherine Diaz	812-5900

“Every student can learn, just not on the same day,  
or the same way”

*George Evans*

## District Administration Contact Information:

### Board of Education

David W. Weaver – **Board President**

P.O. Box 650, Alamogordo, NM 88311

(575) 551-6550 [daveweaver26@gmail.com](mailto:daveweaver26@gmail.com)

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Carol Teweleit – **Board Member**

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David Borunda – **Board Member**

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Col. Greg Brown – **Ex-Officio Board Member**

P.O. Box 650, Alamogordo, NM 88311

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### District Administration Contact Information

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Doyle Syling – Chief of Staff

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Robbi Coker – Director Special Education

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Justin Burks – Maintenance Supervisor

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Ward W. Kenyon – Operations Coordinator

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## ELEMENTARY GRADES K-5

### B. ORGANIZATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The teacher has responsibility for the instructional program offered in the classroom to meet the individual educational needs of your child. Parents are encouraged to meet regularly with the teacher about the progress of their child.

The principal determines the matters of school policy in keeping with school district policy and helps the teachers and parents understand the aims and purposes of the school. The principal assists the teachers in developing the instructional program and makes available resources for necessary instructional materials.

Other administrators are instrumental in promoting the services offered the children by helping the principal and teachers in their planning and in obtaining materials and coordinating the work in the schools within the school district.

When you have any questions with regard to the operation of the school or any questions about your child and his/her program of activities, you should contact the principal of the school that your child attends.

It is the aim of the schools of Alamogordo to present a wide range of subjects and activities to prepare children not only in the basic subjects, but also in areas of leadership, citizenship, art, music, physical education and recreation for life in our democratic society.

### C. GOAL

1. The Alamogordo Public Schools will establish sound academic programs that support a vision of excellence, where students may reach their fullest potential as educated citizens. The design and implementation of these programs will enable students to:
  - a. Apply critical thinking skills to everyday situations
  - b. Engage critically and constructively in the exchange of ideas for effective communication
  - c. Utilize appropriate study and research skills
2. Each student's instructional program shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, fine arts, comprehensive health education, including substance abuse and violence prevention education, language arts, mathematics, physical education, science and social studies, including New Mexico history.

## D. SCHOOL ADMISSION AND WITHDRAWALS

### 1. REGISTRATION

FALL REGISTRATION DATES AND TIMES FOR EACH SCHOOL ARE ANNOUNCED IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE, WWW.APS4KIDS.ORG. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- a. The child's original birth certificate or a passport, which shows the child's birth date, for proof of child's date of birth.
- b. The child's complete immunization record for immunization requirements.
- c. Parents will be notified about any school supplies that will be needed; they are also posted in local stores.
- d. Any student being released during the school day must be released through the school office when he/she leaves, and must report to the office when he/she returns. Students who are ill may also be released through the nurse's office.

A student will be released only to a legal parent/guardian or those designated by a legal parent/guardian as documented in the school district database and whose **identity has been verified**. Any changes to student registration status need to be made:

- i. In a timely manner,
- ii. In person

**Please note for student safety you may be asked to produce an ID.**

A student will not be released to any other person except as provided by New Mexico State Statute or in person by his/her legal parent/guardian's notification to the principal's office.

### 2. BE PREPARED TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- a. Home address (proof of residency)
- b. Home phone number
- c. Work phone numbers - for both father and mother
- d. Someone to call in case of an emergency and you are not available. (Please verify this emergency arrangement and phone number prior to registration day.)
- e. Information about allergies or other health problems, which would better assist the school in caring for your child.
- f. Information about any prior specialized instruction due to a disability.

### 3. YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DAY

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS A VERY BUSY AND EXCITING DAY FOR YOUR CHILD AND YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER. SINCE THE TEACHERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING ALL CHILDREN COMFORTABLE IN NEW SURROUNDINGS, THEY ASK YOUR COOPERATION IN DOING THE FOLLOWING ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY:

- a. **Leave your child cheerfully and quickly at the classroom door.**
- b. **If you feel it is necessary to confer with the teacher regarding important information about your child, please request a conference for a later time when uninterrupted time may be**



made available.

#### 4. BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Birth Certificates or passports are **required for all new students enrolling for the first time** in the Alamogordo Public Schools.

#### 5. KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

a. The entrance age for Early Childhood Education (Kindergarten) students is five (5) years of age prior to 12:01 a.m., September 1, of the current school year.

**No exceptions.** Kindergarten is mandatory in the state of New Mexico. Out-of-state students who have previously attended one full semester of an accredited Kindergarten, but who are not eligible for Kindergarten because of age requirement, will be enrolled in Kindergarten.

b. Official documentation must be furnished by the parent to the local school officials covering the student's attendance and academic progress in the former school in which the student was enrolled. A student who has successfully completed one year of public school Kindergarten or a private school Kindergarten, having a curriculum comparable to Alamogordo Public Schools, will be enrolled in first grade.

#### 6. ELEMENTARY GRADES TWO THROUGH FIVE

A student applying for admission to grades two through five on the basis of prior schooling outside the district will be placed initially in the grade level he/she has reached elsewhere. The principal will determine, subsequently, whether there should be any change in the grade placement of the student.

#### 7. PROCEDURES FOR WITHDRAWING STUDENTS

If you are planning a move, please notify the school secretary at least one day prior to the withdrawal date. Notification may be either by letter, telephone, or a personal visit to the school.

A student who leaves or withdraws prior to the last ten days of school will be considered as transfer status with no promotion or retention indicated on the report card or permanent records. A student who withdraws within the last ten (10) school days before the second semester ends will be promoted or retained, but should expect a reduction in grade.

In all cases of early withdrawal, teachers will not be expected to provide advance assignments.

### E. SCHOOL SERVICES

#### 1. STUDENT NUTRITION

APS cafeterias maintain excellent standards of cleanliness and provide breakfast and lunch in compliance with USDA meal pattern and portion size requirements. Meal times are scheduled by the school office. Students may bring a sack lunch and purchase milk or ala carte items. Meal prices are as follows and parents are encouraged to maintain money in their student's account. Parents may send cash or checks (preferred). Parents may check on their student's account balance at any time.

	<b><u>Breakfast</u></b>	<b><u>Lunch</u></b>
Full Price	No Charge	\$2.45
Reduced	No Charge	\$.40

*Prices are subject to change at the beginning of the school year.*

Our schools are able to receive significant federal dollars for our reading and mathematics programs based upon information gathered from the Free and Reduced Meal Application, whether or not the student participates in the meal program. For this reason we ask that you complete the application and submit it for processing. All applications and result information are kept confidential. Thank you for your help in assisting the District to generate funds for quality school programs.

**In compliance with the New Mexico Wellness and Fitness Program, parents wanting to furnish snacks for classrooms may purchase items from the cafeteria (a certified kitchen). Snack option lists are available upon request.**

## 2. HEALTH SERVICES

We are dedicated to keeping your child safe and healthy at school. If you have any specific concerns regarding your child's health, we encourage you to contact your school nurse. Individualized Care Plans and/or Emergency Care Plans may be needed and we can put those together for your child while working collaboratively with you and if needed, teachers, principals and primary care providers.

- a. **School Nurse:** A registered professional school nurse (RN) is assigned to every school in this district. There is a nurse available at all times during school hours, but she/he may not be present in the building. The school nurse not only takes care of acute injuries and illnesses, but she/he is actively involved in providing optimal health care for your child. On the days the RN is not in the building, a Health Assistant, who has basic first aid training, is assigned to the health office. If you have any concerns, questions, or needs, please feel free to call the school nurse. We are here to help you as well as your child.
- b. **Immunization Requirements:** Students shall not be enrolled at any school unless satisfactory evidence of their completed immunizations, or proper exemption, can be presented. Any enrolled student without an immunization exemption will be placed on immunization suspension until immunizations are completed or are made as current as possible. It is unlawful for any parent to refuse or neglect to have his or her child immunized, as required by state law, unless the child is properly exempted.

Legal Reference: NMAC 6.12.2 NMAC 7.5, and Chapter 24 Article 5, NMSA 19978

**HELPFUL INFORMATION: Otero County Health Department, Phone – 575-437-9340  
Holloman Immunization Clinic, Phone – 575-572-7188**

- c. **Medical/Religion Exemption:** Parents who claim a medical or a religious exemption regarding immunizations for their child must bring verification of exemption with them at the time of registration. This exemption must be renewed each year prior to enrollment. Exemption forms may be picked up at the Hawaii Administrative Office front desk or online: <http://www.health.state.nm.us/immunize/Pages/Public/sched/sched.html>. A notary is in the building to notarize these forms.
- d. **Health Concerns:** You will be asked to complete a health concerns questionnaire for your child. This information will be used to plan the health care needs of your child during school. We must have an accurate record of any medical problems, allergies, previous illnesses, or any health concerns. A physical exam before starting school is a good idea, but not required. When registering your child for school, there is a section to check on your child's health concerns. The school nurse will review there concerns and may send a follow up letter to get more information as needed to develop a health care plan. It is imperative that you give us the most updated information in order for us to provide the best services

possible for your child. If your child has a potentially life threatening condition, we encourage you to speak directly to the health office personnel at registration.

e. **Medications:** Any medication, prescription or over-the-counter (ie, cough drops, Tylenol etc.), must include the following:

- 1) A written order(s) from a licensed medical provider is needed on file each school year.
- 2) Written permission from the parent to administer medication(s) at school.
- 3) Medication(s) must be in the original container, properly labeled, and legible.
- 4) All medications must be secured in the Health Office (except those approved to be carried).

A. Parents must complete the following for inhalers to be carried by the student

- 1) Each school year a written order(s) from a licensed medical provider specifically authorizing the student to carry his/her medication(s) and self-medicate.
- 2) Written consent from the parent permitting the student to carry and self-medicate.
- 3) Medications must be in the original container, properly labeled, and legible.
- 4) Clearance by the Health Office allowing the student to carry and self-medicate.

**For student safety, a responsible adult must bring medication to the health office, the student should not have medications on them.**

**Student medication/inhalers are for individual use only. Sharing or lending to others may result in disciplinary action.**

When determining if your child is ready to carry an inhaler, ask your child the following questions:

- What is the name of your in haler?
- If your inhaler is not helping you breathe better, what would you do?
- What time does the clock say? What is 4 hours from that time?
- Show me how to use your inhaler: (Spacers recommended)
- How do you know when you need to use your inhaler?
- When your breathing feels bad what do you do for it?
- What is asthma?
- Where is the Health Office at your school?

If you determine that you want your child to carry their inhaler, please consult with the school nurse and provide your child with a labeled inhaler from the Pharmacy. It is best to have a second inhaler to keep in the health office in case the child forgets or loses the inhaler.

If your child has an epi-pen, please speak directly with the health services personnel at registration.

f. **Vision/Hearing Screening:** During the fall of each year, and as necessary, children are screened for vision and hearing. If your child does not meet the minimum state requirements, you will be notified in writing. Please complete the suggested follow-up by a

specialist for vision and hearing screenings. A deficiency in any of these areas can impede the student's learning. If financial concerns prohibit quick response, please contact school nurse for resources.

- g. **Office Visits:** When a child comes to the health office, the reason for the visit is recorded on a secure computer program. You will not be contacted for minor injuries or illnesses, such as paper cuts, chapped lips, etc. However, you may get a record of the office visits at anytime. If the child needs to get medical attention or needs to go home to rest, we will call the numbers provided to us on the registration form. A contact person will be expected to pick child up within one hour. If your child has an excessive number of visits, we may contact you to discuss the concerns.
- h. **In Case of Emergency, We May Call 911** and then call the parent. This will be determined by the severity of the emergency. The parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of the ambulance call.
- i. **Attendance:** Attendance is a key factor in your child's success at school. Develop good attendance habits early, and these habits will carry over into their adult lives. Establish routines at home, which coincide with school, such as meal times, study times, play times, and rest times.

Your Child will be sent home for the following:

- Fever above 100F (must be fever free for 24 hr before returning without fever reducing medications)
- Vomiting (witnessed)
- Diarrhea (observed)
- Suspected fracture
- Serious Injury
- Communicable Disease
- High/low blood sugar, insulin reaction
- At the discretion of the school nurse

- j. **Emergency Contact Numbers:** Emergency contact numbers are **very important**. Sometimes, we are unable to contact the child's parent/guardian. Therefore, the office staff needs to have on file at least two other non-parent/non-guardian telephone numbers of individuals who would be willing to pick up your child if necessary. Emergency contacts must have the means to transport your child. **All** changes to Emergency Contact lists, **MUST BE MADE IN PERSON**. Students will not be allowed to leave with anyone not listed in Synergy District Database System as an emergency contact.

- k. **Computerized Messenger:**

Computerized Messenger is an electronic notification system that is used to contact Parents/Guardians by phone and email. The notices are sent for daily attendance/absences, general announcements and critical/emergency information. The home numbers, cell numbers and email information is used from the registration form for each student. Please contact the School Office, **in person**, if any updates should be needed during the school year.

- l. **Safety:**

FOR SAFETY, YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW:

- First and legal last name
- Street address
- Parents' names
- Phone number

- Where parents work
- Sitter's full name and phone number

Teach your child to cross streets at intersections and to look both ways for oncoming cars before crossing. If your child is to walk to school, decide on a safe route and practice walking it several times before starting school. Crosswalk supervision will be provided, if possible. If the bus will be ridden, practice walking to the bus stop and home again.

Unless your child rides a bus, please arrange to arrive at school no earlier than 10 minutes before the beginning of school.

If you provide after-school transportation for your child, please be there promptly at the dismissal time to prevent unnecessary worry for your child. If there is to be a change in routine or transportation, send a note and ensure your child understands. If a note or phone call is not made prior to 2:15, your child will follow the original mode of transportation.

CAUTION YOUR CHILD ABOUT:

- Taking gifts or accepting rides from strangers
- Playing in alleys and ditches or loitering on the way to and from school
- Playing with older children who are strangers to the family

m. **Positive Behavior Support:**

What Is a School-Wide Discipline System?

Discipline begins at the universal level with Positive Behavior Support. A major advance in school-wide discipline is the emphasis on school-wide systems of support. These include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. A continuum of positive behavior support for all students within a school is implemented in all areas including the classroom and non-classroom settings (such as hallways, restrooms). Positive behavior support links research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occur. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining a continuum of school-wide instructional support in behavior so that problem behavior becomes less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior becomes more functional. PBS (Positive Behavior Support) is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing school wide, and classroom discipline systems that are research-based. PBS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBS provides a framework for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student specific discipline plans. PBS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for:

- **ALL** students, **ALL** staff, and in **ALL** settings.
- Non-classroom settings within the school environment.
- Individual classrooms and teachers.
- Support for students with at risk behaviors.
- Individual student support for the estimated 3-7% of students who present the most challenging behaviors.

### 3. COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES

Counselors are available in all the elementary schools. Students may meet with the counselor on a referral basis with parental approval. Social workers are also available to assist families with needs that go beyond the counseling of a child.



**F. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION** (refer to the “Standards for School Bus Ridership and Operation” located on the School Bus Ridership Form)

Students are eligible for school transportation if the walking distance to school is at least 1.0 mile. Exceptions may be made if hazardous walking conditions exist or if a student has an IEP, through the special needs program, indicating that transportation is a required service.

Students who come to school by bus are considered to be on campus while on route to and from school. Upon arrival at school, no student may leave the campus without permission of school authorities.

Since many of the buses serving elementary schools also transport students to other schools, they must operate on rigid schedules. Therefore, it is imperative that students be prompt in boarding and leaving their bus. Students should arrive at their assigned bus stop 5 to 10 minutes early.

**1. ASSIGNED BUS STOPS**

Students will not be permitted to leave the bus on the way to and from school except at their regularly assigned stop. Students will be picked up and dropped off **ONLY** at their assigned stop.

**2. TRANSPORTING NON-SCHOOL PERSONS**

Drivers shall **not** transport any person who is not enrolled in the Alamogordo School District.

**3. TRANSPORTING NON-BUS STUDENTS**

Drivers shall **not** transport any student who is not a regular bus student to and from school. Exceptions may be considered by the Alamogordo Public Schools Transportation Department. The criteria for exceptions would be determined by State bus regulations.

**4. BUS REGULATIONS GOVERNING STUDENTS**

Parents who have students riding a bus will be given a “School Bus Ridership Form” at the time of registration. Parents must go over the standards with their student and the student will return the signed bottom portion to the bus driver.

The Student Behavior Policy will be followed. This policy can be found under the Regulations and Reminders section of the Student Handbook.

The bus driver and assistant are authorized agents of the public schools and have the authority and responsibility to uphold the policies and to report any misconduct occurring on the bus.

**G. CURRICULUM**

**1. K-5 GRADE LEVEL STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS**

The Alamogordo Public Schools Curriculum is aligned for grades K-5 with the NM Common Core State Standards. All students are expected to learn and be able to demonstrate the essential skills of each grade before promotion to the next grade.

**2. INTERVENTION AND ADVANCED PROGRAMS**

Instructional programs designed for students needing intervention or advanced help will be

provided as an ongoing part of the school program. The school Student Assistance Team (SAT), collects and reviews all available student data to collaborate on the behalf of students whose needs surpass the curricular program.

### **3. SPECIAL EDUCATION**

A program of specially designed instruction with appropriate ancillary support services, if needed, to meet the unique needs of a child with one or more exceptionalities. Possible Exceptionalities include Gifted, Autism, Specific Learning Disability, Speech/Language Impaired, Intellectually Disabled, Other Health Impaired, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Orthopedically Impaired, Emotionally Disturbed and Traumatic Brain Injury. The Ancillary Support Services, if needed, can include Speech/Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling or Psychology Consult, School Social Work Services and Audiology Services.

### **4. SECTION 504**

Section 504 is federal civil rights law under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) administers Section 504 - not the State. Section 504 is the other service option available to students with disabilities, **but who are not eligible and/or already receiving special education services under the eligibility requirements of the IDEA (Tier 3)**. It is designed to provide equal access and fairness in general education to students with disabilities, thereby leveling the playing field for them. Under New Mexico's three-tier model of student intervention, a Section 504 Plan is a Tier 2 service and/or support.

### **5. GIFTED PROGRAM**

In New Mexico, services for qualifying students are provided through Special Education programs.

### **6. PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**

Available in some schools. Children receiving special education services pursuant to state regulations may be admitted to pre-kindergarten. The student must be at least 3 years old at any time during the school year.

### **7. ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

English as a Second Language Programs are provided to help students achieve proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading and writing the English language in order to be able to participate meaningfully in all academic subjects.

### **8. HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

Homebound instruction is a possibility for a student whose health or an injury indicates an absence from school of three weeks or longer. Criteria for determining such placement will be reviewed by the district health services director along with written communication from the child's physician. Homebound instruction should be considered only as a last resort when all other efforts have been exhausted.

### **9. TITLE I**

Provides additional supports within the curricular program designed to assist strategic and intensive level students who are not demonstrating success in reading and math in the content areas.

## 10. TEXTBOOKS, WORKBOOKS, SUPPLIES AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Textbooks are furnished to your child through the State budgetary process. Each child is responsible for the proper care and return of the books. A fine will, however, be charged for the loss, destruction or misuse of textbooks. If a student transfers out of district, money for lost or damaged books that is owed to the school must be paid before withdrawing.

Each school maintains a library for student use. If your child checks out a book, the responsibility for the proper care and return of the book is the parent's and the child's. Fines are charged for any book lost, stolen, or damaged.

Parents will be expected to provide some school supplies. A list will be given to you by the school or your child's teacher. Please purchase these items early in order that your child will have the necessary materials to progress with the rest of the class.

## 11. STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT

- a. The PARCC is a standardized assessment, required by the state, test administered in April to students in grades 3-5 in Reading/Writing, and Mathematics.
- b. SBA: Standardized Assessment in Science for Grade 4
- c. The IStation is given at Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, and 3 to measure pre-reading and reading skills three times during the school year and continuously throughout the year.
- d. **Short Cycle Assessments/CFA's** will be given continuously throughout the school year in grades Kindergarten-5th to provide additional instructional data.

## H. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

### 1. GRADING SYSTEM – GRADES K- 5

Standards-Based Grading and Reporting

A student's progress toward proficiency levels will be reported on a Standards Based Report Card four (4) times a year. In a Standards-Based system, a student's achievement status is reported relative to the performance standard for each area of knowledge and skill on the report card.

Teachers will follow the Standards Based practice of using four identifiers to communicate a student's level of growth:

- (4) Advanced – the student consistently extends concepts and skills above proficiency
- (3) Proficient – the student consistently meets grade level expectations
- (2) Nearing Proficient – the student is approaching grade level standards
- (1) Beginning Step – the student is having difficulty meeting grade level standards

APS elementary schools have a "Zero Tolerance for Zeros" Policy. Any student receiving a zero is expected to make up the assignments resulting in a zero in an effort to demonstrate their level of proficiency. Individual schools will determine if the student will be allowed the opportunity to remove the zero.



## 2. STUDENT SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION PLAN (SSIP)

AIP-Academic Intervention Plan

RTI- Response to Intervention

SAT- Student Assistance Team

IEP- Individualized Education Plan

School Grading System

### a. The Student Assistance Team (SAT) Process or Tier II on the Response to Intervention (RTI) Process

Alamogordo Public Schools strives to provide strong universal instruction to all students on Tier I, but if a student struggles, either academically or behaviorally, we provide sound, researched-based interventions to assist students. The SAT process helps both the families and the staff at schools to develop a plan to assist a struggling student with the hopeful outcome of student progress.

In New Mexico and Alamogordo Public Schools, the focus of **Tier 2** is to provide **targeted, supplemental, and individualized support** through the SAT process for students who are at-risk academically or behaviorally, or those exceeding expectations and for whom Tier 1 instruction and universal interventions prove insufficient. Using the child study process, the SAT (which includes the student's parents) gathers all available data about a student, hypothesizes a possible cause for the problem, and then designs an individualized SAT Intervention Plan or Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP) that the classroom teacher and/or others then implement in the regular education classroom.

If at any time during the school year, a student is failing any core class and/or is below grade level academic proficiency (defined as mastery of state content and performance standards for that grade level and as being measured by grades, performance on school district assessment, and other measures identified by the school district, a grade level team (Tier I) will consider the development of a Student Support and Intervention Plan (SSIP) for the student. The SSIP is a written document that includes strategies for achieving academic success agreed upon by the student, parent/guardian, and team of teachers.

### b. Promotion and Retention Procedures

Parents or guardians are to be notified no later than the end of the second grading period (first semester) that their child is failing to attain appropriate grade level academic proficiency (defined as mastery of state content and performance standards for that grade level and as being measured by grades, performance on school district assessment, and other measures identified by the school district). If a teacher identifies that a student is failing to attain appropriate grade level expectations and demonstrating proficiency in any core content area by the end of the second grading period, the following actions will occur:

- i. The student will be referred to Grade Level (Tier I), or SAT (Student Assistance Team –Tier II) who will arrange for a conference with the parent(s) guardian(s) of the students.
- ii. The teacher(s) will explain the specific academic deficiencies and review the remediation/intervention strategies in the SSIP to address the deficiencies. Revisions may be made to the SSIP.
- iii. The teacher(s), having followed the RTI process, will develop an AIP Plan as an addendum to the SSIP. This AIP Plan documents that the possibility of retention has been discussed as an option. A student may be placed on an AIP Plan based upon lack of growth based upon grade level expectations and standards as reflected in short-cycle assessment data and classroom performance. Remediation plans may

include tutoring, extended day or week programs, summer programs, and other research-based interventions and models for student improvement provided by the district.

At the end of grades kindergarten through seven, a student who has not attained the required level of academic proficiency established by the state's content and performance standards the following steps shall be exercised:

- i. The student may participate in remediation and, if he or she is able to reach the required level of proficiency through remediation (including summer remediation), is eligible upon Principal approval to be promoted to the next grade level.
- ii. The student may be retained in the same grade or core course level for no more than one school year with an AIP developed by the SAT. If the parent refuses to allow the student to be retained, the parent signs a waiver stating that refusal, and agreeing that the student be advanced with an AIP in place that addresses specific deficiencies. In developing an SSIP/AIP, the SAT is to outline timetables and monitoring activities to ensure progress toward overcoming the academic deficiencies. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) do not allow the student to be retained, the student will be advanced rather than passed, to the next grade level. (Advanced indicates that the student has been placed in the next grade level due to parent refusal of retention, rather than passed based upon academic proficiency)
- iii. If at the end of that year, the student has not attained academic proficiency, the student is to be retained in that grade for no more than one year in order to have more time to achieve proficiency. No parental approval is necessary.
- iv. At the end of grade eight, if a student has not attained the required level of academic proficiency for entering grade nine, the student shall be retained for no more than one school year.
- v. Promotion and retention decisions affecting a student receiving special education services are made by the student's IEP team (not the SAT) and in accordance with the instructional program provided by the IEP.

### **3. PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE**

It is important that the parent or guardian be kept informed of their child's progress in school. The professional staff will make every opportunity to contact the home in order to report progress or to seek assistance when a learning problem is recognized or unresolved. Parent conferences will be scheduled by the professional staff, as often as it is necessary to achieve optimum understanding between the home and the school. Conferences are held regularly once each semester for all students K-5. Parents are also invited to schedule conferences with school personnel in an effort to promote home/school communications.

### **4. REPORTING PROGRESS**

Students will receive report cards following the end of each nine-week period. Progress reports will be sent to parents at least every three weeks. Unsatisfactory work may mean a student is not working to capacity or is in danger of failing if the quality of work is not improved. A failing notice means that a pupil is not doing work of sufficient nature to justify credit at the time the report is sent. Students who are not demonstrating expected learning goals will be provided with an Academic Improvement Plan.

### **5. HOMEWORK, GRADES K-5**

- a. Homework is designed to broaden the student's program, to provide additional practice, to reinforce skills learned at school, or to help make up assignments not completed in class or missed due to absence.
- b. Homework will be assigned to students only if an instructor feels it is necessary for completion of educational goals or learning competencies criteria. Each assignment should have definite and clear objectives, and students should be properly prepared in

class to complete the assignment on their own. New concepts will not be presented in homework.

- c. Instructors will check completed homework assignments. Students should understand their errors and be encouraged to make corrections as necessary.
- d. Quantities of daily homework assigned is dependent upon age and grade level, with the following suggestions:

Grades K-1-2-3	15-30 minutes
Grades 4-5	30-60 minutes

These times may vary according to individual student work habits and the teacher's judgment of student capabilities.

## I. ATTENDANCE

Children learn best when they are in school consistently on a daily basis. Regular attendance is expected. If your child has been, or will be, absent or tardy, notify the school by phone the same day or by note as soon as possible. Urge your child to develop the habit of punctuality and regular attendance, help your child to look forward to each day and talk about their activities of the day. Avoid remarks that would cause your child to fear teachers or other school personnel. Help them to understand and see them as a support and resource.

### 1. REPORTING ABSENCES

There are two types of absences - excused and unexcused.

**Excused** - It will be the responsibility of the parents or the guardians to notify the school of excused absences as soon as possible after the absence occurs. This must be done within forty-eight hours after the absence. It is preferred that notifications occur by 8:30 a.m. of the same day due to safety concerns for the whereabouts of students. No changes will be made after 48 hours.

**Unexcused** - Any absence that is not reported by the parents or guardians will be counted as unexcused. Once a student has accumulated three unexcused absences, a written notice will be sent to the parents or guardians informing them of the unexcused absence and parent requirement under the Compulsory School Attendance Law.

**Ten days of absence in a semester, whether excused or unexcused, is considered excessive. A child's ability to grasp the essential/core mastery level criteria is impaired and promotion to the next grade may be at risk. Parents, please recognize that tardies play an early role in poor attendance and truancy and are therefore a serious concern. Please familiarize yourself with the Parent and Student Notification of Compulsive School Attendance requirements you will receive during registration. You are required to return the signed Acknowledgement of Receipt within 5 school days of having received the policy.**

### 2. EXTENDED STUDENT ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Parents occasionally take students out of school for extended periods of time because of scheduled vacations, family emergencies and other extenuating circumstances.

The school is obligated to inform the parent of the following:

- a. The absences, however short, will interfere with the child's progress.
- b. The absences may affect student ability to attain grade level proficiency.
- c. Proficiency is a direct result of the student's class participation and written performance.

- d. Students will receive an "Incomplete" for all work missed during such an absence. Provisions for homework assignments will be at the discretion of the principal.

**Please familiarize yourself with the following expectations. If you have any questions about content or you need clarification, the Principal is available to assist. You are required to return the signed Acknowledgement of Receipt within 5 school days of having received this policy.**

#### **ENFORCEMENT OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE (Policy JHB-R)**

(A) Regular, uninterrupted classroom instruction, classroom participation, and interaction with classmates are essential to the educational process. Preparation and training for subsequent study or employment includes the development of self-discipline through regular class attendance. For these reasons and others, state law requires that all children of appropriate age and condition attend classes regularly. See the Compulsory School Attendance Law, § 22-12-1 et seq. This Policy implements state law.

The New Mexico Children's Code provides that if a child has more than ten unexcused absences per semester, the child's family may be designated a "family in need of services," or a "family in need of court-ordered supervision." N.M.Stat. Ann. §§ 32A-3A-2(A) (1) and 32A-3B-2(A). A child who is permitted by his or her parents to be chronically truant may also be a "neglected child." Id. § 32A-4-2(E) (2). State law requires the schools to report violations of the Compulsory School Attendance Law to the Probation Services Office of the judicial district in which the student resides for investigation to determine whether the student may be a neglected child or a child in a family in need of services, and thus subject to the provisions of the Children's Code. Id. § 22-12-7(C). Violations of the compulsory school attendance laws can subject parents to criminal sanctions as provided by New Mexico law. Id. § 22-12-7(D).

Maintaining regular school attendance is the joint responsibility of parents and educators. In keeping with that obligation, the following rules for school attendance shall be observed and enforced for all students.

#### **A. Definitions**

1. Unexcused Absence: an absence from school or classes for which the student does not have an allowable excuse pursuant to the Compulsory School Attendance Law or rules of the local school board or governing authority of a charter school or private school. Special family situations may be considered appropriate for excused absence when *prior* approval is received from the principal or his/her designee.
2. Student In Need of Early Intervention: a student who has accumulated five unexcused absences within a school year.
3. Habitual Truant: a student who has accumulated the equivalent of ten or more unexcused absences within a school year.

#### **B. Attendance Requirements**

1. Parent Notification of Absence: Parent or guardian shall notify the school each day his or her child will be absent from any class and the reason for the absence; or shall provide a written and signed verification of the reason for the student's absence, to be presented upon the first day a student returns to school from any absence. If student has been absent for 5 or more consecutive days due to illness, the principal or his/her designee may require written verification from the student's professional health-care provider.
2. Prolonged Illnesses: In cases of chronic or prolonged illnesses expected to last 10 days or more, during which the student is able to do school work., the student's parent or guardian's shall present written verification by the student's professional health care

provider of the expected length of the illness and of the student's ability to do school work at home, and the student may be placed on home-bound study until he or she can return to school.

3. **Make Up of Work Missed Grades:** Following an excused absence, a student shall be given a reasonable time by the teacher within which to make up the work the student missed during the absence. A student shall not be denied the opportunity to make up the work missed during an unexcused absence. At applicable grade levels, if an absence is unexcused, or if the student fails to make up the work missed during an excused absence within the time permitted, any work for which a grade was taken will be counted as a zero for such student in the teacher's grade book, and averaged into the student's grades for the relevant grading period.
4. **Discipline:** In addition to the other measures to be imposed according to this policy, students may receive detention, in-school suspension, or other interventions designed to keep the student in school and progressing academically, for each unexcused absence, at the discretion of the Principal or the designee. Out-of-school suspension and expulsion will not be used as punishment for truancy or unexcused absences.
5. **Notice to Parents of Unexcused Absence:** If a student is absent from school without a parent notification of absence, as required by paragraph B.1, above, the principal or the designee will, as soon as practical, contact the parents or legal guardians by telephone or mail to give notice of the student's absence and to ascertain and document the reason for the absence. An unexcused absence of two or more classes up to fifty percent of an instructional day shall be counted as one-half day absence, and the unexcused absence of more than fifty percent of an instructional day shall be counted as one full day absence.
6. **Third Unexcused Absence:** Upon a student's accrual of a third unexcused absence, the school will provide written notice to the student's parent or legal guardian that the parent/guardian shall be required to meet with the Principal or his/her designee for the purpose of identifying the cause(s) of the unexcused absences.
7. **Fifth Unexcused Absence - Parent Conference:** Upon the student's accrual of a fifth unexcused absence during the school year, the school shall notify the student's parent/guardian that he or she is required to attend a conference to establish an intervention plan to prevent future unexcused absences. The plan will be confirmed in writing and signed by the principal and the parent or legal guardian during the conference. Notice of the fifth unexcused absence will also be sent to the Truancy Specialist for the Alamogordo Public Schools for appropriate action. The student will be referred to the school student assistance team (SAT).
8. **Additional Unexcused Absences:** Following notification of a student's fifth unexcused absence, the school and parent must continue to develop and/or implement intervention strategies that focus on keeping the student in an educational setting.
9. **Notice and Reports of Habitual Truancy:** When a student has accumulated ten or more unexcused absences the school shall give written notice of the habitual truancy by mail to or by personal service on the parent of the student subject to and in noncompliance with the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law. The notice shall include a date, time, and place for the parent to meet with the local school district, charter school or private school to develop intervention strategies that focus on keeping the student in an educational setting.
10. **Parent Failure to Meet:** If a parent/guardian fails to arrange, or to appear for, a conference regarding unexcused absences within 10 days of notice from the school, the school will provide written notice to the Probation Services Office of such failure.

School staff will cooperate with the Juvenile Probation Office or the District Attorney in enforcement actions.

11. If Unexcused Absences Continue After Written Notice of Habitual Truancy as provided in Subsection B of this section has occurred: The student shall be reported to the probation services office of the judicial district where the student resides for an investigation as to whether the student shall be considered to be a neglected child or a child in a family in need of services because of habitual truancy and thus subject to the provisions of the Children's Code.
12. Excessive and Pattern Absences; Habitual student absences shall be monitored for patterns (i.e., every Monday or Friday), and reported as required by statute.
13. Distribution of Policy; Acknowledgment of Receipt: A copy of this policy and an acknowledgment form will be issued to each student during registration each year. The student shall return the acknowledgment form within five (5) school days of receiving this policy. A student who fails to return a signed form within that time shall be subject to disciplinary actions.

#### **PENALTY (Policy JHB-R)**

A parent, guardian or one having custody of the student who, after receiving written notice as provided in Item 5 Policy JHB-R and after the matter has been reviewed in accordance with Item 10 Policy JHB-R, knowingly allows the student to continue to violate the Compulsory School Attendance Law shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. Upon the first conviction, a fine of not less than twenty-five (\$25) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100) may be imposed, or the parent, guardian or one having custody of the student may be ordered to perform community service. Violators of the Compulsory School Attendance Law shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or incarceration for a period not to exceed six month or both.

At the beginning of the year, all parents will be required to sign the Alamogordo Public School Parent and Student Notification of Compulsory School Attendance, which outlines State requirements for student attendance. This document will serve as the definitive guideline for all matters relating to attendance.

#### **Proof of Residency for School Registration**

All parents/guardians registering students in the Alamogordo Public Schools must provide proof of residency at the annual registration. Proof of residency is mandatory to determine the student's correct school attendance zone. Acceptable documentation to establish residency is required annually and failure to provide the required documentation may prevent enrollment in the school.

Students who are homeless and who are protected by the McKinney-Veto Act are required to follow the applicable enrollment process provided by federal law.

Acceptable documents to establish residency include:

- Current utility bill or utility payment receipt dated within the last 60 days
- Current and fully-executed lease or rental agreement **and** a current lease /rent payment receipt or current utility bill for the lease/rental address (agreement must include, or the parent/guardian must provide, the name, address and telephone number of the landlord)
- A mortgage payment receipt dated within the past 60 days
- Property tax bill dated within the last year
- Current and fully-executed Section 8 Agreement **and** a current payment receipt or current utility bill for the Section 8 housing address (agreement must include or the parent /guardian must provide, the name, address and telephone number of the landlord)

- Voter registration documents with the address of the residence
- Military orders establishing that the family lives on a local military base

### 3. ATTENDANCE ZONES/OUT OF ZONE

The School Board sets school attendance zones. Students attend the school zone in which they reside with their custodial parent or permanent legal guardian.

### 4. OUT OF ZONE

An elementary student may attend school out of his or her residential zone. The Open Enrollment Act provides the opportunity for students to enroll outside of their school attendance zone based on the following priorities:

- **Priority One:** persons residing within the attendance zone of the school; and students who had resided in the attendance area prior to a parent who is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States or a member of the national guard being deployed and whose deployment has required the student to relocate outside the attendance for custodial care;
- **Priority Two:** persons who previously attended the school; and
- **Priority Three:** all other applicants for enrollment at the school.

So long as the maximum allowable class size established by law is not met or exceeded in a school by enrollment of priority one students, the school shall continue to enroll students on the basis of the priorities noted. If the maximum allowable class size would be exceeded by enrollment of a student in priority two or three, the school will establish a waiting list. As classroom space becomes available, students within the appropriate grade level shall be invited to enroll on the basis of (1) the student's enrollment priority category, and then (2) the order of the student's entry on the waiting list.

### 5. OUT-OF-ZONE FOR HOLLOMAN SCHOOLS

The Alamogordo Public School District strives to maintain a strong partnership with our military community to insure the success of our students, as well as address the needs of our military parents. In each of our schools, the District will make every effort to maintain class size as required by state statutes.

We will continue to accept students residing out of the attendance zone for Holloman Elementary School as follows:

- Priority 1:** Students residing within the attendance areas of the school (In Zone – Base Housing). Students living in base housing are guaranteed acceptance at Holloman Elementary. Military personnel who have a letter of acceptance to a home on the base are considered under Priority 1 and will be accepted at Holloman Elementary School.
- Priority 2:** Out-of-zone returning students who attended Holloman Schools in the prior school year are accepted for the current school year of registration.
- Priority 3:** Students of personnel who work at Holloman AFB on a permanent basis, whose brother/sister attended Holloman Schools in the prior school year.
- Priority 4:** All other applicants.

Alamogordo Public Schools looks forward to continuing our support of the Holloman community.

## 6. CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO OUT-OF-ZONE ATTENDANCE

- a. The classroom the student will be attending is not overloaded as defined by State Department of Education regulations.
- b. The school is not out of compliance with Federal Comparability Standards and the School District is not in danger of losing federal money.
- c. The Student Assistance Team (SAT) may determine behavior/academic/attendance interventions, that require a change of placement for your student.
- d. Transportation can be provided by the parent to and from the receiving school (out-of-zone) in a timely manner and the names of individuals permitted to take the child home after the normal school day are on file.
- e. Any changes in a Special Education student's educational program, including transfer to another school, have been addressed at an Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting arranged by the department of Integrated Instructional Services.

## II. REGULATIONS AND REMINDERS



### A. STUDENT RECORDS

Each school maintains education records for each student who is currently enrolled. Such education records include report cards, Academic Improvement Plans (AIP), attendance, disciplinary documents, health data, results of standardized achievement, intelligence, aptitude, and interest tests or inventories. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that governs the maintenance of student records. Under that law, parents of students, or students who are at least 18, have both the right to inspect records kept by the school about the student and the right to correct inaccuracies in the records. Access to the records by persons other than the parents or the student is limited and generally requires prior written consent by the parents or the student.

### NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Alamogordo Public School District (District) receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the District to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.



3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Alamogordo Public School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

#### **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Alamogordo Public School District (District), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Alamogordo Public School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, Federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the Alamogordo Public School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District by returning the Directory Information Opt-Out form (included in your registration packet) to your

school administrative office within 30 days of registering your child. The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Diplomas, honors and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

## B. VISITORS

The building Principal or their designee is responsible for all persons on this campus. For these reasons, the following rules apply:

### Visitor's Passes

Any person who is not a regular staff member or enrolled student will be considered a visitor on this campus. All visitors are required to sign in/out at the school office, show a photo I.D., and obtain a dated visitors pass to be worn at all times within the building.

Teachers are not expected to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors because of the interruption to class instruction. An appointment may be scheduled. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules and policies set forth by this school and the APS School Board. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or their designee and may be asked to leave. In addition, law enforcement officials may be contacted if the situation warrants their assistance.

## C. EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

During the course of the school day, a child will be dismissed only to the legal parent/guardian or their designated representative, who must be listed as an emergency/pick-up contact for your child. To insure your child's safety, your designated emergency contact must present a photo ID prior to the release of the student, also, for your child's safety the school must be notified **by 2:15**, for child to be released early except in the case of an emergency.

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY/PICK-UP CONTACTS MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER:**

**Note: Any changes to pick-up contact list must be made in person as soon as possible.**

## D. STUDENT/SCHOOL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. STATEMENT OF POLICY

A primary responsibility of the Alamogordo Public Schools and its professional staff shall be to instill in students an appreciation of our representative form of government, the rights and responsibilities of the individual, and the legal processes whereby necessary changes are brought about.

The school is a community and the rules and regulation of a school are the laws of that community. All persons enjoying the rights of citizenship are subject to the laws of their

community. Each right carries with it a corresponding obligation.

The right to attend public school is not absolute. It is conditional on each student's acceptance of the obligation to abide by the lawful rules of the school community until and unless the rules are changed through established processes.

Teachers, administrators, and other school employees also have rights and duties. Teachers are required by law to maintain a suitable environment for learning in their classes and to assist in maintaining school order and discipline. Administrators are responsible for maintaining and facilitating the educational program by ensuring an orderly, safe environment in the public schools. In discharging their duties, all school employees have the right to be free from intimidation or abuse and to have their lawful requests and instructions followed by students. The District has both the authority and responsibility to ensure that suitable rules of student conduct and appropriate disciplinary processes are established.

## **2. DETENTION**

Detention means requiring a student to remain inside or otherwise restricting his or her liberty at times when other students are free for recess or to leave school. Detention is to be under reasonable supervision and with adequate notification to the parent or guardian if after school time is involved. Necessary transportation shall be provided by the parent or guardian when a student is detained.

## **3. SUSPENSION**

- a. The Principal may suspend from the privileges of the school any student guilty of gross misconduct or continual insubordination to school organization and/or regulations. Any student who is disruptive to other students with particular reference to gang activity, vandalism, truancy, fighting, gambling, insubordination, hazing, foul and abusive language, sexual harassment, use of drugs or alcohol or possession of weapons may be suspended at the option of the building Principal and the Superintendent of Schools subject to certain conditions for reinstatement.
- b. Students with disabilities are not immune from school disciplinary processes, nor are they entitled to remain in a particular educational program when their behavior substantially impairs the education of other children in the program. However, the public schools are required by state law and regulations to meet the individual educational needs of students with disabilities to the extent that current educational expertise permits. Where detention, suspension and/or expulsion is determined to be the appropriate penalty, it may be imposed only in accordance with procedures that provide at least the minimum safeguards set in policy. Suspension or expulsions of students with disabilities shall be subject to those requirements for a student who has a disability.

If the determination is made that the misbehavior is not a manifestation of the disability and the student's program is appropriate, the administrative authority may proceed to initiate long-term suspension or expulsion proceedings.

- c. When a student is suspended or expelled from school, he/she is not to be on any school campus or attend any school-sponsored activity for the duration of the suspension or expulsion. Failure to comply may result in legal or other disciplinary action against the student.

## **4. IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

"In-school suspension" means suspending a student from one or more regular classes while requiring the student to spend the time in an alternative classroom or, another designated area. In-school suspension may be imposed with or without further restrictions of student privileges.

## **5. TEMPORARY (SHORT-TERM) SUSPENSION**

“Temporary (short-term) suspension” means the removal of a student from school for a specified period of ten (10) school days or less. A student facing temporary suspension shall be given a rudimentary hearing which shall inform the student of the charges, what evidence supports those charges, and be given the opportunity to present his or her version of the facts. This “hearing” may be an informal discussion and may follow immediately after the “notice” of the charge is given.

## **6. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION/EXPULSION**

“Long-term suspension” means the removal of a student from school for a specified time exceeding ten (10) school days. The Superintendent or designee will initiate procedures leading to long-term suspensions or expulsion. A temporary suspension may be imposed while the procedures for long-term suspensions or expulsion are activated.

However, where a decision following the required formal hearing is delayed beyond the end of the temporary suspension, the student must be returned to school pending the final outcome of the hearing.

## **7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXPELLED OR LONG-TERM SUSPENDED STUDENTS**

A student who has been validly expelled is not entitled to receive any educational services from the local district during the period of the exclusion from school. A student will not receive credit during the period of expulsion.

No non-resident student shall be permitted to enroll in and attend any Alamogordo Public School district school if the student has been suspended or expelled from the student’s home district for any reason related to the health and safety of students or employees.

## **8. SEARCHES AND SEIZURES**

Students possess the right of privacy of person as well as freedom from unreasonable search and seizure of property guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. This individual right is balanced by the school’s responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of all its students.

Personal search may be conducted when there is a reasonable, individualized suspicion by a school administrator or designee that the student is in possession of contraband in violation of State or Federal law or of school policy. “Contraband”, means any substance, material or object prohibited from school by school policy or state or federal law.

## **9. RULES OF CONDUCT**

The commission of, or participation in, the activities designated below is prohibited in all schools in the District and whenever students are subject to school control.

### **a. Prohibited Activities:**

- Criminal or delinquent acts;
- Gang related activity as described in the District’s Policy on Gang Related Activity;
- Sexual harassment;
- Disruptive conduct;
- Refusal to identify self; and
- Refusal to cooperate with school personnel.

### **b. Regulated Activities:**

Beyond those activities designated above as prohibited, all other areas of student conduct

may be regulated within legal limits by the School Board as they deem appropriate to local conditions. Conduct by non-students, which affects school operations, may be regulated with legal limits pursuant to any forms of authority described above.

- School attendance.
- Use of and access to the public premises, including:
  - Restrictions or conditions upon the bringing of vehicles onto school property;
  - Prohibition of or conditions on the presence of non-school persons on school premises while school is in session; and
  - Reasonable standards of conduct for all persons attending school sponsored activities or other activities on school property.
- Student's dress and personal appearance.
- Use of controlled substance, alcohol, or tobacco on school premises or during school sponsored activities.
- Speech and assembly within the public schools.
- Publications distributed in the public schools.
- The existence, scope, and conditions of availability of student privileges, including extra-curricular activities and rules governing participation.
- Possession or custody of a weapon on school premises or at a school-sponsored activity, in violation of the District's Weapons Policy or NMSA 22-5-4.7. The Special Rule provisions apply to students with disabilities.
- The discipline of students for out-of-school conduct has a direct and immediate effect on school discipline or the general safety and welfare of the school.

#### **10. SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The Alamogordo Public Schools shall maintain and enforce Drug Free Schools and Smoke Free Schools. Students are prohibited from using, misusing, abusing, possessing, selling, dealing, and/or giving away alcohol, controlled substances, solvents/inhalants used for intoxication, and/or drug paraphernalia while at school, on school property, in school vehicles or while at a school sponsored activity.

Smoking of tobacco products or use of smokeless tobacco including electronic cigarettes or look alike tobacco products is prohibited in or on school property during or after the regular school day and at all school sponsored activities outside the school district.

#### **11. WEAPONS IN SCHOOL (Policy JICI)**

The Board of Education recognizes that the presence of weapons in school not only creates unacceptable risks of injury or death, but also creates a climate that undermines the educational purposes of the schools. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Board of Education to prohibit the possession, custody and use of weapons by unauthorized persons on school property or during school sponsored activities. For the purposes of this policy, a "weapon" shall mean any weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury. Any other item or device which may be used as a weapon, including all pocket knives or other knives regardless of length of blade, or other objects, even if manufactured for a non-violent purpose, that resemble objects that have a potentially violent use or any "look-a-like" objects that resemble objects that have a potentially violent use, if the surrounding circumstances, the purpose of keeping or carrying the objects is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon.

This policy is enacted to implement the requirements of the federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C., § 8921 and NMSA 1978, § 22-5-4.7.

#### **12. GANG ACTIVITY**

The harm done by the presence and activities of gangs in the public schools exceeds the

immediate consequences of such activities such as violence and destruction of property. Gang activities also create an atmosphere of intimidation in the entire school community. Both the immediate consequences of gang activity and the secondary effects are disruptive and obstructive to the process of education and school activities.

Gangs and gang activities are prohibited in the schools. A "gang" is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts or acts in violation of disciplinary rules of the School District.

No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall, wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other item that evidences or reflects membership in, or affiliation with any gang; engage in any act, either verbal or nonverbal, including gestures or handshakes, showing membership or affiliation in any gang; or engage in any act in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity.

### **13. NOTICE OF PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING**

Alamogordo Public Schools strictly prohibits and will not tolerate bullying, cyberbullying, hazing, harassment, intimidation and menacing acts by students, staff and third parties.

#### **BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING**

Bullying and cyberbullying behavior by any student in the Alamogordo Public Schools is strictly prohibited and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. "Bullying" means any repeated and pervasive written, verbal or electronic expression, physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at school activities or sanctioned events. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, hazing, harassment, intimidation or menacing acts of a student which may, but need not be based on the student's race, color, sex, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation.

"Cyberbullying" means electronic communication that:

- Targets a specific student
- Is published with the intention that the communication be seen by or disclosed to the targeted student
- Is in fact seen by or disclosed to the targeted student; and
- Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment on the school campus that is so severe or pervasive as to substantially interfere with the targeted student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance.

Students and parents may file verbal or written complaints concerning suspected bullying or cyberbullying behavior to the building principal or the Superintendent or both. Any report of suspected bullying or cyberbullying behavior will be promptly reviewed. If acts of bullying or cyberbullying are confirmed, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against the perpetrator, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

The Anti-Bullying Policy and the Cyberbullying Prohibition and Prevention Policy are available on the Alamogordo Public Schools' website and in all student, staff, and parent handbooks.

#### **HARASSMENT**

"Harassment" means knowingly pursuing a pattern of conduct that is intended to annoy, alarm, or terrorize another person. The conduct must be such that it would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- Any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that is reasonably perceived as any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability; which has the effect of harming another individual, damaging his/her property, placing the individual in reasonable fear, or has the effect of causing a disruption to the educational process.
- Disability: Conduct including but not limited to the following: mocking, taunting, intimidating, criticizing, or punishing a student with a disability because of his/her disability. (Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act).
- Sexual: Gender discrimination as defined in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Examples include but are not limited to the following: sexual assault, unwanted touching, inappropriate comments or conversation, certain non-verbal behaviors and gestures which threaten or belittle others on the basis of gender.

All forms of harassment are prohibited by APS and will not be tolerated.

### **HAZING**

“Hazing” means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a risk of harm to a person, in order for that student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. Hazing includes but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, shocking, or placing harmful substance on the body.
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subject the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
- Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves a violation of state or federal law, or district policies.

Hazing is prohibited by APS, whether on or off school property, and whether during or outside of school hours.

### **NO RETALIATION/FALSE ACCUSATIONS**

Retaliation against any person reporting, filing a complaint or otherwise participating in an investigation or inquiry is prohibited. Such retaliation will be considered a serious violation of Board Policy and will be subject to disciplinary consequences. False accusations and charges will be considered a serious offense and will be subject to corrective action, disciplinary consequences or other sanctions.

### **BOARD POLICIES**

See Board Policies and Regulations: IJNDB, IJNDB-R, IJNDB-E, JIC, JIC-R, JII, JK, JK-RA, JK-RB, JK-RC, JK-RD, JK-RE, JK-RF, JK-E, JKB, JKB-R, and JJJJA.

## E. STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY

The philosophy of the Alamogordo School Board states that a public school must have an orderly environment in which learning is not jeopardized by disruptions. We believe that by accepting and fulfilling appropriate responsibilities, individuals will come to value resultant privileges. Students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others. However, when a student fails to practice self-discipline, disciplinary action by the teacher and/or other school officials becomes necessary. The type of discipline will depend upon the student's disciplinary background, attitude and the seriousness of the student's action. The professional judgment of the teacher or other school officials directly involved with the particular incident will be the basis for the final disciplinary action taken.

### 1. GENERAL POLICIES

All official employees and authorized agents of the public schools whose responsibilities include supervision of students, shall stand in loco parentis at any time this responsibility exists. This authority applies whenever students are lawfully subject to the school's control, regardless of place. During such periods, public school authorities shall have the right to supervise and control the conduct of students, and students shall have the duty to submit to the school's authority. When necessary, a disciplinary action may be imposed to reinforce teaching of a student self-discipline. A disciplinary action may include, but not be limited to or necessarily followed in order listed:

- a. verbal correction
- b. student/teacher conference
- c. communication with parents
- d. parent/teacher conference
- e. monetary restitution for loss or damages
- f. detention (up to one hour after school)
- g. in-school suspension
- h. short-term suspension (1-9 days)
- i. long-term suspension (more than 10 days)
- j. recommendation for expulsion

At all times, due process under 6NMAC 1.4 will prevail.

### 2. GENERAL RULES

Students will be expected to adhere at all times to the following school rules and any additional rules applicable to individual buildings:

- a. **Academics** - Students are responsible for completing assigned school work within the time limits prescribed by the teacher.
- b. **Items from Home** - Students should not bring valuables or other items from home which may be damaged, or cause damage to property or is harmful to other students. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to personal property.
- c. **Heelys**, retractable skates may not be worn for safety concerns.
- d. **Frisbees and other flying toys** - may not be used in congested areas of the playground during recess. The school may allow use of this type of toys when direct supervision is planned.
- e. **Loss/Damage of School Property** - Students and parents or guardians shall be held responsible for loss/damage done to school property (equipment, textbooks, buildings,



furniture, etc.). The school district may withhold the grades, diploma and transcripts of the student responsible for damage or loss of instructional material until the parent, guardian or student has paid for the damage or loss. (Section 22-15-10 NMSA, 1978) Rule applies to instructional materials or textbooks.

- f. **Scuffling and Boisterous Play** - Students are expected to play and behave properly at all times while at school. Students must be responsible for considering the safety and feelings of others as well as themselves.
- g. **Use of Crosswalks** - Crosswalks, where provided, are for the safety of students and are to be used. Crosswalk or safety patrol guards are to be obeyed. Students should use the sidewalks. Students are not to play or walk among the cars or through the parking lots.
- h. **Use of Profanity/Abusive Language** - The use of profanity, abusive language or obscene gestures is prohibited.
- i. **Leaving School Grounds** - No pupil shall leave the school grounds during school hours without permission of school authorities.

### 3. SERIOUS MISBEHAVIOR

Certain misbehavior and actions on the part of students are considered to be more serious than others. These actions are generally identified as deliberate, willful, and/or malicious acts done in flagrant violation of school rules. They may also be defined as acts that are potentially hazardous or even life threatening. Any misbehavior adjudicated to be serious in nature will carry a severe disciplinary action.

- a. **Theft/Vandalism of School Property** – Students and parents or guardians shall be held responsible for loss due to theft/vandalism done to school property (equipment, textbooks, building, furniture, etc.).
- b. **Bringing Weapons to School** – A student will not possess, handle or transmit any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon. This rule does not apply to normal school supplies (like pencils or compasses) when being used for their intended purpose, but does apply to any firearm or any explosives, including firecrackers. Any weapon that is found by an employee of the Alamogordo schools, visible or concealed will be confiscated immediately.
- c. **Harmful Substances** – Students are not allowed to bring or use harmful substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, unauthorized medical prescriptions, or over the counter medications, at school or school activities.
- d. **Rock Throwing** – Throwing rocks (or any object that can cause physical harm) is not allowed. Severe physical harm can result from throwing objects, even though not done maliciously.
- e. **Fighting** – Students will not threaten, bully, harass, intimidate or inflict bodily injury to any person while under the jurisdiction of the school.
- f. **Laser Pen Lights** – There are no school activities that would require a student to have this object in their possession.

### 4. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed for all student infractions unless adjudicated as serious misbehavior.

- a. **First offense** - The student will be counseled by the disciplinary person. A verbal reprimand will be used to clarify the student's offense, being certain he understands the rules. Knowledge of the student's past behavior will determine if discipline is to be administered by the attending teacher and/or referred to the regularly assigned teacher.

Any action taken will be documented on the attending teacher's disciplinary log – student information system.

- b. **Second offense** - The second time a student is guilty of the same infraction, the student will be verbally reprimanded in addition to one of the following disciplinary actions:

Detention of student before, during, or after school with teacher supervision. Parents will be notified of any detention. For after school detention, parents will need to make provisions for transportation.

Written assignments or reports pertaining to the particular offense and parental signature return requested.

Restitution, either monetary or through school services, as deemed appropriate.

Parents will be notified by verbal or written communication. Disciplinary action will be documented on the attending teacher's disciplinary log - student information system.

- c. **Subsequent offenses** - When a student commits the same offense the third time, it is obvious the student has not learned self-discipline and he will be referred to the principal for disciplinary action.

## 5. COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Every effort shall be made by administrators and faculty members to resolve problems through effective utilization of School District resources in cooperation with the student and parent or guardian.

In the event that a problem is not resolved, the complaint procedure by the student and parent or guardian will be as follows:

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Appropriate Director

## 6. DISTRICT DRESS CODE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the Alamogordo Public Schools primarily rests with parents/guardians and the students themselves. Some student attire, however, may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same attire may be appropriate to wear in other settings.

To assist parents/guardians and students in making appropriate decisions for school attire, the School Board has established student dress code guidelines to promote the safety of students and a non-disruptive environment for orderly operation of the school. A student's appearance, mode of dress, and/or cleanliness shall not disrupt the educational process, or constitute a threat to school safety.

**Students must adhere to the following guidelines:**

- a. Pants/shorts will be worn at the waist; dangling attachments such as chains, etc. are not allowed.
- b. Shorts, skirts, dresses, jumpers or skorts may not be shorter than mid thigh.
- c. Clothes bearing phrases, graphics, or slogans which are sexually suggestive, promote the use of drugs or alcohol, contain vulgar language or ethnic slurs will not be worn.
- d. Rags, bandannas or any clothing displaying gang colors, including gang signs, symbols, or coded designs on clothing, notebooks, etc., that is representative of gang affiliation or identification are not allowed.

- e. All tops must have a minimum two-inch shoulder strap width. Clothing which bares the midriff or navel, backless dresses or tops, see-through **to the skin or undergarments** or spandex-type biker shorts, are not appropriate attire.
- f. Shoes must be worn at all times. Enclosed shoes will be worn for physical education. House shoes of any kind are not appropriate.
- g. Head gear is not to be worn indoors, except for religious or medical reasons.

Note: The principal or the principal's designee is the final authority for interpreting whether student attire conforms to the dress code. If dress is inappropriate, the student will be advised by the principal to change dress or appearance before returning to school the next day and the parents will be notified. In extreme cases, the parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school, or the student may be sent home to change.

Principals have latitude to increase expectations in the district standard of dress and appearance. Parental input will be a component of the additional school guidelines.

School clothing should be comfortable, washable and sturdy enough to withstand the wear and tear of playground and classroom. On scheduled P.E. days, tennis shoes are appropriate footwear.

You should dress your child appropriately for the weather, which may mean one way for the morning session and another for the afternoon session. Layers of clothing, which can be added to or removed with the changing temperature of the day, are most appropriate for this climate. All outer clothing, such as coats, sweaters, hats, mittens and rain or snow boots should be labeled with the child's full name because these items are often and easily misplaced.

- h. Tattoos or piercings that are a distraction to the educational process or for the safety of the student will not be allowed. Students will remove all piercings during P.E. classes.

## 7. ELECTRONIC USE GUIDELINES

The use of communication/video – photo devices, to include, but not limited to pagers, **cellular telephones**, cameras and/or two-way transmission devices, CD players, MP3's, IPODS, radios are not allowed during the school day such devices are to be kept in backpacks. Use of such devices will result in confiscation. **The parent/guardian will be required to pick up the confiscated device at the end of the school day. The school will not be held responsible.**

## 8. VEHICLES, STUDENT USE (BICYCLE, MOTORCYCLE, CAR)

In order to develop and inculcate sound safety practices for the individual student to follow, the administration shall develop rules and regulations on the control and use of vehicles used by the student for transportation to and from school as outlined in student/parent handbooks.

The vehicles that may be used by students at the following levels are:

- a. Elementary School – i.e.: bicycle, scooters (anything with wheels state law requires student must wear a helmet),
- b. Middle School – bicycle or motorcycle (anything with wheels state law requires student must wear a helmet),
- c. High School – bicycle, motorcycle (anything with wheels state law requires student must wear a helmet), or car

Bicycles are permissible for transportation to and from school. Bicycles are to be parked in the

areas assigned. Bicycles should be locked. THE SCHOOL IS IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGED OR STOLEN BICYCLES WHILE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, but damage or loss should be reported to school authorities. Elementary pupils are not allowed to ride motorized bikes to school.

## **9. PARTIES**

Parties in the classroom are limited to three (3) during the year – Christmas, Valentine’s Day and end-of-year movie or picnic. **In compliance with the New Mexico Wellness and Fitness Program, parents wanting to furnish snacks for classrooms may purchase items from the cafeteria (a certified kitchen). Snack option lists are available upon request.**

Out of consideration for all our students, there are NO birthday parties in the school before, after or during school hours. If a child wishes to distribute birthday party invitations at school, no child in the room should be excluded. If this cannot be followed, a non-school means of invitation should occur. (Please check with your building Principal for any questions and/or concerns in regards to parties.)

## **10. EARLY ARRIVALS AT SCHOOL**

Morning supervision generally begins 10-15 minutes before the school day starts. Because of concern for the safety of your child, please do not allow your child to arrive before that time. Check individual school policies concerning early arrivals.

## **11. VISITING CLASSROOMS**

Parents of elementary school students are encouraged to visit the school. Any parent desiring to visit the classroom is requested to call to make arrangements through the principal’s office so the visit may be as convenient and as profitable as possible.

Any person who is not a regular staff member or enrolled student will be considered a visitor on this campus. All visitors are required to sign in/out at the school office, show a photo I.D., and obtain a dated visitors pass to be worn at all times within the building.

## **12. STUDENT SAFETY PATROLS**

Students may be used for safety patrols with parent permission. Student Safety Patrols are under the supervision of the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety and school personnel.

## **13. EXEMPTIONS FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

A child will be excused from Physical Education activities up to three days when a note from the parent or guardian is sent to school. For a child to be excused from Physical Education activities for a period exceeding three days, a doctor’s certificate of exemption is required.

# **III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## **A. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

It is the policy of the Alamogordo Public School District to provide equal opportunity without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or qualified handicap in its educational program and activities. This includes, but is not limited to admissions, educational services, financial aid and employment. Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to the Superintendent of Schools.

## **B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited daily by students in each public school. Students will have the right to refrain from participation in this recitation due to sectarian, denominational or conscientious views; however, the exercise of this right may not interfere with the rights of others.

Each of our elementary schools abides by the guidance provided in this handbook. We sincerely hope this information has been helpful to you in preparing your child for the new school year and also in answering questions throughout the school year.

The elementary schools, while conforming to these standards, may in some cases find they need to exceed requirements contained in this guide. The principal of each school will provide any other information they feel is appropriate to their school.

### **Model Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education –
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of* –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- *Inspect*, upon request and before administration or use –
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

APS has adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. APS will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. APS will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey APS will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- o Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- o Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- o Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

*Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:*

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202



**We appreciate you taking the time to inform yourself by reading this guide.**