

Alameda County Office of Education

2011-12 Notice to Parents

REGARDING FEDERAL LAWS AND EDUCATION CODE EXCERPTS RELATING TO RIGHTS OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF MINOR PUPILS

DEAR PARENT/GUARDIAN:

Section 48980 of the Education Code of California requires that notice be given at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term to the parent or guardian of the minor pupils in the school district regarding the rights of the parent or guardian under sections 32390, 35291, 46014, 48205, 48207, 48208, 49403, 49423, 49451, 49472, 51938, Chapter 2.3 (commencing with section 32255) of Part 19, and notice of the availability of the program prescribed by Article 9 (commencing with section 49510) of Chapter 9 and of the availability of individualized instruction under section 48206.3. Section 48982 requires that this Notice be signed and returned by the parent or guardian to the school. Signature and return of the attached form is acknowledgement by the parent or guardian that he or she has been informed of his or her rights but does not indicate that consent to participate in any particular program has either been given or withheld.

Some legislation requires additional notification to the parents or guardians during the school term or at least 15 days prior to a specific activity. (A separate letter will be sent to parents or guardians prior to any of these specified activities or classes, and the student will be excused whenever the parents or guardians file with the principal of the school a statement in writing requesting that their child not participate.) Other legislation grants certain rights that are spelled out in this form.

Accordingly, you are hereby notified as follows (when used in this notification "parent" includes a parent or legal guardian):

NOTE: New information for 2011-12 is indicated in bold face type.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

RULES AND PROCEDURES ON SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

(EC §35291): Rules pertaining to student discipline, including those that govern suspension or expulsion, are set forth in Education Code Sections 48900 and following, and are available upon request from the school. In addition, the following disciplinary information is provided to parents:

DUTY CONCERNING CONDUCT OF PUPILS (EC §44807): Every teacher shall hold pupils accountable for their conduct on the way to and from school, and on the playground.

DUTIES OF PUPILS (5 CCR §300): Pupils must conform to school regulations, obey all directions, be diligent in study, be respectful of teachers/others in authority, and refrain from profane/vulgar language.

HAZING PROHIBITION (EC §48900[q]): Pupils and other persons in attendance are prohibited from **engaging or attempting to engage** in hazing.

DRESS CODE/GANG APPAREL (EC §35183): The district is authorized to adopt a reasonable dress code.

ATTENDANCE OF SUSPENDED PUPIL'S PARENT

(EC §48900.1): If a teacher suspends a student, the teacher may require the child's parent to attend a portion of the school day in his or her child's classes. Employers may not discriminate against parents who are required to comply with this requirement.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (EC §231.5; 5 CCR

§4917): Each district is required to have adopted a written policy on sexual harassment and to display such policies in a prominent location and include it in orientation for employees and students. (*See enclosed.*)

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (EC §35256):

Districts are to make a concerted effort to notify parents of the purpose of school accountability report cards, and ensure that all parents receive a copy.

SCHOOL RECORDS AND ACHIEVEMENT

PUPIL RECORDS. NOTICE OF PRIVACY RIGHTS OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS (EC §49063 et seq., §49073, 34 CFR 99.30, 34 CFR 99.34, and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act):

Federal and state laws concerning student records grant certain rights of privacy and right of access to students and to their parents. Full access to all personally identifiable written records maintained by the school district must be granted to: (1) Parents of students 17 and younger; (2) Parents of students age 18 and older if the student is a dependent for tax purposes; (3) Students age 18 and older, or students who are enrolled in an institution of postsecondary instruction (called "eligible students").

Parents, or an eligible student, may review individual records by making a request to the principal. The principal will see that explanation and interpretations are provided if requested. Infor-

Please review the material in this booklet.

COMPLETE, SIGN, DETACH, and RETURN the acknowledgment form on page 7 to your child's school.

mation that is alleged to be inaccurate or inappropriate may be removed upon request. In addition, parents or eligible students may receive a copy of any information in the records at reasonable cost per page. District policies and procedures relating to: location of, and types of, records; kinds of information retained; persons responsible for records; directory information; access by other persons; review; and challenge of records are available through the principal at each school. When a student moves to a new district, records will be forwarded upon the request of the new school district. At the time of transfer, the parent or eligible student may review, receive a copy (at a reasonable fee), and/or challenge the records.

If you believe the district is not in compliance with federal regulations regarding privacy, you may file a complaint with the United States Department of Education (20 USC §1232[g]).

You have the right to inspect all instructional materials which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any applicable program.

RELEASE OF PUPIL DIRECTORY INFORMATION

(EC §49073): The district also makes student directory information available in accordance with state and federal laws. This means that each student's name, birth date, birthplace, address, telephone number, major course of study, participation in school activities, dates of attendance, awards, and previous school attendance may be released in accordance with board policy. In addition, height and weight of athletes may be made available. Appropriate directory information may be provided to any agency or person except private, profit-making organizations (other than employers, potential employers or the news media). Names and addresses of seniors or terminating students may be given to public or private schools and colleges. Parents and eligible students will be notified prior to the destruction of any special education records. **You have the right to inspect a survey or other instrument to be administered or distributed to your child that either collects personal information for marketing or sale or requests information about beliefs and practices and any instructional material to be used as part of your child's educational curriculum. Please contact your child's school if you wish to inspect such a survey or other instrument.**

Upon written request from the parent of a student age 17 or younger, the district will withhold directory information about the student. If the student is 18 or older or enrolled in an institution of postsecondary instruction and makes a written request, the student's request to deny access to directory information will be honored. Requests must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this notification.

STUDENT AND FAMILY PRIVACY RIGHTS (EC 51938): Prior to administering any anonymous and voluntary survey regarding health risks and behaviors to students in Grades 7-12, a school district must provide parents/guardians with written notice that the survey is to be administered.

RELEASE OF INFO TO MILITARY SERVICES REPS/ RELEASE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS (EC §49073.5;

20 USC §9528[a][2]): Parents of secondary students may request in writing that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released to armed forces recruiters without prior written parental consent.

HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM (EC §§48980[e] and 60850): Pupils completing the 12th grade will be required to success-

fully complete the high school exit exam. The exam may not be administered to students not receiving adequate notice.

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM: NOTIFICATION REGARDING COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSES (EC §51229): Districts are required to provide parents or guardians of each minor pupil enrolled in grades 9 to 12 written notice of college admission requirements and career technical education courses. *(See page 8.)*

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS COMPLIANCE WITH SUBPOENA OR COURT ORDER (EC §§49076 and 49077): Districts are required to make a reasonable effort to notify parents in advance of disclosing student information pursuant to a subpoena or court order.

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT (EC §§49076[a][1] and 49064[d]): Districts may release educational records, without obtaining prior written parental consent, to any school official or employee, which would include accountants, consultants, contractors, or other service providers, who have a legitimate educational interest in the educational record.

HEALTH SERVICES

CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITIES PREVENTION PROGRAM (H&SC §124085): Physical examinations are required as a prerequisite for enrollment in the first grade. Free health screening may be available through the local health department. Failure to comply with this requirement or sign an appropriate waiver may result in exclusion of your child from school for up to five days.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION; PARENT REFUSAL TO CONSENT (EC §49451): A child may be exempt from physical examination whenever the parents file a written statement with the school principal stating that they will not consent to routine physical exam of their child. Whenever there is good reason to believe the child is suffering from a recognized contagious disease, the child will be excluded from school attendance.

VISION APPRAISAL (EC §49455): The district is required to appraise each student's vision upon initial enrollment and every third year thereafter until the student completes the 8th grade. The appraisal shall include tests for visual acuity and color vision; however, color vision shall be appraised once and only on male students. The evaluation may be waived upon presentation of a certificate from a physician or optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the student's vision, including visual acuity and color vision. **Vision evaluations can now be waived upon presentation of a certificate from a physician's assistant.**

SCOLIOSIS SCREENING NOTICE (EC §§49451 and 49452.5): In addition to the physical examinations required pursuant to Sections 100275, 124035, and 124090 of the Health and Safety Code, the district is required to provide for the screening of every female student in Grade 7 and every male student in Grade 8 for the condition known as scoliosis.

PUPIL NUTRITION NOTICE OF FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS (EC §§48980(b), 49510, 49520 and 49558): Needy children may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Details are available at your child's school. Individual records pertaining to student participation in any free or reduced-price meal program may, under appropriate circumstances, be used by school district employees to identify students eligible for pub-

lic school choice and supplemental educational services pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act. **When a household is selected for verification of eligibility for free and reduced meals, the District must notify the parent that their child(ren)'s eligibility is being verified.**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (EC §49403): The district is authorized to administer immunizing agents to pupils, whose parents have consented in writing, to the administration of such immunizing agent.

MEDICATION (EC §49423): Any student who must take prescribed medication at school and who desires assistance of school personnel must submit a written statement of instructions from the physician and a parental request for assistance in administering the medication. Students may also carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine upon the school's receipt of specified written confirmation and authorization from the student's parent and physician or surgeon.

MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR PUPILS (EC §§49471 and 49472): The district is required to notify parents in writing if it does not provide or make available medical and hospital services for students injured while participating in athletic activities. The district is also authorized to provide medical or hospital services through nonprofit membership corporations or insurance policies for student injuries arising out of school-related activities.

AVAILABILITY OF INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION/PRESENCE OF PUPIL WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITY IN HOSPITAL (EC §§48206.3, 48207-48208): Individualized instruction is available to students with temporary disabilities whose disability makes attendance in the regular day classes or alternative education program in which the student is enrolled impossible or inadvisable. Parents of students hospitalized or with a temporary disability shall notify the school district where the student receives care if an individualized instruction program is desired.

CONTINUING MEDICATION REGIMEN (EC §49480): Parents of any student on a continuing medication regimen for a non-episodic condition shall inform the school nurse or other designated certificated school employee of the medication(s) being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician. (See page 7.) With the consent of the parent, the school nurse may communicate with the physician and may counsel with school personnel regarding the possible effects of the drug on the child's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission, or overdose.

SUN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING/USE OF SUNSCREEN (EC §35183.5): School sites must allow for outdoor use of sun-protective clothing and must provide for the use of sunscreen by students during the school day by an established policy.

ASBESTOS (40 CFR 763.93): The district has a plan for eliminating health risks that are created by the presence of asbestos in school buildings. It may be reviewed at the district office.

USE OF PESTICIDES (EC §§17612, 48980.3): School districts are required to inform parents about the use of pesticides on school grounds. (See enclosed.)

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN (EC §§32280 et seq.): Each school is required to report on the status of its

school safety plan, including a description of its key elements, in the annual school accountability report card (SARC). The planning committee is required to hold a public meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to express an opinion about the school plan. The planning committee shall notify specified persons and entities in writing.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE (EC §32289): A complaint of non-compliance with the school safety planning requirements may be filed with the State Department of Education under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (5 CCR 4600 et seq.).

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS (HS §104420): Use of tobacco products at any time by students, staff, parents, or visitors, is strictly prohibited in district-owned or leased buildings, on district property, and in district vehicles. This prohibition applies to all employees, students, and visitors at any school-sponsored instructional program, activity, or athletic event held on or off district property. Prohibited products include any product containing tobacco or nicotine, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew, clove cigarettes, betel, and nicotine delivery devices such as electronic cigarettes. Exceptions may be made for the use or possession of prescription nicotine products. Any employee or student who violates the district's tobacco-free schools policy shall be asked to refrain from smoking and shall be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate.

STUDENT SERVICES

MINIMUM AGE OF ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN (EC §48000): Children who will have their fifth birthday on or before Dec. 2 of the school year shall be admitted to kindergarten at the beginning of that school year. Students turning five after Dec. 2 but during the school year may be admitted with informed parent consent subject to board approval.

PROSPECTUS OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM (EC §49091.14): The curriculum of every course offered by the schools of the district is compiled annually by each school in a prospectus. Each school prospectus is available for review upon request at each school site. Copies are available upon request for a reasonable fee not to exceed the actual copying cost.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION (EC §310): State law requires that all students be taught English by being taught in English. However, this requirement may be waived by parents with prior written informed consent, which shall be provided annually, under specified circumstances. See your school principal for further information.

STATE FUNDED ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS (EC §48980[k]): State funds may be available to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees pursuant to EC §52244.

SPECIAL EDUCATION (IDEA): State and federal law requires that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment be offered to qualified pupils with disabilities ages 3 through 21 years. More information concerning student eligibility, parental rights and procedural safeguards are available upon request.

SPECIAL EDUCATION; CHILD FIND SYSTEM (EC §56301): Any parent suspecting that a child has exceptional needs (handicapped) may request an assessment for eligibility for special education services through the school principal. Policy and

procedures shall include written notification to all parents of their rights pursuant to EC §56300.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMPLAINTS (5 CCR §3080): State regulations require the district to establish procedures to deal with complaints regarding special education. If you believe that the district is in violation of federal or state law governing the identification or placement of a special education student, or similar issues, you may file a written complaint with the district. State regulations require the district to forward your complaint to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Procedures are available from your school principal.

SECTION 504/DISABLED PUPILS (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973): Federal law requires districts to annually notify handicapped pupils and their parents of the district's nondiscriminatory policy and duty under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION (Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964): The district is required to have a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or handicap. This policy requires notification in native language if the district's service area contains a community of minority persons with limited English language skills. Notification must state that the district will take steps to assure that the lack of English will not be a barrier to admission and participation in district programs. This policy applies to all students insofar as participation in programs and activities is concerned, with few exceptions such as contact sports. In accordance with federal law, complaints alleging noncompliance with this policy should be directed to the school principal. Appeals may be made to the district superintendent. *(See enclosed.)*

FINGERPRINTING PROGRAM (EC §32390): Districts are authorized to offer fingerprinting programs for children enrolled in kindergarten or newly enrolled in the district. If the district has adopted such a program, you will be notified of procedures, applicable fee and your right to decline your child's participation upon your child's initial enrollment.

CHILDREN IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS (42 USC §11431-11435): Each local district shall appoint a liaison for homeless children who shall ensure the dissemination of public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations.

SEX / HIV / AIDS EDUCATION

INSTRUCTION IN COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION / HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION (EC §51938):

Districts shall annually notify parents about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education and research on student health behaviors and risks planned for the school year. Written and audiovisual educational materials used in such education are available for inspection. You will be notified prior to the commencement of any such instruction as to whether the instruction will be taught by district personnel or by outside consultants in class or during an assembly. A copy of the law pertaining to such instruction is available upon request from the district. You may request in writing that your child not receive comprehensive sexual health education and/or HIV/AIDS prevention education. The law also authorizes the district to use anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and

surveys containing age appropriate questions about the student's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex. The district must notify you in writing before any such test, questionnaire, or survey is administered and provide you with an opportunity to review the test and request in writing that your child not participate.

HEALTH INSTRUCTION/CONFLICTS WITH RELIGIOUS TRAINING AND BELIEFS (EC §51240): Upon written request of a parent, students shall be excused from the part of any school instruction in health if it conflicts with the religious training and beliefs of a parent.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE / ATTENDANCE ALTERNATIVES

California law (EC §48980[h]) requires all school boards to inform each student's parent at the beginning of the school year of the various ways in which they may choose schools for their children to attend other than the ones assigned by school districts. Students who attend schools other than those assigned by the districts are referred to as "transfer students" throughout this notification. There is one process for choosing a school within the district which the parent lives (intradistrict transfer), and three separate processes for selecting schools in other districts (interdistrict transfer). The general requirements and limitations of each process are described as follows:

Choosing a School Within District in Which Parent Lives:

The law (EC §35160.5(b)) requires the school board of each district to establish a policy that allows parents to choose the schools their children will attend, regardless of where the parent lives in the district. The law limits choice within a school district as follows:

- Students who live in the attendance area of a school must be given priority to attend that school over students who do not live in the school's attendance area.
- In cases in which there are more requests to attend a school than there are openings, the selection process must be "random and unbiased", which generally means students must be selected through a lottery process rather than on a first-come, first-served basis. A district cannot use a student's academic or athletic performance as a reason to accept or reject a transfer.
- Each district must decide the number of openings at each school which can be filled by transfer students. Each district also has the authority to keep appropriate racial and ethnic balances among its schools, meaning that a district can deny a transfer request if it would upset this balance or would leave the district out of compliance with a court-ordered or voluntary desegregation program.
- A district is not required to provide transportation assistance to a student that transfers to another school in the district under these provisions.
- If a transfer is denied, a parent does not have an automatic right to appeal the decision. A district may, however, voluntarily decide to put in place a process for parents to appeal a decision.

Choosing a School Outside District in Which Parent Lives:

Parents have three different options for choosing a school outside the district in which they live. The three options are:

Option 1: Districts of Choice (EC §48300 through 48315): The law allows, but does not require, each school

district to become a “district of choice” – that is, a district that accepts transfer students from outside the district under the terms of the referenced Education Code sections. The school board of a district that decides to become a “district of choice” must determine the number of students it is willing to accept in this category each year and make sure that the students are selected through a “random and unbiased” process, which generally means a lottery process. If the district chooses not to become a “district of choice”, a parent may not request a transfer under these provisions. Other provisions of the “district of choice” option include:

- Either the district a student would transfer to or the district a student would transfer from may deny a transfer if it will negatively affect the racial and ethnic balance of the district, or a court-ordered or voluntary desegregation plan. **A district of choice cannot deny a transfer request on the basis that the costs to provide services exceeds the revenue received, but it may reject a request if doing so would require the creation of a new program. However, the district of choice may not deny the transfer of any special needs student, including an individual with exceptional needs, or an English Learner student even if the cost to educate the student exceeds the revenue received or the creation of a new program is required.** The district a student would be leaving may also limit the total number of students transferring out of the district each year to a specified percentage of its total enrollment, depending on the size of the district.
- **Communications to parents or guardians by a school district of choice shall be factually accurate and shall not target students based upon academic ability, athletic performance, or other personal characteristics.**
- No student who currently attends a school or lives within the attendance area of a school can be forced out of that school to make room for a student transferring under these provisions.
- Siblings of students already attending school in the “district of choice” must be given transfer priority.
- A parent may request transportation assistance within the boundaries of the “district of choice”. The district is required to provide transportation only to the extent it already does so.

Option 2: Other Interdistrict Transfers (EC §§4660 et seq.): The law allows two or more districts to enter into an agreement for the transfer of one or more students for a period of up to five years. New agreements may be entered into for additional periods of up to five years each. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions under which transfers are permitted. There are no statutory limitations on the kinds of terms and conditions districts are allowed to place on transfers. The law on interdistrict transfers also provides for the following:

- If either district denies a transfer request, a parent may appeal that decision to the county board of education. There are specified timelines in the law for filing an appeal and for the county board of education to make a decision.

Option 3: Parental Employment in Lieu of Residency Transfers (EC §48204[b]): If at least one parent or legal guardian of a student is physically employed in the boundaries of a school district other than the one in which they live, the student may be considered a resident of the school district in which his/her parents work. This code section does not

require that a school district accept a student requesting a transfer on this basis, but a student may not be rejected on the basis of race/ethnicity, sex, parental income, academic achievement, or any other “arbitrary” consideration. Other provisions of EC §48204(b) include:

- Either the district in which the parent or legal guardian lives or the district in which the parent or legal guardian works may prohibit the student’s transfer if it is determined that there would be a negative impact on the district.
- The district in which the parent or legal guardian works may reject a transfer if it determines that the cost of educating the student would be more than the amount of government funds the district would receive for educating the student.
- There are set limits (based on total enrollment) on the net numbers of students that may transfer out of a district under this law, unless the district approves a greater number of transfers.
- There is no required appeal process for a transfer that is denied. However, the district that declines to admit a student must provide in writing to the parent the specific reasons for denying the transfer.

Open Enrollment Act (EC §48350 et seq.): Whenever a student is attending a district school on the Open Enrollment List, as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, he/she may apply to transfer to another school within or outside of the District, if the school to which he/she is transferring has a higher Academic Performance Index. Districts with a school on the List must notify the parents/guardians at that school on or before the first day of the school year of their option to transfer to another public school. Information regarding the application process and applicable deadlines can be obtained from the district office

This summary provides an overview of the laws applicable to school attendance for each alternative. Additional information is available upon request.

NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS (EC §58501): State law authorizes all school districts to provide for alternative schools. Education Code section 58500 defines an alternative school as a school or separate class group within a school that is operated in a manner designed to:

- (1) Maximize the opportunity for students to develop the positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, spontaneity, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, responsibility, and joy.
- (2) Recognize that the best learning takes place when the student learns because of his/her desire to learn.
- (3) Maintain a learning situation maximizing student self-motivation and encouraging the student in his/her own time to follow his/her own interests. These interests may result in whole or in part from a presentation by his/her teachers of choices of learning projects.
- (4) Maximize the opportunity for teachers, parents and students to cooperatively develop the learning process and its subject matter. This opportunity shall be a continuous, permanent process.
- (5) Maximize the opportunity for the students, teachers, and parents to continuously react to the changing world, including but not limited to the community in which the school is located.

In the event any parent, student, or teacher is interested in fur-

ther information concerning alternative schools, the *County Superintendent of Schools, the administrative office of this district, and the principal's office in each attendance area* shall have copies of the law available for your information. This law particularly authorizes interested persons to request that the governing board of the district to establish alternative school programs in each district.

EXCUSED ABSENCES (EC §48205): Students may be absent for justifiable reasons and may complete missed assignments.

GRADE REDUCTION/LOSS OF ACADEMIC CREDIT (EC §48980[j]): No student shall have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence pursuant to EC §48205 for missed assignments/tests that can reasonably be provided/completed. *See text of EC §48205 on page 7.*

ABSENCES FOR CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL SERVICES (EC §46010.1): Students in Grades 7-12 and their parents are notified that the law permits schools to excuse students for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without parental consent; however, district implementation of this law is permissive. District policy regarding excusing such absences is available upon request.

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (EC §46014): Districts may allow pupils with parent consent to be excused to participate in religious exercises/instruction.

NOTICE OF MINIMUM DAYS AND PUPIL-FREE STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS (EC §48980[c]): The district is required to annually notify parents of its schedule(s) of minimum days and student-free staff development days at the beginning of the year or as early as possible, but no later than one month prior to the start of school. *(See enclosed.)*

MISCELLANEOUS

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (EC §35256): The governing board of each school district annually shall issue a School Accountability Report Card for each school in the district, publicize those reports, and notify parents or guardians of pupils that a hard copy will be provided upon request. Each district must make hard copies of its annually updated report card available, upon request, on or before February 1st of each year.

NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS FOR PARENTAL/PUPIL PARTICIPATION (EC §49091.18): Schools may not require a student or student's family to submit to or participate in any assessment, analysis, evaluation, or monitoring of the quality or character of student home life, parental screening or testing, nonacademic home-based counseling program, parent training, or prescribed family educational service plan.

SEX EQUITY IN CAREER PLANNING (EC §221.5[d]): Parents shall be notified in advance of career counseling and course selection commencing with course selection in Grade 7, to promote sex equity and allow parents to participate in counseling sessions and decisions.

DRUG FREE CAMPUS (Alcohol and Other Drug Use Prevention Education): Possession, use or sale of narcotics, alcohol, or other controlled substances is prohibited and strictly enforced

at all school activities. Records will be forwarded to local law enforcement, and district sanctions will result from violations.

RIGHT TO REFRAIN FROM HARMFUL USE OF ANIMALS (EC §§32255 et seq.): Pupils may choose to refrain from participating in educational projects involving the harmful or destructive use of animals.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001 (20 USC 6301 et seq.): Under the NCLB, parents have the following rights:

- **Information Regarding Professional Qualifications of Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Aides:** Upon request, parents have a right to information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and aides. This includes whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects s/he teaches, whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status because of special circumstances, the teacher's college major, whether s/he has any advanced degrees and the subject(s) of those degrees, and whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications. Districts shall also notify parents if their child has been assigned to or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- **Information Regarding Individual Student Reports on Statewide Assessments:** Upon request, parents have a right to information on the level of achievement of their student on every State academic assessment administered to the student.
- **Limited English Proficient Students:** The Act requires prior notice be given to parents of limited English proficient students regarding limited English proficiency programs, including the reasons for the identification of the student as limited English proficient, the need of placement in a language instruction educational program, the student's level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, the status of the student's academic achievement, the methods of instruction used in the programs available, how the recommended program will meet the student's needs, program performance, parent options to remove a student from a program and/or to decline initial enrollment, and expected rate of transition into classrooms not tailored for limited English proficient students.
- **Program Improvement Schools:** Parents shall be notified when their child's school is identified a "program improvement" school and the opportunities for school choice and supplemental instruction.
- **Non-Release of Information to Armed Forces Recruiters:** Upon written request, parents may direct that their student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released without prior written parental consent.

The information provided above is available upon request from your child's school or the district office. Additional notices that may be required under the No Child Left Behind Act shall be sent separately.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (5 CCR §4622): The district is required to annually notify parents, pupils, employees, district and school advisory committees and other interested parties in writing of its required Uniform Complaint Proce-



dures. A copy of the district's policy is available upon request.

SCHOOL BUSES/PASSENGER SAFETY (EC §39831.5):

Districts are required to provide safety regulations to all new students.

MEGAN'S LAW NOTIFICATION (PENAL CODE §290.4): Parents and members of the public have the right to review information regarding registered sex offenders at the main office of the local law enforcement agency for this school district.

EDUCATION CODE SECTION 48205

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:
 - (1) Due to his or her illness.
 - (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county/city health officer.
 - (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.
 - (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
 - (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
 - (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school

- hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
- (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, or attendance at an employment conference, when the pupil's absence has been requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
- (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.
- (b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The teacher of any class from which a pupil is absent shall determine the tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.
- (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.
- (d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not gener-

Continued on next page

Alameda County Office of Education

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF 2011-12 RIGHTS NOTIFICATION

Complete, sign, detach, and return this page to your child's school indicating that you have been notified of the specified activities and whether you have a child on continuing medication.

Student's Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

I hereby acknowledge receipt of information regarding my rights, responsibilities, and protections.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING IF APPLICABLE:

1. Student is on a continuing medication program: *Please check one:* YES NO

If YES, you have my permission to contact student's physician:

Physician's Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Medication: _____ Dosage: _____

Medication: _____ Dosage: _____

2. If you do not wish directory information released (page 2), please sign where indicated below and ensure receipt of this form by the school office *within the next 30 days*. Note that this will prohibit the district from providing the student's name and other information to the news media, interested schools, parent-teacher associations, interested employers, and similar parties.

Do NOT release directory information regarding _____

PUPIL'S NAME

Check if an exception may be made to include student information and photos in the yearbook.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____



ate state apportionment payments.

(e) "Immediate family," as used in this section, has the same meaning as that set forth in Section 45194, except that refer-

ences therein to "employee" shall be deemed to be references to "pupil."

COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS; CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (EC §§51229, 48980):

• **College Admission Requirements:** The University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) have established common high school course requirements for undergraduate admission. Students who take these courses and meet other specified criteria are eligible to apply and be considered for admission. The following list is commonly referred to as the "A-G" requirements:

- (1) two years of history/social science;
- (2) four years of college preparatory English or language instruction;
- (3) three years of college preparatory mathematics;
- (4) two years of laboratory science;
- (5) two years of the same language other than English;
- (6) one year of visual and performing arts; and
- (7) one year of college preparatory electives.

• **Web sites:** The following UC and CSU Web sites help students and their families learn about college admission requirements, and also list high school courses that have been certified for undergraduate admission:

UC: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/

CSU: www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/subjects.asp

• **Career Technical Education:** The California Department of Education defines "career technical education" as a program of study that involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to post-secondary education and careers. Career technical education includes agriculture education, home economics, industrial and technology education, and regional occupational centers and programs, among other educational programs.

• **Web site for Career Technical Education:** Students can learn more about career technical education at the following California Department of Education Web site:

www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/

• **Counseling:** Your child has the right to meet with a school counselor for help in choosing courses that will meet college admission requirements, or enrolling in career technical education courses, or both. If you wish to schedule a meeting with a school counselor, please contact your child's school.

**COMPLETE, SIGN, DETACH, and RETURN the form
on the reverse side to your child's school.**

