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# SKY COUNTRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Parent and Student Handbook

### 2023-2024

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5520 Lucretia Avenue, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

(951) 360-2816

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**LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS**

**BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL**

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## Welcome!

This handbook is designed to provide you with the information you will need for a positive and successful year at Sky Country School. Your responsibility is to read each page and to understand the information that it contains.

Hopefully this handbook will answer all your questions. If you do have any questions regarding any rules or policies, please feel free to discuss them with your child's teacher or with me.

The staff joins me in wishing you and your child the best for the 2023-2024 school year. Let's make it a GREAT ONE!

Sincerely,  
Traci Payo, Principal



Sign up for Sky Country Messages:  
[www.parentsquare.com/signin](http://www.parentsquare.com/signin)



@skycountryJUSD



@skycountry\_jusd



@\_Skycountry

## General School Information

### Q Parent Connection/ Emergency Information

Accessing Q ParentConnection is highly recommended. This is the online platform parents/guardians will use to update "Emergency Card" and contact information for the Annual Information Update (AIU). This online platform is used to track, monitor, and report student attendance, behavior, and academic progress. Parents may also view their child's current grades/progress on Q ParentConnection. Parents must have an email to access this account. Please contact the front office at (951) 360-2816 if you need help accessing Q ParentConnection or need to request your PIN. Students can access Q StudentConnection, which allows students to view and monitor their own progress. **Students will only be released to those adults who are listed on the emergency card. Please bring proper identification.** Please notify the office of any change in address, home, work, or emergency phone numbers. (*Board Policy 5125.4 & 5125.5*).

### Arrival/Dismissal Time

Students may not enter campus before 8:15 a.m. since there is no supervision before that time. Parents will be issued a warning if their child is on campus prior to 8:15 a.m. At 8:15 am, our gates will

open for all students to eat breakfast or play on the playground until the bell rings at 8:40 am.

### Wednesday Minimum Days

Minimum days begin on Wednesday, August 25, 2023 and continue every Wednesday through May 29, 2024. Minimum day times will be as follows:  
**8:45 a.m. --1:25 p.m.**

### District Minimum Days

**Dismissal-1:25 p.m. for all grades**  
**District minimum days are:**  
Friday, October 20, 2023  
Friday, February 16, 2024  
Friday, May 24, 2024  
Friday, May 31, 2024



School success starts  
with attendance

### Notification of Absence

All absences are to be reported and verified through the school office. Please call the school office at **951-360-2816** or send a written note with the date of absence, your child's name,

reason for absence, and parent signature.

### **School Attendance**

According to state law, your child's daily attendance is required each day that he/she is physically able. Parents or guardians are responsible for their child's attendance at school. The only valid reasons for absence from school are:

- (a) An illness or an injury.**
- (b) A medical, dental, optometry or chiropractic appointment.**
- (c) A quarantine of the home by a county or city health official.**
- (d) Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family.**
- (e) Other personal reasons including an appearance in court, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats.**

Other absences are considered unexcused or truant and cause a disruption to your child's academic program. Students will be assigned Saturday School for unexcused absences and trancies.

Students who have excessive tardies or absences will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

If your family must take its vacation during the regular instructional time, you may have your child placed on an Independent Study Contract to avoid the absence being classified as "unexcused" or "truant." You must notify the office or teacher **at least 2 weeks before** the start of the absence or the principal will not accept the contract. All Independent Contracts must be approved by the principal. Independent Study is limited to 15 days per school year.

### **Late Arrival/Early Dismissal**

If your child arrives past the start time of **8:45 am**, you must bring your child into the office and sign a tardy slip. Students cannot come onto campus late without a parent or guardian. Students with unexcused tardies of 30 minutes or more are considered truant. Being tardy is a

disruption to the learning process. Students who are tardy will receive a consequence as dictated by our discipline plan. After two tardies a warning will be issued. After three tardies, the student will be assigned to an after-school detention. Repeated tardies will require a parent conference. If a tardy is due to a doctor, dentist, counselor or court appointment, a note from their office will be required or it will reflect as an unexcused tardy.

If you are coming to take your child off campus, the office staff will call your child out of the classroom. Please be considerate of your child's lunch time, as it takes a little longer to locate them on the playground and retrieve his or her things from the classroom. Remember to bring your government issued ID with you when checking your child out of school.



### **Travel to and from School**

Both the school and parents share the responsibility of training children to use the safest route to and from school.

#### **If your child walks, teach him/her to:**

- Use a crosswalk when crossing a street.
- Watch for cars before crossing and cross only when it is safe.
- Walk on the side of the road that faces traffic or has a sidewalk. Stay off the street.
- Avoid strangers. Never get into a car with someone he/she does not know.

### **Visitors/Volunteers at School**

Any adult who visits the campus is required to sign-in at the office and wear a visitor's badge.

### **Tuberculosis (TB) Only Volunteers**

Only Tuberculosis (TB) clearance is required for volunteers that are:

- Visiting their child's classroom less than four (4) hours a week and will

always remain under the DIRECT supervision of a certificated JUSD staff member.

- Assisting with activities under the DIRECT supervision of a certificated JUSD staff member for less than four (4) hours per week.
- Attending school field trips to assist with supervision of only their child or when not assigned a group/individual student to supervise.

### **TB & Fingerprinted Volunteers**

Fingerprinted and Tuberculosis (TB) clearances are required for volunteers that are:

- Assisting in the classroom or other school activities regularly or for more than four (4) hours per week.
- Volunteering on a field trip to supervise students without the supervision of JUSD certificated staff.
- Serving as an overnight chaperone.
- Escorting students from one location to another on campus.

How to apply:

1. Submit an application by [clicking here](#).
2. Wait for your request to be approved by the principal.
3. Once approved, complete all requirements listed in the approval email you will receive.
4. Email all required documents listed in the approval email to: [JUSD\\_volunteers@jUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:JUSD_volunteers@jUSD.k12.ca.us)
5. You will receive an email once you are cleared to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please contact the Human Resources Department at 951-360-4124.



### **Dress Code**

Clothing and appearance need to be appropriate for the weather, neat, and clean in appearance. Students should wear clothing that allows for their

participation in physical education and recess.

Brief garments, such as swimsuits tops, strapless, one-shoulder or halter tops, beach wear, tank tops with deep armholes, bare midriffs, backless shirts, tube tops, pajamas, lounge wear, sheer clothes, ripped or tattered jeans, low necklines, and exposed undergarments are not appropriate for school. Garments with shoulder straps less than 1” in width are prohibited. Dresses, skirts or shorts must cover the full curve of the buttocks when walking, sitting, reaching or bending.

Shoes must be always worn. For safety reasons, only shoes which are appropriate for school wear are allowed, as determined by school administration. No slippers are allowed. We recommend that shoes cover the toes to prevent injury. Backless shoes, thongs, flip-flops and with high heels are not permitted. Only school approved hats, caps or other head coverings may be worn outdoors for sun protection and shall not be worn indoors. Hats and caps with brims must be worn forward.

We do not allow any make-up or artificial nails to be worn by students.

Students in violation of the dress code will receive a warning and parents will be notified. Students will be required to change or wear attire provided by the school. Repeat violators will receive consequences according to the school assertive discipline plan as appropriate for defiance of school rules.

Please refer to the District’s website for a full copy of the dress code, or click here [Dress Code](#).



### **Cafeteria Services**

Please develop healthy eating habits with your child and discourage them from skipping meals. Proper nutrition in the school age years can reinforce lifelong eating habits that contribute to

a student's overall well-being. Large size snacks and candy are not allowed during recess and lunch. Please put snacks in an individual snack size bag as there is no sharing allowed on campus due to allergies.



### **Health Information**

When a child becomes ill at school, the staff attempts to contact a parent listed on the emergency card first. If the staff is unsuccessful in reaching a parent, the next step is to contact an alternative person listed on the emergency card. The school staff only releases a child to persons listed on the emergency contacts list. **It is important that emergency contacts be kept up to date for your child's protection.**

### **Medication Policy**

Any medication required to be given during school hours must be turned into the office. Students on medication are required to have a doctor sign an authorization form. These forms are available in the school office. The procedure is as follows:

1. The parent brings the medication to the school office in the labeled bottle for the student.
2. Supply of medication should be just enough for administration to the student while at school.
3. If a student is on continuous medication, request that the pharmacy label two bottles, one for use at home and one for school use.
4. The student may be assisted by a school nurse or the nurses' designee.

Board Policy *5141.21* allows for students to carry inhalers and epi-pens. Students are not allowed to keep any other forms of medication in their possession during school hours.

Parents are requested to notify the school nurse or health clerk about

serious health concerns. Please be sure to share health concerns when completing the AIU through [Q ParentConnection](#).

### **Illness and Contagious Diseases**

If a child has a contagious disease such as chicken pox or measles, please notify the school immediately so that steps can be taken to prevent epidemics. The child may be readmitted to school only if the contagious period of the disease has passed.

Parents should check their children for lice regularly. If lice are seen on a child at school, the parents are called to pick up the child at the end of the school day and are given a copy of the brochure “A Parent’s Guide to Head Lice.” At home, all members of the family must be checked for head lice. This policy allows for parents to treat the child overnight. The day following treatment, the child is re-examined and admitted to class. If the child is still infested, then the parent is re-contacted.

### **Communication**

We make communication a top priority and invite you to partner with us as we grow stronger together. Please utilize the following resources to stay informed of all things happening at Sky Country Elementary.

- [Skyhawk News!](#)
- [Sky Country's Website](#)
- [Sky Country's Facebook](#)
- [Sky Country's Instagram](#)
- [Q Communication/ Parent Square:](#)

Essential Sky Country updates and reminders will be sent to you through the phone and email information provided at registration.

Sky Country’s marquee: Located in front of our school.

We will also strive to send out paper flyers when possible, home with students.

### **Sky Country’s Office**

The school office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Office personnel will take messages for teachers. **Teachers are unable to come to the phone when**

**class is in session.** Calling the school office to leave messages for children at school is not a safe practice. It is difficult to verify identification of the person calling, whether it is a parent, a non-custodial parent, or a stranger.

The school phone is for business purposes. Students may use the phone in an emergency or with a note from their teacher. **Students are not allowed to use cell phones and smart watches during school hours. If students use cell phones and smart watches anywhere on campus, they will be confiscated. Parents MUST come to school to pick up the phone. JUSD and Sky Country Elementary staff will not be responsible for personal items which are confiscated, lost, stolen or damaged.**



### **Lost and Found**

The lost and found box is located in the cafeteria. Please label jackets, sweaters and lunch pails with your child's name on the inside for your child's safety and for easy recovery of lost articles.

### **Chromebooks**

Students are provided with Chromebooks for educational use only. Students in grades 2nd - 6th will be allowed to take the devices to and from school to support extended opportunities for learning. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer and network just as they are in a classroom. Communications on the network are often public in nature; therefore, general school rules for acceptable behavior and communications apply. Students are responsible for adhering to the rules and internet use guidelines outlined in the *JUSD Acceptable Use Policy*.

A Chromebook Device Protection Plan will be offered through the district for \$39 per device.

### **Counseling Services**

Teachers and parents may refer students for counseling. A Behavioral Health Therapist assigned to the school provides counseling services to students. Additional counseling information and referral service can be obtained by calling 951-686-HELP (crisis advice, health care, child abuse, rape, alcoholism, or drug abuse). Feel free to contact the principal for more information regarding our counseling services.

### **Major Emergency Procedure**

In case of a school emergency or natural disaster, such as an earthquake, you need to be aware of our school's plan for releasing your child. Our concern is for the safe and orderly dismissal of our students.

A detailed emergency plan has been developed for implementation during a major emergency. Drills are held regularly to make certain that students and staff understand emergency procedures.

**Your cooperation is asked in any emergency.** The school will retain your child until you or an adult listed on the emergency contacts is able to come get him/her. These actions should be shared with everyone you listed on the Emergency contacts list so they are familiar with our procedures. For this reason, it is imperative that you keep all information on your child's Emergency Contact list up-to-date at all times. Your child will be released only to those listed on Parent Connect. When circumstances warrant, it is in the best interest of your child to place him/her in an alternate place of safety.

## **Academic Information**

### **Student Progress**

The initial student progress report is made in October, at which time the Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences are held at each school site. The first report card is given to parents at that time. Subsequent reports are made in

February, and May. However, you are encouraged to make inquiries as to your child's progress whenever you have a concern by talking to your child's teacher or making an appointment to come see him or her.

### **Homework**

Regular homework is required by the school district. It is an important factor in helping students achieve academically and develop good work habits. It is a student's responsibility to complete and turn in all required assignments.

## **Student Activities**

### **Student Ambassadors**

Students are given the opportunity to participate in being an ambassador for the school and develop leadership skills. Ambassadors have special duties.

### **Recognition**

Special recognition will be given to individual students and classes which have performed especially well. Awards are given for Student of the Month, academic excellence, demonstrating improvement, and for excellent citizenship.

## **Special Services and Programs**

### **Resource Specialist Program**

This program is designed for youngsters who, after being assessed, have shown that they can profit from additional assistance. It provides assistance for students with learning disabilities who have a discrepancy between ability and achievement. Students served in this program have an average or better intelligence but require alternative learning strategies in addition to the regular classroom instruction. These services are provided by an Education Specialist both in the classroom, working collaboratively with the regular teacher, and out of the classroom in small group instruction.

### **Language, Speech and Hearing**



### **Program**

An LSH teacher provides speech and language therapy for students with communication disorders. Students are screened upon the recommendation of their parents or teacher.

### **Counseling Services**

Teachers and parents may refer students for counseling. Our PICO department has many mental health services available. A mental health behavior associate assigned to the school provides counseling services to students. Additional counseling information and referral service can be obtained by calling 686-HELP (crisis advice, health care, child abuse, rape, alcoholism, or drug abuse).



### **Choir and Band**

Instruction in choir, and the woodwind, brass, and percussion instrument families are offered to fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.



### **Library Services**

Each student visits the school library with his/her class once each week. Students have the opportunity to check out books and receive assistance on locating information for research projects.

### **School Improvement Program**

A school based coordinated program plan has been developed to focus on language arts and math. Technology is also integrated within the classroom setting. Staff development days during the school year provide in-services for the entire staff. They are designed to improve the quality of the instructional program school-wide.

### **Gifted and Talented Education**

The GATE program offers educationally challenging activities to students identified as having extraordinary intellectual ability or achievement.

### **Extended Day Programs**

An afterschool program is available to both upper and primary grades to help students achieve grade level standards in language arts and math.

### **Structured English Immersion**

A structured English immersion program is an instructional method that involves teaching in English to English Learners. Our goal for English Learners is for them to become language proficient, not just fluent in English. Language proficiency is the ability to use language for both academic purposes and basic communicative tasks. The classroom environment is rich in visual and hands-on activities.

### **Title 1**

Title 1 provides supplemental funds to be used to narrow the educational gap between academic performances of At-Risk students. These funds provide for materials and services to assist identified students who need extra support to be successful in school.

## **Parent Involvement**

### **Title I School Site Council**

The School Site Council meets six times a year to advise the staff on educational decision-making. It is composed of elected parents and staff members.

### **English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)**

Schools that have more than twenty students who are identified as having limited proficiency in English are required by California State Law to establish a School English Learner Advisory Committee to allow parents to

assist the professional staff in planning a program to better serve those students. Members will attend four meetings per school year. All parents are welcome to these meetings.

### **Parent Conferences**

Teachers schedule parent conferences during two days in October. The report card and your child's progress are discussed during this time.

### **Parent Volunteer Program**

Please contact your child's teacher, or call the school office, if you wish to volunteer at school or in the classroom.

Volunteers who will have regular or extended contact with students, not under the direct supervision of a District certificated employee as determined by the school principal or designee, must meet the following requirements:

1. Submit evidence from an examination within 60 days prior to beginning volunteering that s/he is free of active tuberculosis.
2. Be fingerprinted and cleared by the Department of Justice criminal records check prior to beginning volunteering.

Examples of volunteers who must meet these requirements are coaches; athletic trainers; field trip chaperones, camp and fair chaperones; band, vocal music, and drama group helpers; and others who have unsupervised contact with students.

All Preschool volunteers must meet these requirements unless they are a relative of a child in the program and are not used to replace or supplement staff in providing direct care to children (Health and Safety Code 1596.871 (b)). Each school shall arrange for volunteers to sign in and out in an office record book provided by the principal. Workers' Compensation coverage will be extended only during the hours of actual service by approved volunteers who have signed in at the school office. The School District will not be responsible for loss or damage to the personal property of volunteers except as specific prior written

authorization has been given by the principal.

### Student Visitors

Students from middle or high school must remain off campus during school hours and school events unless given specific permission to be on campus by office personnel.

### Parent Education

Parent workshops are held throughout the year by the school staff and consultants. Please check fliers, the marquee, or website for specific days and times.

## Discipline Plan

### Behavior and Social Emotional Learning (BSEL)/ Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Defined

BSEL and PBIS are best described as an organizing structure rather than a program. Schools who implement BSEL/PBIS make an intentional decision to restructure all learning environments *for the purpose of equipping students for behavioral success in school and in life.* This is accomplished through direct instruction of agreed upon behavioral standards which are taught, acknowledged, and corrected by all staff within a safe and welcoming school culture.

### Key elements of PBIS

Evidence-based features of PBIS include:

- Commitment to prevention and intervention
- Emphasis on strong administrative leadership to build effective systems and practices
- Universally defined expectations/skills which are taught
- Acknowledgment and correction of pro-social behaviors
- Provision of fair and consistent consequences
- On-going collection and review of data for decision-making purposes
- Continuum of behavioral interventions – multi-tiered supports

### Definitions of Common Terms:

#### • **Discipline**

Discipline means *to instruct, to train in accordance with the rules, an activity or exercise to improve a skill.* Equipping students for behavioral and social success is a school-wide responsibility, which requires the commitment and efforts of all adults — not just a select few are perceived as “disciplinarians.”

#### • **Consequences**

A consequence is *the relation of a result to its cause.* It is also important to understand that “consequences” and “interventions” do not mean the same thing.

#### • **Intervention**

Behavior interventions are *specific actions taken for the purpose of changing the behavior of either an individual or a group of people.*

### Minor Offenses

A Minor Offense is the *failure to demonstrate a school-wide expectation, social skill, or procedure, i.e. failure to:*

- Be Safe, Responsible, Respectful
- Work with Others
- Follow Instructions
- Wait Your Turn
- Stay On Task
- Mind Your Own Business
- Get the Teacher’s Attention
- Resist Peer Pressure
- Accept “No” for an Answer
- Accept Criticism
- Ask Permission
- Respect
- Disagree Appropriately
- Listen
- Use Appropriate Voice Tone
- Ask for Help
- Give Criticism

More information at [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org)



### Cafeteria/Lunch Expectations

1. Obey and respect all cafeteria personnel.
2. Sit in assigned areas only.
3. Talk quietly.
4. Remain seated; raise your hand until given permission to leave.
5. Pick up paper and trash when leaving your table.
6. Walk directly to the playground after being excused.
7. Food or snacks are not permitted outside of the lunch area.



### Playground/Safety Rules

1. Students will not play rough on the playground.
2. Students will not push, hit, kick, bully or threaten other students.
3. Students will stay out of and away from puddles and mud.
4. Students will leave rocks, bark, sticks, and other dangerous objects alone.
5. Students are to stop what they are doing when the bell rings and should line up quickly.
6. Students will play in assigned areas only.
7. Students will show pride in their school by keeping the buildings and grounds free of litter.

8. Students will not eat on the playground.
9. Students will not climb fences or cross the street to retrieve any playground equipment.
10. Students will leave knives, cap guns, cigarette lighters and other unsafe objects at home.
11. Students will not loiter, or play in the bathrooms.
12. Students will not leave the playground without permission.
13. Students will NOT use electronic game devices and cell phones during instructional hours.

Sunnyslope Elementary will not be responsible for personal items that are brought to school and are confiscated lost, stolen, or damaged.



**School Wide Expectations**

1. Obey and respect all adults on campus.
2. Obey all playground and safety rules.
3. No use of foul language or fighting.
4. No gum is allowed at school.
5. Settle differences peacefully.

**Other Pertinent Information**

JURUPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 4850 Pedley Road  
 Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

**CIVILITY POLICY**

All Jurupa Unified School District staff members will treat parents and other members of the public with respect, and will expect the same in return. The District is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping its offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering its facilities.

This policy is developed to promote mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among District employees, parents, students and the public. This policy is not intended to deprive any person of their right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free environment for all individuals who enter District facilities. The District encourages positive communication, and discourages volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The District seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

**Disruptions**

1. Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt District operations; threatens the health or safety of District staff; willfully causes property damage; uses loud and/or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction; or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on the grounds of District facilities will be directed to leave District property promptly by District administrative staff and shall not be allowed to return for at least 72 hours (EC 32211).
2. If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner while on District premises, the District administrator or employee to whom the remarks are directed will calmly and politely request the speaker to communicate in a civil manner.

If corrective action is not taken by the abusing party, the District employee will verbally notify the abusing party that the meeting, conference or telephone conversation is terminated and, if

the meeting or conference is on District premises, the offending person will be directed to leave promptly.

3. When an individual is directed to leave under the circumstances discussed in Sections 1 or 2 above, the District administrator or designee shall inform the person that he/she will be guilty of a misdemeanor in accordance with California Education Code Sections 32211 and Penal Code Sections 626.6 and 626.8, if he/she reenters any District facilities with 72 hours after being directed to leave.

If an individual refuses to leave upon request or returns before the applicable period of time, the District administrator or designee may notify law enforcement officials. An Incident Report (attached) shall be completed for any such situations.

### **Safety and Security**

4. The District Administrator of Education Support Services or designee will ensure that a safety and/or crisis intervention techniques program is provided to staff in order to raise awareness on how to deal with these situations if and when they occur.
5. When violence is directed against a District employee, the employee shall promptly report the incident to their supervisor and complete an Incident Report. All District employees, supervisors and administrators should complete an Incident Report and report to law enforcement, any attack, assault or threat made against them on District premises or at District sponsored activities (Penal Code Section 243.5).

### **Documentation**

6. When it is determined by staff that a member of the public is in the process of violating the provisions of this policy, an effort should be made by staff to provide a written copy of this policy, including applicable Code provisions, at the time of occurrence. The employee will immediately notify his/her supervisor and provide a written Incident Report.

### **Legal References**

#### EDUCATION CODE

32211 Disturbing School  
44810 Willful Interference

#### PENAL CODE

243.5 Arrest on School Grounds  
415.5 Fighting on School Grounds  
626.6 Refusal to Leave School Grounds  
626.8 Disruptive

### **CUSTODY ISSUES**



Custody disputes must be handled by the courts. The school has no legal jurisdiction to refuse a biological parent access to his/her child and/or school records. The only exception is when signed restraining orders or proper divorce papers, specifically stating visitation limitations, are on file in the school office. Any student release situation which leaves the student's welfare in question will be handled at the discretion of the site administrator or designee. Should any such situation become a disruption to the school, law enforcement will be contacted and an officer requested to intervene. Parents are asked to make every attempt not to involve school sites in custody matters. The school will make every attempt to reach the custodial parent when a parent or any other person not listed on the emergency card attempts to pick up a child.

## **HOMELESS YOUTH EDUCATION**

*42 US 11432*

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for Homeless Children and Youth entitles all homeless school-aged children to the same free and appropriate public education that is provided to non-homeless children. A homeless student has the right to attend either the school origin (the school that the student last enrolled or attended when housed) or the current school of residence. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the parent/guardian has the right to dispute the school's decision by contacting the district's homeless liaison, Ilsa Garza-González, Director of Administrative Services at 951-360-4140.

## **NONDISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

*EC 220; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title II of the American with Disabilities Act; Title VI and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*

The Jurupa Unified School District is committed to providing a safe school environment where all individuals in education are afforded equal access and opportunities. The District's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any individual based on the person's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Specifically, state law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in enrollment, counseling, and the availability of physical education, athletic activities, and sports. Transgender students shall be permitted to participate in gender-segregated school programs and activities (e.g. athletic teams, sports competitions, and field trips) and to use facilities consistent with their gender identity. The district assures that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in District programs. Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying are investigated through the Uniform Complaint Process. Such complaints must be filed no later than six months after knowledge of the alleged discrimination was first obtained.

The Director of Administrative Services, Ilsa Garza-González, is designated as the administrative officer in this area and should be contacted with any questions regarding the District's nondiscrimination policy at (951) 360-4140 or Administrative Services, 4850 Pedley Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509. For questions or concerns about discrimination against students based on disability, please contact Michelle Johnson, Administrator of Education Support Services, at (951) 360-4144.

## **PROPERTY DAMAGE**

*EC 48904*

Parents or guardians may be held financially liable if their child willfully damages school property or fails to return school property loaned to the child. The school may further withhold the grades, diploma, and transcript of the pupil until restitution is paid.

## **SAFE PLACE TO LEARN ACT**

*EC 234 and 234.1*

The Jurupa Unified School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Section 422.55 of the PC and EC 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. All school personnel who witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Any student who engages in acts of discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, or bullying related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school of the school district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. To report an incidence and/or to receive a copy of the district's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, anti-intimidation and anti-bullying policies, please contact Ilsa Garza-González, Director of Administrative Services at (951) 360-4140.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT NOTIFICATION

*EC 48980 (g) and 231.5 and Board Policy 5145.7*

The Jurupa Unified School District is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any employee who permits, engages in, or fails to report sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. For a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy or to report incidences of sexual harassment, please contact Tamara Elzig, Deputy Superintendent.

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students by other students, employees or other persons at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who files a complaint, testifies, or otherwise participates in district complaint processes.

For more information on the complaint process, disciplinary action, confidentiality, and record-keeping, please refer to the 2017-18 Parent Guide.

## SUSPENSION APPEAL PROCEDURE

**Note:** *During the appeal of suspension to the principal, the student shall remain suspended for the length of the appealed suspension. Because the appeal process is a challenge to student records, only the student's Educational Rights Holder may appeal a suspension.*

When a parent or guardian wishes to appeal the suspension (without recommendation for expulsion), the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The pupil's parent or guardian shall have the right to submit a written statement that shall be attached to the suspension notice.
2. The parent or guardian shall submit a written statement outlining the reasons for requesting an appeal **within five (5) school days of the date the student was suspended** to the principal or designee.
3. Upon receipt of a written appeal of a suspension, the principal or designee shall have five (5) school days to consider the appeal. After considering the appeal, the principal or designee will notify the parent or guardian of the decision.
4. If the principal or designee agrees to alter the suspension after considering the parent or guardian's appeal, and the parent or guardian agrees with the change, the appeal process shall end.
5. If the principal or his designee does not agree to change the suspension, or if the parent or guardian does not agree with the change offered by the principal, the parent or guardian may then appeal the suspension to the Superintendent's Designee.
6. The Superintendent's Designee shall hear appeals only after the appeal has been heard by the principal or designee.
7. The parent or guardian shall submit the written reason for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent's Designee within five (5) school days after being notified by the principal.
8. The Superintendent's Designee will contact the parent or guardian as soon as possible but **within five (5) school days** of receipt of the written request.
9. The Superintendent's Designee shall confer with the principal to determine if there is sufficient evidence to find that the alleged violation occurred, whether the penalty imposed is appropriate for the violation, and whether the pupil has been afforded due process of law.
10. The Superintendent's Designee shall make a finding of fact and shall render a decision.
11. The Superintendent's Designee will then inform the parent and the principal first verbally and then in writing, of the decision.
12. If the Superintendent's Designee determines that no violation occurred, all records regarding the suspension shall be immediately destroyed.
13. If the Superintendent's Designee determines that the penalty imposed was inappropriate for the violation, all records concerning the suspension shall be revised to indicate the penalty imposed by the Superintendent's designee.
14. If the Superintendent's Designee determines that the violation did occur and that the penalty was appropriate, the suspension shall stand.
15. In all cases, the decision rendered by the Superintendent's Designee shall be final and shall end the appeal process.
16. The appeal of suspension with a recommendation for expulsion is terminated with the Superintendent's Designee meeting.  
[EC 48911(g)]

## Safe Place to Learn Act

## Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation & Discrimination Prevention & Response

*(Ed. Code §§ 234, 234.1)*

*It is the policy of the State of California to ensure that all local educational agencies continue to work to reduce discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying. It is further the policy of the state to improve pupil safety at schools and the connections between pupils and supportive adults, schools, and communities. (EC 234)*

The Jurupa Unified School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from bullying, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

All school personnel who witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Any student who engages in acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation or discrimination related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school of the school district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students, parents, staff, and community members should report incidents so they can be investigated. Formal complaints may be filed, and will be timely investigated and resolved according to District policy and procedure. Complainants may appeal if they disagree with the outcome.

To report an incident, to file a complaint, and/or to receive a copy of the District's policies prohibiting and responding to bullying, harassment, intimidations and discrimination, please contact a school administrator.

*Reference: Board Policies 5131.2 & 5145.3*

PLEASE REFER TO THE 2022-2023 PARENT GUIDE FOR A FULL COPY OF THE DRESS CODE.

PLEASE REFER TO THE 2022-2023 PARENT GUIDE FOR A FULL COPY OF THE UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.