



YUMA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

3150 S. Avenue A, Building A

Yuma, AZ 85364

Phone # (928) 502-4600

2022-2023

STUDENT HANDBOOK

YUHSD MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to the educational excellence of our students by empowering them with the means for success and by challenging them to become productive members of society.

In the event there is a disparity between the Student Handbook and Board Policy, Board Policy will take precedence. The Yuma Union High School District is an equal opportunity employer.

Please refer to the district website for the most current version at www.yumaunion.org

The Yuma Union High School District campuses and offices are deemed drug, alcohol, tobacco and weapon-free zones. A.R.S. 13-3411

CIBOLA HIGH SCHOOL

4100 W. 20th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364

Main Phone # 502-5700

Attendance Phone # 502-5711

FAX # 502-6046

www.yumaunion.org/cibola

SAN LUIS HIGH SCHOOL

1250 N. 8th Avenue, San Luis, AZ 85349

Main Phone # 502-6100

Attendance Phone # 502-6079

FAX # 502-6225

www.yumaunion.org/sanluis

GILA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

7150 E. 24th Street, Yuma, AZ 85365

Main Phone # 502-6400

Attendance Phone # 502-6408

FAX # 502-6749

www.yumaunion.org/gilaridge

VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

3150 S. Ave A, Building C, Yuma, AZ 85364

Main Phone # 502-6800

FAX # 502-6825

www.yumaunion.org/vista

KOFA HIGH SCHOOL

3100 S. Avenue A, Yuma, AZ 85364

Main Phone # 502-5400

Attendance Phone # 502-5361

FAX # 502-5692

www.yumaunion.org/kofa

YUMA HIGH SCHOOL

400 S. 6th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364

Main Phone # 502-5000

Attendance Phone # 502-5026

FAX # 502-5338

www.yumaunion.org/yumahs

**YUHSD
Phone Numbers**

Behind the Wheel Driving Instruction	502-6780
Business Office	502-4606
Career and Technical Education	502-6787
District Office	502-4600
Facilities Management	502-4635
Materials Management (Warehouse)	502-4750
Migrant Education	502-4665
P.A.S.S.	502-4667
Special Education	502-6752
Strategies for Success	502-6800
Student Nutrition Services	502-4773
Title I	502-4661
Transportation	502-8840

2022-2023 School Calendar

August 4	First Student Day
September 5	No School – Labor Day
September 29	40 th Day
October 7-10	No School – Fall Break
November 11	No School – Veteran's Day
November 21-22	No School – Fall Break
November 23-25	No School – Thanksgiving Break
December 16	End First Semester
December 19-30	No School – Christmas Break
January 2	No School – New Year's Day
January 3-4	No School – Winter Break
January 5	Begin 2 nd Semester
January 16	No School – Martin Luther King Day
January 23	100 th Day
February 17	No School – All District In-Service
February 20	No School – President's Day
April 3-10	No School – Spring Break
April 7	No School – Good Friday
May 25	End 2 nd Semester – Last Student Day
May 26	Graduation
May 29	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

School	Twitter	Facebook	Instagram
Cibola HS	@CHSRaiderNews	CibolaHighSchoolRaiders	CibolaHSOfficial
Gila Ridge HS	@GRHSOfficial	GRHSOfficial	GilaRidgeHSOfficial
Kofa HS	@KHSKingsNews	KofaHighSchoolKings	KofaHSOfficial
San Luis HS	@SanLuisHigh	SanLuisHighSchoolSidewinders	
Vista HS	@VistaHSLobos	VHSLobos	
Yuma HS	@YHSCrimNews	YumaHighSchoolCriminals	YumaHighOfficial
YUHSD	@YUHSD	YUHSD	YUHSD70

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

In order to realize the high school educational experience to its fullest and receive credit for their efforts, Yuma Union High School District students are expected to attend all classes. Since absences occur even for the most diligent of students, an attendance policy is required. The primary responsibility for student attendance rests with parents and students. There is no substitute for actual attendance. Lectures, exercises, academic activities, tests, student discussions, media presentations, lab work and teacher assistance are each vital to academic success and learning. Successful completion of coursework in Yuma Union High School District is twofold: the student must meet academic standards and exhibit consistent attendance. Consistent attendance is defined as fewer than five absences in any class during a semester and will be adjusted appropriately for students on compressed semester schedules.

DOCUMENTATION OF ABSENCES

Since absences do occur, procedures are in place for parents to notify the school regarding student work/time and for students to makeup the absences which exceed five in any class during any semester. Parents are encouraged to call the attendance office. A phone call or note does not absolve the student of the responsibility to make up the absence once the absences exceed five.

Health problems, which cause absences beyond the five per class, per semester, require medical certification. Acceptable documentation includes:

- A medical doctor's note or an office visit receipt
- An orthodontist/dentist's note or office visit receipt
- Absences excused through the school health office
- Chronic illnesses (chronic illness forms are available through the school nurse. Students who have chronic illness forms on file must provide the nurse's office with appropriate documentation immediately upon returning to school, as well as notifying the attendance office.) Forms must be updated annually.
- Medical documentation for mental health issues

Medical certification will be turned in when the student returns to school. Upon administrative review of the documentation, a student may be excused from attendance make up requirements.

Other absences for which proof is required that may be waived include, but are not limited to:

- A death in family (newspaper obituary, funeral home card, death certificate, etc.)
- Court appearances (copy of court documents required)
- Military appointments (orders, travel forms)
- College visits/interviews (valid, dated proof of visit)

Absences in excess of the five-day limit in any class that will not be waived include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Family vacations
- (b) Illness without a doctor's visit documentation
- (c) Religious exercise/instruction other than those approved in Board Policy
- (d) Student employment
- (e) Leaving school without proper permission (considered an unexcused absence or truancy)
- (f) Hunting/fishing trips

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/WAIVERS

Administrative reviews determine which absences may be excused or waived. These reviews follow the guidelines for excused absences stated above and may require an administrative conference.

TARDY

Students are expected to be punctual. Campuses may use various techniques, to include (but not limited to) tardy sweeps, detentions and suspensions in order to minimize the number of students tardy to class. Time has been built into bell schedules to allow students ample time to pass to their next classroom site from any point on each campus within the designated passing period.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE CAMPUS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

All Yuma Union High School District #70 campuses are closed campuses. Any student leaving campus during the school day must check out through the attendance office. Permission from parents/legal guardians will be required for any student to leave campus.

Work-study situations, school activities, senior early-outs or other previously approved departures from campus are exceptions.

PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW

Parents of students attending a Title I school may request a review of the professional preparation and qualifications of their student's classroom teachers. Requests to review teacher qualifications can be made at the Federal Programs office.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ACT

Any student experiencing homelessness and in need of basic academic supplies (i.e. transportation, clothing, school supplies) can request his or her guidance counselor complete and submit a McKinney-Vento referral form to the homeless liaison. Guidance counselors and students will be notified of referral determinations within five business days.

LEY DE EDUCACIÓN PARA PERSONAS SIN HOGAR MCKINNEY-VENTO

Cualquier estudiante sin hogar y en necesidad de suministros académicos básicos (como transporte, ropa, útiles escolares) puede solicitar a su consejero el completar y presentar un formulario de referencia McKinney-Vento a la persona responsable del programa. Los consejeros y estudiantes serán notificados de la determinación dentro de cinco días hábiles.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS (CHOICE/OPEN ENROLLMENT)

The Yuma Union High School District #70 is an open enrollment district according to the provisions set forth in Arizona Revised Statutes 15-816 and District Governing Board policy JFB. Specifics regarding this policy are available at the District Office and at each campus.

ATHLETICS

Attendance Zone Transfer

If a student transfers schools with or without changing their domicile the potential exists for losing eligibility for up to one year. This could include being ineligible for sports and other extracurricular activities. The student and parents should discuss this matter with school administrators prior to transferring.

Eligibility Standards for Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Sponsored Activities

Academic eligibility criterion shall be a passing grade in all classes in which the student is enrolled. Eligibility will be determined based on cumulative grade checks every six (6) weeks. A student who is not earning a passing grade in a class at the six (6)-week interval will be declared academically ineligible and shall remain ineligible until the requirements of eligibility are met.

- Becoming eligible after being declared ineligible requires two elements: 1) the student-athlete will not be allowed to compete for at least one (1) week (Monday through Sunday), and 2) the student-athlete must attain a passing grade in the class(es) that triggered the ineligibility.
- At the point when both required elements have been satisfied, the student-athlete becomes eligible. S/he can become eligible immediately after serving the minimum one (1)-week ineligibility period.

Process for Clearance for Athletics

YUHSD offers three different seasons for Athletics. Students may participate in one sport each season. The Athletic fee is \$45.00 payable in the campus Bookstore or myschoolbucks.com. Students are required to have a clearance packet with a physical completed by a U.S. doctor after March 1, 2022. The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) “Annual Pre-participation Physical Evaluation” form must be used. Students must create a profile on registermyathlete.com (RMA) and upload required documents in order to be cleared through the Athletics Office to participate. Please visit your child’s campus Athletics Office for further information.

STUDENTS CANNOT PARTICIPATE WITHOUT AN ATHLETIC CLEARANCE CARD!

Age Eligibility

A student who becomes 19 years of age on or before September 1st is not eligible for athletics any part of that school year. A student must show proof of age by birth certificate or the acceptable substitutes as listed: hospital certificate of birth, Dept. of Commerce certificate, Bureau of Immigration certificate, an AZ State Health certificate, or a passport.

Eligibility for students who earn a Grand Canyon Diploma

Students who graduate with a Grand Canyon diploma will remain athletically eligible through what would have been their 8th semester at the school which they last attended, even though they are no longer enrolled at the school, as long as the school can provide proof of them being currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

Physical Exam

A student must have a physical exam documented on an approved AIA physical form, available in the campus Athletic Office, between March 1 and the start of the chosen sport. Parent permission for participation must be given in the form of a signed consent.

For additional information regarding AIA, visit aiaonline.org

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to supplement academics with extracurricular activities. Our high schools have a variety of clubs to meet the needs of our diverse population. All clubs operate under the direction of the Activities Office and Student Council. See the Activities Office if you have any questions.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The School Counseling Office provides resources and support for students' post-secondary options, scholarships/financial aid, career exploration and ECAP. School counselors meet with students to discuss graduation requirements and post-secondary options. Students are encouraged to meet with their school counselor individually for further academic guidance. Students can make an appointment to see their school counselor by coming to the School Counseling Office before school, during lunch, or after school. **Parents are encouraged to contact the School Counseling Office when questions or concerns arise.**

PROGRAM PLANNING

It is important that each student develop their own ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) to reflect their current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop their individual academic and career goals. Planning assures the student of meeting all requirements for graduation, as well as, completing courses needed to fulfill specific college/career objectives. **STUDENTS SHOULD VERIFY WITH THEIR SCHOOL COUNSELOR THAT ALL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MET.**

GRADUATION

For credit and testing requirements see District website or school counselor.

Ready Now Yuma/Grand Canyon Diploma

In order to meet the needs of our students in the 21st Century, the state of Arizona has enacted a performance-based diploma called the Grand Canyon Diploma. In order to qualify for a Grand Canyon Diploma, students must complete Cambridge coursework and meet the standard set for the Board Examinations. Upon achieving the Grand Canyon Diploma, students have the option to remain in high school, attend community colleges, or attend vocational trade schools.

Students with Individual Education Plans or Section 504 Plans

- Completion of graduation requirements for special education students who do not meet the required units of credit shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the special education course of study and the individualized education program of the student.
- Graduation requirements established by the District Governing Board may be met by a student as defined in A.R.S. 15-701.01 and A.A.C. R7-2-302.
- Students with individualized education programs shall not be required to achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the student is learning at a level appropriate for the student's grade level in a specific academic area and unless a passing score on a competency test is specifically required in a specific academic area by the student's individualized education program as agreed upon by the student's individualized education program team. These competency tests shall be administered to students in a manner prescribed in the student's individualized education program and the school shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for students with individualized education programs.

- As per A.R.S. 15-701.01, students with section 504 plans shall not be required to achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the student is learning at a level appropriate for the student's grade level in a specific academic area and unless a passing score on a competency test is specifically required in a specific academic area by the student's section 504 plan that is developed in consultation with the student's parents. These competency tests shall be administered to the student in a manner prescribed in the student's section 504 plan and shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for students with a section 504 plan.
- A student with an individualized education program or a section 504 plan who graduates from high school, but who is not required to achieve a passing score on a competency test in order to graduate from high school, shall receive the standard diploma issued by the school district. Reference to special education placement may be placed on the student's transcript or permanent file.

CTE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Our district offers courses in state approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. All programs include a coherent sequence of courses leading to student attainment of the state standards in the program. CTE courses are organized around labs that are designed to simulate actual workplace environments. Students use state-of-the-art equipment, participate in school-based enterprise, obtain leadership skills in Career & Technical Student Organizations directly related to their CTE program of study (DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, Arizona Thespians, Educator's Rising, HOSA and SkillsUSA), and perform skills that are aligned with industry standards. In CTE courses, students gain skills required to be successful in a global work environment, have an opportunity to acquire industry recognized certifications, apply academic learning to real-world work scenarios, and upon graduation, students are prepared to transition successfully to post-secondary education and are equipped with the necessary skills to begin working in a specific career.

NOTE: Some courses are taught at only one school, due to facility and/or equipment limitations. Students from one campus may enroll in a course taught on another, if scheduling permits. Students who wish to take a class at another school, and can work it into their schedules, must provide their own transportation.

DUAL/CONCURRENT CREDIT

Students who are highly motivated may take courses through Arizona Western College (AWC) for dual high school and college credit. Through an agreement with AWC, YUHSD may offer AWC courses as part of the regular school program for dual high school and college credit. Courses may be offered after both course and instructor are approved by both institutions. In order for a student to receive AWC Credit, tuition and enrollment paperwork is due at the beginning of both semesters.

Dual Enrollment classes meet at the high school during the regular high school day, are offered only to high school students, and are taught by college certified high school instructors using a college curriculum and text. The high school agrees to accept these college courses toward a student's high school course requirements (A.R.S. 15-1821.01).

Concurrent Enrollment classes take place on a college campus, via the internet as an online class, or on a high school campus outside of regular school hours and are generally not accepted as fulfilling high school course requirements without the high school administration's approval.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Strategies for Success (SFS) is a district program specifically designed for those students long-term suspended during the course of the school year. Students must be recommended by a home campus administrator in order to be eligible for program participation. Prior to enrollment, students and parents must attend an orientation and agree to the terms of the program. Transportation is provided by Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT).

PROGRESS REPORT CARDS

Progress report cards will be sent home with students at the end of each marking period so parents and students may monitor grades, school attendance, and eligibility for extra-curricular activities. Parents are encouraged to use ParentVUE to monitor student academic progress and attendance. Visit yumaunion.org to access ParentVUE under the “Families” tab.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Information about other programs, including the Gifted Program (GATE), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Special Education, Title I, English Learner Program, Migrant Services, and Summer Extended Learning are available in the Counseling Office of each high school and at the Yuma Union High School District Office.

BOOKSTORE

All students will be issued educational materials, which will include a netbook, without charge. Students are responsible for the care of the educational materials. Any writing, drawing, or other vandalizing will be charged to the account of the student who was issued the material. Parents/legal guardians will be charged for lost or damaged materials checked out to the student. Each educational material is issued a code number when loaned to the student. The student must return this same educational material at the end of the school year or upon withdrawing from the school. Students will be charged the price of the educational material if not returned.

All fees are paid at the bookstore. Students must pay all fees owed to the bookstore for lost/damaged athletic equipment before being allowed to participate in certain dances, the graduation ceremony, or other extracurricular activities. The campus bookstore will issue a credit for refunds for amounts of \$25 or less. This includes any class changes made after the class fee has been paid.

LIBRARY

YUHSD libraries have an online catalog which allows user access to resources on any internet-capable device. Library collections consist of books, e-books, magazines, and newspapers. An internet browser, full-text periodical databases and various subject databases are available to support research. The libraries provide varied services to help students meet their academic needs. Our libraries are extended classrooms. Libraries are open before and after school as well as at lunch. Students with passes issued by a teacher are welcome during all school hours.

HEALTH OFFICE

The school health office is open during school hours to provide health information, dispense physician/parent-approved medications and provide first aid to students. The nurse should always be consulted in cases of injury during the school day. The nurse, health assistant, and school administrators are the only people authorized to permit a student to go home during the school day due to illness.

Prescription medications may be administered by the nurse only under the following conditions:

- The medication has been prescribed by a physician for that student.

- The medication must be in its original container and kept in the nurse’s office during the school day. (Students with medical conditions requiring them to carry medication on their person must have written authorization from the school nurse.)
- In order for the nurse to administer over the counter, non-prescription medications, the medication must be in the original container and a parent permission note must be on file in the nurse’s office.

For health office procedures please refer to our website, www.yumaunion.org

STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES

To promote wellness and fuel the brains of the future, we provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students, thanks to a special provision program. This is subject to change based on parent participation in returning a completed free and reduced meal application when requested by the Student Nutrition Department for special provision program renewal.

Students may bring their own breakfast and/or lunch but are not allowed to order food for delivery.

TRANSPORTATION

Public school transportation services are a **privilege** provided for students who live more than two (2) miles from school, not an entitlement. Continued transportation service is contingent upon student compliance with school bus rules. These rules are in place to promote the safety of all students granted the privilege of riding a Yuma Schools Transportation Department bus. Failure on the part of the students to comply with these rules could result in permanent loss of riding privileges for the school year and disciplinary action from the school up through expulsion. If you have any questions/comments, please call 502-8840. Vista High School and Strategies for Success students utilizing YCAT will follow the same rules for riding privileges. Visit yumaunion.org for more information on bus routes under the “Departments” tab.

STUDENT PARKING

Each vehicle must be registered with the campus. Each vehicle parked on campus property must display an approved decal (fee will be applicable). When registering a vehicle, the student must present a valid driver’s license, current registration and proof of insurance for the car being registered. **Excessive speed (over 10 mph), reckless driving, spinning tires, is prohibited. Parking in restricted areas** or driving over curbs is prohibited. **Parking lots are not always under security surveillance.** The school is not responsible for items stolen or damaged on campus, including vehicles or property in vehicles. The owner assumes all risks for vehicles and personal property brought to school. Student cars found in areas other than the designated lots may be towed away at the owner’s expense. Additionally, any parking or driving violations may result in loss of on-campus privileges and/or student suspension. Parents/legal guardians will be notified. All vehicles are subject to searches and seizures of illegal material.

STUDENT LOCKERS/PERSONAL PROPERTY

Student lockers are school property and remain under the control of the school. The school reserves the right to open any locker for reasonable cause. Students should protect their property by keeping the locker locked and guarding the combination. Under no circumstances should money or valuables be kept in the locker. Students who share a locker with another student compromise the security of the locker. **The school is not responsible for items stolen or damaged on campus including vehicles or property in vehicles. The owner assumes all risks for books and personal property brought to school.**

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Students are required to have a valid school I.D. card and present that card to any administrator, faculty member, or other school authority upon request. During registration, students pay \$15.00 for an I.D. card and a Student Handbook is provided free of charge. Alterations of any kind, including cutting or writing on the school ID card, will result in confiscation of the card, and the student will be required to purchase a new one for an additional \$6.00. Replacement copies of the Student Handbook must be purchased in the bookstore for \$6.00.

SECURITY

To help promote a safe environment, security cameras may be in use in public areas. Security personnel are also employed for the primary purpose of securing the school environment from outsiders and for promoting safe behavior.

VISITOR POLICY

For the safety of students and staff, district policy does not permit visitors to high school campuses during the school day under most circumstances. Parents, of course, are always welcome on campus, but are encouraged to make appointments when attempting to visit teachers during the school day. All visitors, parents included, are required to report to the administrative offices to obtain a visitor pass before entering the campus area. Students should not invite friends or relatives to visit on campus, nor should they bring younger children to school except for approved school programs. Visitor passes will normally be issued only to those persons known by the administration. Administrators may refuse anyone a visitor pass. Any person found on school grounds without permission will be considered a trespasser and subject to immediate arrest.

Annual Notification to Parents Regarding Confidentiality of Student Education Records

THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:
- School officials with legitimate educational interest
 - A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or

- student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
 - A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
- Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes) and dates of attendance unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent.

THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) is a federal law that protects the rights of students with disabilities. In addition to standard school records, for children with disabilities education records could include evaluation and testing materials, medical and health information, Individualized Education Programs and related notices and consents, progress reports, materials related to disciplinary actions, and mediation agreements. Such information is gathered from a number of sources, including the student's parents and staff of the school of attendance. Also, with parental permission, information may be gathered from additional pertinent sources, such as doctors and other health care providers. This information is collected to insure the child is identified, evaluated, and provided a Free Appropriate Public Education in accordance with state and federal special education laws.

Each agency participating under Part B of IDEA must assure that at all stages of gathering, storing, retaining and disclosing education records to third parties that it complies with the federal confidentiality laws. In addition, the destruction of any education records of a child with a disability must be in accordance with IDEA regulatory requirements.

For additional information or to file a complaint, you may call the federal government at (202) 260-3887 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) OR the Arizona Department of Education (ADE/ESS) at (602) 542-4013. Or you may contact:

Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services 3300 N. Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85013	Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-5901
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This notice is available in English and Spanish on the ADE website at www.azed.gov/disputeresolution/. For assistance in obtaining this notice in other languages, contact the ADE/ESS at the above phone/address.

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Section 504 is an Act which prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who:

- Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity (major life activities including activities such as caring for one's self,

performing manual tasks, walking, seeing hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working);

- Has a record of such impairment; or
- Is regarded as having impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under section 504, the Yuma Union High School District recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system. The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and, if the child is determined to be eligible under section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer. If there are questions, please feel free to contact Suman Pangasa, Section 504 Coordinator, at 502-6752.

CHILD FIND INFORMATION

YUHSD #70 actively seeks children, birth through age 21, who may benefit from special education services. We use this notice as one means of annually informing our district staff, the general public, and all parents/guardians within the district's boundaries of our responsibility to make a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) available to all high school age students with disabilities. In order to provide FAPE:

- Screening for possible disabilities will be completed within 45 calendar days after notification to the responsible public agency by the parents/guardians of the student, or after any student enrolls in our District without appropriate records of screening, evaluation, and progress in school. The Student Study Team (SST) will look at the student's ability in the areas of academics, vision, hearing, adaptive living, communication, social/emotional, and motor skills.
- For students who have not been involved in Special Education services previously, this Student Study Team may then suggest modifications and accommodations to be implemented in the general education setting for a period of time. The SST will reconvene after these pre-referral interventions have been in use to determine their effectiveness.
- If, after consultation with the parent, the responsible public agency determines that a full and individual evaluation is warranted, the public agency will provide required notices to the parent/guardian within 60 calendar days.
- An initial, comprehensive evaluation of a student being considered for special education will be completed, at no cost to the parent/guardian, as soon as possible, but time may not exceed 60 calendar days from receipt of informed written parent/guardian consent.
- In the case of a student who is identified with a special education need, a re-evaluation of that need is conducted every 3 years or more frequently if requested by the student's parent/guardian or teacher. The re-evaluation process need not include formal assessments.
- Some students who are not eligible for special education services may be eligible for support under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If eligible, District staff and parent may develop a written plan to assist the student.
- YUHSD #70 personnel also assist parent/guardians who seek services for their pre-high school age children who might qualify for special education services.

If you have knowledge of a child, birth through 21 years of age - including those attending private schools and home schools - who may require special education services, please call the Yuma County Superintendent's Office at 373-1006.

CONTINUOUS NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Yuma Union High School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or sexual orientation in admission and access to its programs, services, activities, or in any aspect of their operations and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Yuma Union High School District also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. The following employees have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator

Lisa Anderson
Associate Superintendent
Yuma Union High School District
3150 S. Avenue A, Building A
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 502-4652
landerson@yumaunion.org

Section 504/ADA Coordinator

Suman Pangasa
Executive Director of Student Services
Yuma Union High School District
3150 S. Avenue A, Building A
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 502-6752
spangasa@yumaunion.org

NOTIFICACIÓN DE ANTI DISCRIMINACIÓN

El distrito de Yuma Unión no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, religión, nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad, edad u orientación sexual en la admisión y acceso a sus programas, servicios, actividades o en cualquier aspecto de sus operaciones y proporciona igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. El distrito de Yuma Unión tampoco discrimina en sus prácticas de empleo y contratación. Los siguientes empleados han sido designados para atender consultas relacionadas con las pólizas de no discriminación:

Title IX Coordinator

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STUDENT CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS, AND GRIEVANCES

A student who complains or grieves regarding constitutional rights, equal access to programs, discrimination, or personal safety issues may complain directly to a staff member within thirty (30) days of an alleged occurrence. The initial complaint or grievance should be made using form JII-EA, however, a verbal complaint or grievance may be made.

Complaints and grievances related to student violence, harassment, intimidation or bullying are to be filed in accordance with Governing Board Policy JICK.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIORS

The punishment for violations set forth under this "Guidelines for Student Behaviors" shall be administered according to these rules and regulations, applying due process procedures, and taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense and the potential rehabilitation of the student offender.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Detention.** Students may be assigned detention for violations of school rules and regulations. The campus detention program may consist of one or more hours of

after-school detention. Students who fail to attend assigned detentions may be suspended.

- Parents/guardians will be given prior notice of the detention and the reasons(s) for it. Transportation is the responsibility of the parents/guardians.
- B. **Suspension.** Students may be suspended from class or school only by school officials granted this power by the Governing Board (A.R.S. 15-843/1).
- Students who are suspended out of school are marked absent.
 - A suspension for longer than ten days may extend into subsequent semesters.
 - Students who have been suspended out of school may not be on the campuses of Cibola, Gila Ridge, Kofa, Vista, San Luis or Yuma at any time, for any reason, without prior approval from the school administration or they will be cited for trespassing.
 - Students may make up work for credit but may not participate in or attend extracurricular activities until midnight of the final date of suspension. Any student who is suspended through the date of the graduation ceremony will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.
 - Students who are on long term SUSPENSION may be allowed to attend Strategies For Success. The Strategies for Success program is a privilege; and, therefore, the administration reserves the right to deny admittance if the student and parents/guardians will not agree to the school's guidelines or if in the administration's judgment the student is a clear and/or present danger to himself/herself or others.
- C. **Expulsion.** Students may be expelled from school only by the Governing Board (A.R.S. 15-342.1).
- Expulsion is the exclusion of a student from the District. Students who have been expelled from the Yuma Union High School District cannot re-enroll at any District high school without Board approval.
- D. **Self-Defense.** It is the guideline of the District that physical force be avoided if at all possible. Under some circumstances, however, physical force is justified. For the purposes of the Guidelines for Student Behavior, physical force is not illegal if a review of the evidence determines that physical force is immediately necessary to protect the student or another person against another's use or attempted use of unlawful physical force.
- Physical force is never justified in response to verbal provocation alone or after the initial user of physical force has stopped using physical force.
 - In cases which are determined to be mutual combat situations, all students involved will be disciplined regardless of who actually initiated the fight.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

School Jurisdiction (Policy JK-RB): Students are responsible for their conduct from the time they leave home until they return home. When on a school trip, students shall be held responsible for items on their person, in their luggage, or any items found in their room.

All students enrolled, without regard to age, are responsible for their conduct under all the provisions of the Guidelines for Student Behavior.

The Administration reserves the right to take action involving student conduct regardless of where or when said action takes place if the student brings discredit upon the school, staff, District, or the student body.

Any student who is suspended through the date of the graduation ceremony will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony. If the suspended student has earned the diploma, then arrangements may be made for the diploma to be delivered or picked up. The student does not have a “right” to the activity of the ceremony. The ceremony is a privilege and a school activity.

VIOLATIONS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

In every circumstance where it is determined that a student has committed a violation, and it is determined that the student has, on a previous occasion, or simultaneously, committed an equal or more serious violation as determined by class; the conduct being considered shall be deemed to be a second violation for punishment purposes.

In determining whether a student has committed a prior violation the student's entire enrollment in the district will be considered.

CLASS ONE VIOLATION:

1. **Arson:** Arson of a structure or property or of an occupied structure is prohibited. Any attempt or successful act to start a fire will result in disciplinary action and require restitution. (A.R.S. 13-1703, A.R.S. 13-2911)
2. **Assault and Aggravated Assault:** to include but not limited to the physical assault of a staff member or of a student is prohibited. Assault –Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing any physical injury to another person; or intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury; or knowingly touching another person with the intent to injure, insult or provoke such person. (A.R.S. 13-1203, A.R.S. 13-2911)
3. **Sale, distribution, purchase, possession, use, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol:** Sale, Distribution, Purchase, Possession, Use or Under the Influence of alcohol, drugs (marijuana, inhalants, prescription drugs, over the counter drugs), Illicit drugs (ecstasy, cocaine/crack, hallucinogens, heroin, methamphetamine, spice, bath salts, any synthetic man made drug and other illicit drugs, unknown drugs), drug paraphernalia, vape paraphernalia, and substance represented as illicit drug, inappropriate use of over the counter drugs while under school jurisdiction is prohibited. (A.R.S. 13-3401, A.R.S. 13-3406, A.R.S. 13-3407, A.R.S. 13-3408, A.R.S. 13-3411, A.R.S. 13-3403, A.R.S. 4-244.09, A.R.S. 4-244.41)
4. **Sexual Offenses:** Sexting, pornography, indecent exposure, public sexual indecency, sexual harassment with or without contact, sexual abuse/sexual conduct with a minor/child molestation, sexual assault (rape), are prohibited. Law enforcement will be notified as well as discipline imposed. (A.R.S. 13-1403) (A.R.S. 13-1404) (A.R.S. 13-1405) (A.R.S. 13-1406)
5. **School Threat:** Any threat (verbal, written, or electronic) by a person to bomb or use other substances or devices for the purpose of exploding, burning, causing damage to a school building or school property, or to harm students or staff is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: bomb threats, chemical or biological threats, or fire alarm misuse. (A.R.S. 13-2911) Intentionally or knowingly engaging in any conduct that is likely to impart the false impressions that an act of terrorism is taking place or will take place or would reasonably be expected to cause or that causes an emergency response by a governmental agency. (A.R.S. 13-2925, A.R.S. 13-2301)

6. **Theft:** Taking or attempting to take money or property belonging to another person or the school with the intent to permanently deprive the victim of his/her possessions is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to: burglary/breaking and entering, extortion (the threat or use of force to take something of value from another,) robbery, and armed robbery. (A.R.S. 13-1802)
7. **Weapons and Dangerous Items:** Possession and/or use of a dangerous weapon while under school jurisdiction is prohibited. Dangerous weapons may include, but are not limited to:
 - Firearms: handgun or pistol, shotgun or rifle, starter gun or pistol, other firearms or destructive devices (bomb, grenade). (A.R.S. 13-3102)
 - Other weapons: billy club, brass knuckles, knife with blade length of at least 2.5 inches, nunchakus.
 - Dangerous items: airsoft gun, BB gun, knife with blade less than 2.5 inches, laser pointer, letter opener, mace, paintball gun, pellet gun, razor blade or box cutter, simulated knife, taser or stun gun, tear gas, or combustible materials.
 - Simulated firearm: Any simulated firearm made of plastic, wood, metal or any other material which is a replica, facsimile, or toy version of a firearm or any object such as a stick or finger concealed under clothing and is being portrayed as a firearm, or device that is defined as, or is held to be, a dangerous weapon under the laws of the State of Arizona and Federal Statutes.

Penalties: Students who commit a Class One violation shall be recommended for a suspension of the remainder of the current semester or longer or expulsion. A second offense while the student is enrolled in the District will result in a recommendation for expulsion. Students may also be liable for any expenses that are incurred to the emergency response, and the investigation of the offense. Parents/legal guardians will be notified. Appropriate law enforcement officials may be notified.

CLASS TWO VIOLATION:

1. **Defiance of Authority:** Defiance, disrespect towards authority, or non-compliance is prohibited. Continued acts of insubordination will be considered defiance. (A.R.S. 13-2911, A.R.S. 15-841)
2. **Endangerment:** Recklessly endangering another person with a substantial risk of physical injury or imminent death while under school jurisdiction is prohibited. (A.R.S. 13-1201, A.R.S. 13-2911)
3. **Fighting:** Physical act of fighting, challenging to fight, instigating a fight, or Threatening another student while under school jurisdiction is prohibited. (A.R.S. 13-1203)
4. **Harassment, Bullying, and Hazing:** Harassment, bullying, and hazing of students are prohibited on campuses, during school-related activities or circumstances, and when traveling to and from school. Students should also be aware that verbal insults and attacks via e-mail, text messaging or internet social networks that substantially hinder another student's right to attend school or participate in school activities constitute harassment and bullying. **Accordingly, students and parents should be aware that electronic communications that cause problems between students on campus will be dealt with as a serious student discipline matter.**
 - Harassment and bullying mean any severe or persistent physical or psychological abuse of a student by means of physical threats or assault, verbal threats or insults, or other hostile or degrading acts. Harassment and bullying include acts that are inflicted because of a student's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
 - Harassment and bullying also include any type of sexual harassment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcomed written, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may, in certain circumstances, constitute sexual harassment.

- Hazing means forcing a student to risk or suffer physical or mental harm or degradation to join, participate in or remaining in a school-affiliated organization or activity.
 - If a student believes that he or she has been harassed, bullied or hazed, the student should report the behavior to a teacher, counselor, school nurse, health assistant, or school administrator. Likewise, all school employees are obligated to report such incidents. All reports of harassment, bullying, and hazing are confidential and will be investigated.
 - Students who engage in harassment, bullying, or hazing will be subject to disciplinary action. Sexual harassment that meets the legal definition of sexual abuse will be referred to police, as required by state law. See governing Board Policies JICFA-EB, JICK-EB, and JII-EB
5. **Petty Theft:** The stealing of personal or school property while under school jurisdiction is prohibited. Restitution is required for the theft of property in addition to disciplinary action. (A.R.S. 13-1802)
 6. **Trespassing:** To enter or remain on a public school campus or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry is prohibited.
This includes students under suspension or expulsion and unauthorized persons who enter or remain on a campus or school board facility after being directed to leave by an administrator or designee of the facility, campus, or function. (A.R.S. 13-1504, A.R.S. 13-2911)
 7. **Vandalism or Criminal Damage:** Students are required to take proper care of all school buildings, school buses, and school equipment. Marking or defacing walls, desks, floors, books, school buses, school bus seats, and other acts of vandalism are prohibited and students will be liable for either payment, replacement, or repair of the damaged property in addition to disciplinary action (A.R.S. 15-842). This includes, but is not limited to graffiti/tagging, vandalism of personal property, or vandalism of school property. (A.R.S. 13-1602)
 8. **Violation of Statutes:** Any act that is a violation of any local, state, or federal statute while the student is under school jurisdiction is considered a Class Two violation unless referenced elsewhere in this document. Negative group affiliation to include, but not limited to gang association** is prohibited. Law enforcement may be notified.
****Gang Activity or Association:**
By definition, a gang is a group of three or more people who meet for anti-social or illegal activity. This would include recognized gangs and/or groups who gather to mimic gang activity. As per A.R.S. 13-105, an individual to whom two of the following apply is considered gang association: A) self-proclamation, B) witness testimony or official statement, C) written or electronic correspondence, D) paraphernalia or photographs, E) tattoos, F) clothing or colors, G) any other indicia of street gang membership.
 9. **Written or Verbal Abuse of a Staff Member:** The written or verbal abuse of a staff member is prohibited (A.R.S. 15-507, A.R.S. 13-2911). Verbal abuse includes threats or harassment of any kind.
 10. **Electronic Recordings:** All unauthorized or inappropriate recordings or display are prohibited. (A.R.S. 13-3019) Surreptitious photographing, videotaping, filming or digitally recording or viewing are prohibited.
 - It is unlawful for any person to knowingly photograph, videotape, film, digitally record or by any other means, use a device to secretly view or record another person without that person's consent under both of the following circumstances:
 - In a restroom, bathroom, locker room, bedroom or other location where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.
 - While the person is urinating, defecating, dressing, undressing, nude or involved in sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

- It is unlawful to disclose, display, distribute or publish a photograph, videotape, film or digital recording made in violation of subsection A of this section without the consent of the person depicted.

Penalties: Students who commit a Class Two violation shall be suspended five to nine days on the first offense, unless the severity of that offense justifies a suspension for the remainder of the semester or longer or expulsion. Students may also be assigned to the school's detention program. A second Class Two violation, or committing any two Class Two violations at any time while the student is under the jurisdiction of the District shall result in suspension for the remainder of the semester or longer or a recommendation for expulsion. Parents/legal guardians will be notified. Appropriate law enforcement officials may also be notified.

CLASS THREE VIOLATIONS:

1. **Attendance Procedures Violation:** Absence from class(es) without the knowledge or permission of the parent/guardian and school authorities is prohibited. Leaving campus without written permission from the Attendance Office is prohibited. Being tardy to class is prohibited, as are unexcused absences and truancy. Continued truancy may result in a referral to the Juvenile Justice Center if under the age of 16. (A.R.S. 15-803)
2. **Disruptive Behavior and Disturbances:** Behavior in the classroom, on the campus, or at any school function that is disruptive or interferes with the educational process and/or with the right of others is prohibited.
3. **Improper Use of Technology:** Any student who uses electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, computers, iPod, etc.) for other than its intended purposes shall be considered in violation. This shall include but not limited to, unauthorized access or attempts to access District computer programs, systems or online services (such as the internet). The use of any username or password not assigned to the student is considered unauthorized access.
4. **Insubordination:** Disrespect of a staff member (talking back or delivering socially rude interactions) or failure to comply with a reasonable request of a staff member is prohibited.
5. **Lying, Cheating, Forgery, or Plagiarism:** Forgery, illegal possession, or illegal use of campus passes, documents or student I.D. cards is prohibited. Any modification of a student I.D. shall be considered forgery. Cheating is prohibited. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. The first time a teacher determines a student to be cheating; the teacher will give the student an "F" on that test/assignment and notify the parents/legal guardians and administration. If a student cheats a second time in a course, the teacher will give the student an "F" on that assignment and notify the administration for disciplinary action. If a student cheats a third time in a course, the teacher will give the student an "F" for the semester and refer the student to the administration for disciplinary action.
6. **Tobacco:** Possession or use of cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, or any other form of tobacco while under school jurisdiction is prohibited (A.R.S. 13-3622).

Penalties: Students who commit Class Three violations may be assigned detention or may be suspended one to five days unless the severity of the violation justifies a more severe penalty. Parents/legal guardians will be notified. Any repetition of a Class Three violation may result in a more severe penalty including long-term suspension.

CLASS FOUR VIOLATION:

1. **Disruptive Objects:** Disruptive objects not being used for educational purposes may include but are not limited to: portable speakers, laser pointers, iPods, cellular phones, skateboards, scooters, and roller blades are prohibited. Disruptive objects will be confiscated from students and returned to parents/ legal guardians. Students in possession of combustible or contraband substances are subject to discipline.

(All confiscated items that are not picked up by July 1 will be disposed of by the administration.)

2. **Dress Code Violations:** Students shall wear clothes that meet the requirements of school policy.
3. **Gambling:** Playing games of chance (e.g., coin flipping, matching, cards, dice, pools, etc.) for money is prohibited.
4. **I.D. cards:** I.D. cards shall be carried by students at all times while at school and/or at school activities. I.D. cards must be presented at any time or for any reason at the request of any district staff member and to receive school services such as transportation.
5. **Inappropriate Language:** Profanity or abusive language (in any language) is prohibited.
6. **Injury Prone or Unhealthy Behavior:** Behavior, such as but not limited to, pushing, play fight, horseplay, shoving, climbing on buildings, riding skateboards, or spitting is prohibited.
7. **Loitering:** Loitering on the school grounds or upon land adjacent to the school grounds, before, during, or after normal school hours, is prohibited.
8. **Parking lot violations:** Any parking or traffic violation, joy riding or cruising around the campus in or on cars, motorcycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates, roller blades or any other type of vehicle is prohibited during the school day. Passengers and drivers are both guilty of this violation. Law enforcement may be notified.
9. **Public Display of Affection:** Hugging, kissing, groping, or any other form of display of affection during school or at school events is prohibited.

Penalties: Students who commit Class Four violations may be assigned detention or may be suspended one to three days unless the severity of the violation justifies a more severe penalty. Any repetition of a Class Four violation will result in a more severe penalty. Parents/legal guardians will be notified.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices: Students' possession and use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices at school, on school buses and at school activities are governed by the rules of the school. In no event may a personal electronic device be used in manner that violates the privacy of others or disrupts the school objective of maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for the students.

RULES OF SCHOOL DRESS

The District recognizes the relationship between student dress and grooming and school pride, self-esteem, the safety and general welfare of the students and staff, and the accomplishment of curriculum goals and educational objectives. The district encourages students to take pride in their attire, regardless of gender, as it relates to the school setting. For students to be college, career, and community prepared, they should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following rules, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health, and welfare of themselves and others.

1. Students must wear a shirt with pants or skirt or the equivalent (dress, leggings, or shorts).
2. Clothing must not be see-through and must cover a student's undergarments, chest and torso, when standing or sitting.
3. Shoes must be worn at all times. Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as physical education, et cetera.
4. Jewelry shall not be worn if it presents a safety hazard.
5. Clothing, accessories and/or jewelry may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual

- orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
6. Students may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted.
 7. Subject to the above, no hats, bandannas, other head coverings, or sunglasses may be worn in a classroom or school building, except for properly approved occupational safety headgear required for special classes or if authorized by a school administrator or authorized/prescribed by a medical professional.
 8. Obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, or alcohol on clothing are prohibited.
 9. Students may not wear clothing, accessories and/or jewelry with images, symbols, slogans, words or phrases that are profane, discriminatory or defamatory or that is worn with the intent to convey affiliation with a criminal street gang as defined in (A.R.S. 13-105).
 10. Hats and sunglasses may be worn outside.
 11. Any apparel which the administration determines to be unacceptable in light of community standards is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to clothing which offends or disrupts the educational process.

Exceptions for special activities or health considerations may be preapproved by the administrator.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities, such as athletics, band, chorus, et cetera, are subject to the standards of dress as defined by the sponsors or such activities.

SCHOOL SANCTIONED TRIPS

Groups that travel under District auspices are representatives of the student body and community. Students will follow the Student Code of Conduct and not bring embarrassment on themselves, their club or team, and their school.

For extracurricular activities, see school administration office for YUHSD Student Leave Bus Waiver form.

Penalties: Students who violate the Yuma Union High School District Student Code of Conduct while on a school sanctioned trip will be punished accordingly. If there are violations of the Student Code of Conduct while a club, group, team, or individual is on a trip, any of the following penalties may occur:

1. If a class one or two violation occurs and is substantiated, the offending student will not be allowed to further participate in the activity and an administrator will immediately be notified and will determine whether the trip/activity is to continue.
2. An "Exclusion Clause" may be enacted, whereas the club, group, team, or individual student may not be allowed to participate in any further school sanctioned trips or activities for up to two calendar years until permission is requested of, and granted by, the campus administration.

Code of Conduct for Students Using District Transportation

Public school transportation services are a privilege, not an entitlement. Continued transportation service is contingent upon student compliance with school bus rules. These rules are in place to promote the safety of all students granted the privilege of riding a Yuma Schools Transportation Department Bus. Failure on the part of the students to comply with these rules could result in permanent loss of riding privileges for the school year and

disciplinary action from the school up through expulsion. If you have any questions/comments, please call 502-8840.

SCHOOL BUS RULES/PROCEDURES

1. The bus driver has the same authority as the teacher in the classroom. The school bus is an extension of the school like the Cafeteria and media center. Any unacceptable behavior in those environments is unacceptable on the school bus. Inappropriate gestures and language are unacceptable. Disrespect toward the driver and/or other riders is not acceptable.
2. Parents are responsible for getting students to and from designated bus stops safely.
3. To ensure safety, order, and the rights of all riders, student passengers must adhere to the following safe practices on a school bus:
 - Refrain from throwing objects within or outside the bus
 - Refrain from eating, drinking, chewing, or smoking
 - Keep heads, arms, and legs inside the bus and out of the bus aisles
 - Stay in assigned seats while the bus is moving
4. Students must get on and off the bus at the designated stop.
5. Students who must cross the street to board the school bus or to return home after leaving the school bus should cross the street only after the school bus arrives and the stop arms have been extended.
6. Students should be at their assigned bus stops no later than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time of the school bus.
7. Items that interfere with a safe ride for the students and bus driver are banned from the bus. These items include any article that would block the bus aisle or could become loose in an accident. Banned articles include but are not limited to: any item with wheels other than a book bag, glass items, sprays, balloons, band instruments which do not fit on a student's lap, and sports equipment. Only articles that can be placed on a student's lap without interfering with other students sitting on the seat, blocking the aisle or emergency exits will be permitted.
8. Fighting, pushing, rough-housing, making loud noises and behaviors that distract the driver from safely operating the school bus are prohibited.
9. Unacceptable behaviors on the school bus or at the bus stop will be reported to the transportation department administration for disciplinary action.

HEARING AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Suspension for Nine Days or Less:

- A student recommended for suspension for nine (9) days or less has the right to be given either oral or written notice of the charges, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. Notice of the charges and an opportunity to be heard will generally precede the student's removal from school, but prior notice and hearing is not required where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process. If suspension occurs before an opportunity to be heard, the notice and hearing shall follow as soon as practical. The hearing shall be conducted by a campus administrator.
- A student or parent dissatisfied with the discipline imposed by the initial administrator shall have the right to appeal the decision within ten (10) school days to the Principal or to the Designated Assistant Principal. The decision following an appeal shall be final.
- A student's parents or legal guardian shall be notified as soon as possible following the imposition of punishment. Every suspension shall be reported to the Governing Board within five (5) days by the Superintendent or person imposing the suspension.

Suspension for More than Nine Days or Expulsion:

- In any cases when the administration recommends a suspension of more than nine (9) days or the expulsion of a student the parents/legal guardians have the right to appeal (see policies JKD and JKE).
- If the parent requests a hearing to contest the recommendation of the campus administration, a hearing officer will conduct the review, and issue a finding.
- The parent/legal guardian has the right to appeal the hearing officer's decision to the Governing Board by notifying the superintendent's office within five (5) working days.
- If the hearing officer's decision is taken before the Governing Board for ratification, and the Governing Board has questions after review of the testimony/record, another hearing may be set.
- If the hearing officer determines that a violation has occurred and does not accept the recommendation for long-term suspension made by the administration, the student may be allowed back in school on probation. The terms of the probation may be determined by the campus administration, which could include up to nine (9) days of out-of-school suspension and/or community service.

RECORD OF STUDENT VIOLATIONS

All violations of the Student Code of Conduct by a student will be maintained in his/her file while a student is in the District. The Governing Board may, for good reason, remove the bad conduct record of a student if it sees fit to do so.

USE OF POLICE

It is the philosophy and belief of the administration that the responsibility for dealing with student discipline rests with us. Thus, efforts will be made to handle such problems in-house according to the policies and procedures established by the District and the school. However, when violations of state laws or municipal ordinances occur, or when students or parents refuse to work within the established policies of the District and school, or where security of person or property appears to be in jeopardy, the administration will call the police and initiate arrest and prosecution proceedings.

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Each school will establish a procedure that at a minimum will provide the principal, or the designee of the school administrator, with documentation of the teacher's reason(s) for the temporary removal of a student from class.

REFUSAL TO READMIT PER A.R.S. 15-841:

- Upon discussion, by the administrator with the teacher, of disciplinary action implemented in conjunction with a temporary removal in accord with the rules established by the Board, the teacher will be required to state an intent to readmit or refuse to readmit the removed student. If the teacher refuses to readmit the student, the reason shall be written by the teacher, explaining the conditions used to determine the removal, and shall be provided to the administrator by the next business day following the temporary removal.
- Either of the following conditions must exist for a temporary removal per A.R.S. 15-841.
- The teacher has documented that the pupil has repeatedly interfered with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the other pupils in the class or with the ability of the other pupils to learn.
- The teacher has determined that the pupil's behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the other pupils in the classroom or with the ability of the other pupils to learn.

- The matter will be referred to the school placement review committee (SPRC) constituted in accord with statute if the conditions are consistent with those stated in A.R.S. 15-841. Within three (3) business days following the date of temporary removal, the SPRC shall determine to either place the student in a new class or return the student to the existing class if that is the best or only practicable alternative.
- If the student is qualified for educational services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), any change in the student's individualized education program (IEP) shall be determined by the IEP team in accord with federal regulations.

Any teacher, administrator, Board member, parent, or other person may report a violation of student disciplinary rules to an administrator. The administrator will then make an investigation of the charges as deemed appropriate and will institute appropriate proceedings.

This information for the maintenance of public order on school property will be publicized and explained to all students and provided in writing to parents as requested. In order to promote effectiveness of student discipline, the assistance of parents in enforcing rules for student discipline shall be invited and encouraged.