

Falls High School Student Handbook 2025-2026



Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to welcome your family to the Bronco community! At Falls High School, we are committed to partnering with you to support your child's growth, learning, and success. This handbook has been designed to share essential information about our school's expectations, activities, and guidelines to help you and your student navigate the school year with confidence.

Our school policies are available on the Falls High School website at www.isd361.org. If you ever have questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office—we are here to help.

Our team is dedicated to creating a safe, caring, and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and personally. This handbook reflects the input of students, families, staff, and community members, and is meant to be a helpful resource for your family throughout the year.

We look forward to working together to ensure a positive and rewarding high school experience for your child. Thank you for choosing Falls High School—we are glad you are here!

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SUPERINTENDENT

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FALLS HIGH PRINCIPAL

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FHS COUNSELOR

BRONCO POWER



Introduction

This handbook serves as a guide to student behavior Falls High School. The School Board establishes policies that guide the actions of all members of the district community. The Superintendent develops procedures to ensure the implementation of these policies, while principals and program administrators can further tailor specific school guidelines and expectations.

Teachers and staff collaborate with students to establish and follow classroom expectations for working together collectively. All adult staff members are held to high standards of conduct and are governed by relevant laws, Board of Education policies, and Human Resources rules and practices. The rules regarding student behavior and discipline in this handbook align with Board Policies 413, 503, 504, 505, 514, 524, and Minnesota Statute § 121A.55(a).

This handbook applies to incidents that occur on school premises, district property, at school functions, on school transportation, and on district-related digital platforms, including school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists. It may also extend to off-campus incidents that significantly disrupt student learning or the school environment.

Goals for the Code of Conduct

1. **Setting Clear Behavioral Standards**
The Code of Conduct defines acceptable and unacceptable behaviors, ensuring that students understand what is expected in terms of conduct and classroom collaboration.
2. **Promoting a Safe and Respectful Environment**
By establishing rules and consequences for behaviors such as bullying, harassment, and violence, the Code ensures a safe and respectful atmosphere for students and staff.
3. **Ensuring Fairness and Consistency**
The Code provides a uniform approach to addressing behavioral issues, ensuring that all students are treated fairly and consistently across the district.
4. **Encouraging Positive Behavior**
The Code includes expectations and rewards for positive behavior, helping foster a positive school culture and motivating students to contribute to a productive learning environment.
5. **Supporting Academic Achievement**
By maintaining a disciplined and orderly environment, the Code promotes conditions that are conducive to learning, which ultimately supports academic success.
5. **Protecting Rights and Responsibilities**
The Code outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, helping them understand their role within the school community and how their actions affect others.
7. **Providing Clear Consequences**
Consequences for various infractions are clearly defined, helping students understand the repercussions of their actions and encouraging them to make responsible choices.
8. **Enhancing Communication**
The Code fosters transparent communication between the school, students, and families, ensuring clarity about behavioral expectations and disciplinary procedures.
9. **Promoting Personal Responsibility**
By holding students accountable for their actions, the Code encourages the development of

personal responsibility and self-discipline.

By adhering to this Code of Conduct, we aim to create a positive and productive school environment that supports the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students, while ensuring fairness and safety across the district.

BRONCO POWER



**INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA
2025-2026 HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR**

MONDAY	AUGUST 25	TEACHER IN - SERVICE/WORK DAY
TUESDAY	AUGUST 26	TEACHER IN - SERVICE/WORK DAY
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 27	TEACHER IN - SERVICE/WORK DAY
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 27	FHS MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT (4:00 – 7:00 pm)
THURSDAY	AUGUST 28	TEACHER IN - SERVICE/WORK DAY
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 2	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 30	FHS MID-TERM REPORTS, 1 ST QUARTER Grades posted by 9:00 am
MODAY	OCTOBER 6	NO CLASSES - IN SERVICE DAY
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 16	NO CLASSES - EDUCATION MINNESOTA BREAK
FRIDAY	OCTOBER 17	NO CLASSES - EDUCATION MINNESOTA BREAK
MONDAY	OCTOBER 20	FHS PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES (4:00-7:00 pm)
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 22	FHS PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES (4:00-7:00 pm)
MONDAY	NOVEMBER 10	NO CLASSES
MONDAY	NOVEMBER 10	END OF FIRST QUARTER Grades posted by midnight
THURSDAY	NOVEMBER 27	NO CLASSES - THANKSGIVING RECESS
FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 28	NO CLASSES - THANKSGIVING RECESS
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 5	FHS MID-TERM REPORTS, 2 ND QUARTER Grades posted by midnight
MONDAY	DECEMBER 22-31	NO CLASSES - WINTER BREAK
THURSDAY	JANUARY 1	NO CLASSES
FRIDAY	JANUARY 2	NO CLASSES
MONDAY	JANUARY 5	SCHOOL REOPENS
MONDAY	JANUARY 19	NO CLASSES - TEACHER IN SERVICE
TUESDAY	JANUARY 20	END OF SECOND QUARTER/END OF FIRST SEMESTER Grades posted by midnight
MONDAY	FEBRUARY 16	NO CLASSES - PRESIDENTS DY
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 18	FHS MID-TERM REPORTS, 3 RD QUARTER Grades posted by midnight
MONDAY	MARCH 9-13	NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK
MONDAY	MARCH 23	FHS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES (4:00-6:30 pm)
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 25	FHS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES (4:00-6:30 pm)
FRIDAY	MARCH 27	END OF THIRD QUARTER Grades posted by midnight
FRIDAY	APRIL 3	NO CLASSES - GOOD FRIDAY
MONDAY	APRIL 6	NO CLASSES
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 29	FHS MID-TERM REPORTS, 4 TH QUARTER Grades posted by midnight
MONDAY	MAY 25	NO CLASSES - MEMORIAL DAY
TUESDAY	MAY 26	LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR SENIORS
WEDNESDAY	MAY 27	SENIOR GRADES DUE BY 3:50 PM
FRIDAY	MAY 29	LAST DAY OF CLASSES, END OF FOURTH QUARTER Grades posted by 9:00 AM
SUNDAY	MAY 31	2025 GRADUATION - 1:00 PM – FHS GYM
MONDAY	JUNE 1	TEACHER WORKDAY, LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS Grades posted prior to check-out

Falls Elementary, West End Elementary & Falls High Schools

School Day 8:00 AM - 2:50 PM M, T, Th, F

School Day 8:00 AM - 2:10 PM Wednesday

Locate your child's regular drop off time in the first column and follow across to determine Wednesday adjusted time.

Normal Drop-Off Time M, T, TH, F	"Early Out" Drop-Off Time Wednesday
3:00 PM	2:20 PM
3:02 PM	2:22 PM
3:04 PM	2:24 PM
3:06 PM	2:26 PM
3:08 PM	2:28 PM
3:10 PM	2:30 PM
3:12 PM	2:32 PM
3:14 PM	2:34 PM
3:16 PM	2:36 PM
3:18 PM	2:38 PM
3:20 PM	2:40 PM
3:22 PM	2:42 PM
3:24 PM	2:44 PM
3:26 PM	2:46 PM
3:28 PM	2:48 PM
3:30 PM	2:50 PM
3:32 PM	2:52 PM
3:34 PM	2:54 PM
3:36 PM	2:56 PM
3:38 PM	2:58 PM
3:40 PM	3:00 PM
3:42 PM	3:02 PM
3:44 PM	3:04 PM
3:46 PM	3:06 PM
3:48 PM	3:08 PM
3:50 PM	3:10 PM
3:52 PM	3:12 PM
3:54 PM	3:14 PM
3:56 PM	3:16 PM
3:58 PM	3:18 PM
4:00 PM	3:20 PM
4:02 PM	3:22 PM
4:04 PM	3:24 PM
4:06 PM	3:26 PM
4:08 PM	3:28 PM
4:10 PM	3:30 PM
4:12 PM	3:32 PM
4:14 PM	3:34 PM
4:16 PM	3:36 PM
4:18 PM	3:38 PM
4:20 PM	3:40 PM
4:22 PM	3:42 PM
4:24 PM	3:44 PM
4:26 PM	3:46 PM

General Information

School Hours and Procedures

Arrival and Dismissal Hours:

School Building Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Regular School Day: 8:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Wednesday School Day: 8:00 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Drop-off Time: Students may be dropped off after 7:30 a.m.

Pick-up Time: Students must be picked up by 3:00 p.m. (2:20 p.m. on Wednesdays)

Exception: Students involved in after-school activities.

Attendance

School attendance is a shared responsibility among students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators. Attending school regularly has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Build this habit early so your child learns right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will not only help them be more successful in school but those habits carry with them into college and at work.

Student Responsibilities:

- Students have the right to be in school.
- Students must attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session.
- Students should be familiar with and follow the correct procedures for absences from classes or study halls.
- It is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Ensure that the student attends school.
- Inform the school of any student absences.
- Work cooperatively with the school and student to address any attendance issues.

Attendance Procedures

This section provides an overview of the school's attendance policy. For detailed guidance, refer to MN State Statute 120A.22.

Excused Absences

To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian may be asked to verify the reason for the student's absence from school. A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the student cannot attend school is a valid excuse.

The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:

- Illness
- Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
- Medical, dental, or orthodontic treatment, or a counseling appointment (with proof).
- Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.

- Religious instruction does not exceed three hours in any week.
- Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- Official school field trip or other school-sponsored outing.
- Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work.
- Family emergencies.
- Active duty in any military branch of the United States.
- A student's condition requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis. (medical documentation necessary)

Consequences of Excused Absences

Students whose absences are excused are required to make up all assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.

Unexcused Absences

The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

- Truancy: An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the school district.
- Any absence in which the student failed to comply with reporting requirements of the school district's attendance procedures
- Work at home
- Work at a business, except under a school-sponsored work release program.
- Vacations with family
- Personal trips to schools or colleges
- Absences resulting from cumulated unexcused tardies (5 tardies) equal one unexcused absence)
- Missing the school bus or sleeping in
- Taking care of family members
- Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy

Consequences of Unexcused Absences

- Absences resulting from office suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes section 121A.40-121A.55.
- Days during which a student is suspended from school shall not be counted in a student's total cumulated unexcused absences.
- In cases of recurring unexcused absences, the administration may also request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.
- Students with unexcused absences shall be subject to discipline in the following manner:

Parent Notification

- Parents will be notified by Campus Messenger for each unexcused absence.
- After three absences, excused or unexcused, a student's parent or guardian will be notified through Campus Messenger and an attendance postcard.
- After five absences, excused or unexcused, the parents will be required to attend a meeting regarding attendance.

- After seven unexcused absences, paperwork can be filed with the county truancy office (Koochiching County Social Services).
- The student and family may need to attend a meeting with administration, create an attendance contract, or provide medical documentation for future absences to be excused.
- After 12 unexcused absences, absences will result in an automatic unexcused code and the school district will require formal parental/guardian documentation (i.e. medical, court, etc.) under the direction of the Superintendent and ISD 361 Attendance and Truancy Team to override the unexcused absences.
- After 15 consecutive unexcused absences, your student(s) may be unenrolled from ISD 361.
- Continued unexcused absences beyond the state attendance regulations will be reported to Koochiching County Social Services.

Tardiness

Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. A student is tardy up to 15 minutes after the start of the day.

- After 15 minutes (8:15) the student is considered unexcused for first period. Students who are tardy are required to report to the main office to receive an admittance pass before they go to class at the start of the day.
- For the remaining periods of the day the student is marked tardy when a student arrives late for class. Every 5 tardies in a class period results in one unexcused absence and counts towards truancy.
- Students who have been marked tardy 5 times from any combination of classes will be assigned detention.

Excused Tardiness

Valid excuses for tardiness are:

- Illness
- Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- A death or funeral
- Medical, dental, orthodontic, or mental health treatment.
- Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- Any tardiness for which the student has been excused in writing by an administrator or faculty member.

Required Reporting

Continuing Truant

Minnesota Statutes section 250A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

- Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
- Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minnesota Statutes section 250A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by mail OR student information messaging, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minnesota Statutes section 120A.34;
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minnesota Statutes section 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the child's enrolling or resident district;
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;
7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minnesota Statutes section 250;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 250C.201.

Habitual Truant

A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

A school district attendance officer may refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent/guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minnesota Statute Ch. 250A.

Procedure for Reporting an Absence

- To Report an Absence: Parents/guardians should call the school office 218-283-2571, press #1 for FHS, next press #1 for FHS school attendance line. Leave a message that includes the following:
 - Students name
 - Your name and relationship to the student
 - Reason for the absence

Unexcused Absences:

All absences are considered unexcused until verified as excused by a parent/guardian.

Leaving During School Hours:

Students must have a signed note from a parent/guardian or the office must receive notice directly via phone or email. This information will be documented in Infinite Campus. Students are required to sign out in the office before leaving the building.

Late Arrivals:

If a student arrives late, they must either have a parent sign them in or provide a signed note, email, or call from a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the late arrival.

- A note from a doctor or dentist should be presented if applicable.
- **Illness During the School Day:** If a student becomes ill during the school day, they must report to the health office. The health office staff will contact the parents if it is necessary for the student to go home. Students should not personally contact their parents; the health office will handle all communications.
- **Leaving School Premises:** No student is allowed to leave the building or its premises during the school day without permission from the school.

Extended Absences:

- For absences of three or more consecutive days, parents must provide a signed note indicating the days of absence. Students will receive a Pre-Arranged Absence Form to complete and have signed by their teachers one week in advance.

Make-Up Work

Responsibilities for Excused Absences:

- Students with excused absences are required to make up all missed assignments or complete alternative assignments as determined by the classroom teacher.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Falls High School recognizes that the primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and his/her parents or guardians. However, as part of the district's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment to learn, work, and succeed, a Dress Code is necessary for the following purposes:

- To protect the health and safety of staff and students,
- To ensure students are prepared to fully participate in the class or activity; and
- To establish a respectful and positive school environment free of hostility, intimidation, marginalization, or oppression.

Generally, students should be given the most choice possible in how they dress for school for their own comfort and self-expression. Restrictions shall be made only to support the overall educational goals of the school and will be explained within the dress code. Dress code enforcement shall not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body maturity/type/size.

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, and nipples are fully covered with non-transparent (opaque) fabric. All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear, while following the Basic Principle:

- Shirt,
- Bottom (pants/sweatpants/shorts/skirt/dress/leggings), AND
- Shoes.

*Certain courses may have additional requirements for attire in order for the student to fully participate in the curriculum for safety or assignment-specific reasons (for example, PE, lab sciences, tech ed, public speaking, field trips, etc).

3. Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate the Basic Principle above or Section 4 below:

- Religious headwear
- Hats, bandanas, hoods, and other headwear as long as face and ears remain visible
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and “skinny jeans”
- Pajamas
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps
- Halter tops
- Athletic attire
- Midriff baring shirts
- Visible waistbands/straps on undergarments worn under other clothing
- Strapless shirts

4. Students Cannot Wear:

- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting or promoting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity).
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- Visible undergarments. Visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation.
- Swimsuits (except as required in class, in which case, one- or two-piece swimsuits are acceptable).
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.

Policies and Guidelines

Complaints:

Concerns or complaints may be reported in writing or orally. The appropriate administrator will respond in writing. Complaints should be filed with the school. If necessary, complaints may be sent

to the office of the superintendent.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students:

All students, regardless of age, are subject to school rules.

Fundraising:

All activities must be approved by the building principal. Non-approved activities and solicitations during school hours are prohibited.

Graduation Ceremony:

Student participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Students who have completed the requirements for graduation are allowed to participate in graduation exercises, unless participation is denied for appropriate reasons, which may include discipline. Graduation exercises are under the control of the building principal.

Parent and Teacher Conferences:

Held each fall and spring. Dates and times will be communicated by the school.

Parent Volunteers:

Parents and guardians are welcome in the schools and are encouraged to volunteer in their children's classrooms. To volunteer in the school district, parents/guardians should contact the classroom teacher. Volunteers who will be working with individual students will be required to complete a background check. All visitors and volunteers should check and sign in at the school office before entering classrooms. All volunteers should sign out in the main office before leaving the building.

Prom:

The planning of the prom and post prom is done by the Prom Committee (students in junior and senior class) and its advisor(s). All aspects including but not limited to: planning, fundraising, decorating, selling of tickets, and collecting of the Grand March admittance fee are the responsibilities of the Prom committee, the advisor(s), and volunteers. Prom attendees must be an active FHS junior or senior student by credit at the end of the first semester and in good standing at the time of the event. Tenth grade students can attend prom but only if asked by a FHS junior or senior student; the 10th grader must be the date of an 11th or 12th grade student. Out-of-town students may apply in advance to attend prom with an FHS student. Guests attending cannot exceed the age of 19 as of the prom date. Guests must be in good academic and community standing at the time of the event. With a couple, one of the attendees must be an active student of FHS. Prom is an event that is a privilege to attend. Students who are serving or would qualify to be serving a Minnesota State High School League chemical violation suspension are not considered in good standing and will not be allowed to attend. Students on out-of-school suspension or expulsion are also not able to attend.

Fees

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state, federal, and local funds at no charge to a student. Students are expected to provide their own pencils, pens, paper,

erasers, notebooks, and other personal items. Students may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including (not an inclusive list):

- Admission fees or charges for extracurricular activities, where attendance is optional and where the admission fees or charges a student must pay to attend or participate in an extracurricular activity are the same for all students, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a public or a home school.
- Cost for materials for a class project that exceeds minimum requirements and is kept by the student.
- Security deposits for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Items of personal use or products that a student has an option to purchase such as student publications, class rings, annuals, and graduation announcements.
- Field trips considered supplementary to the district's educational program.
- Admission fees or costs to attend or participate in optional extracurricular activities and programs.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
- Use of musical instruments owned or rented by the school district.
- A school district-sponsored driver or motorcycle education training course.
- Transportation to and from school for students living within two miles of school.
- Transportation of students to and from optional extracurricular activities or post-secondary instruction conducted at locations other than school.

Students will be charged for textbooks, workbooks, and library books that are lost or destroyed. The school district may waive a required fee or deposit if the student and parent/guardian are unable to pay. For more information, contact the building principal.

Technology/WIFI Use

The intent of our acceptable use policy is to establish and administer guidelines for the use of ISD #361 technology resources by staff, students, and any other users. Technology resources include all voice, video, and data systems such as telephones, televisions, computers, networks, and supplies. The use of technology and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate or unauthorized use will result in disciplinary action, including the termination of those privileges. The complete version of our acceptable use policy can be found on the Internet at www.isd361.org via the School Board Policies tab.

ISD#361 has completed installation of a wireless network at Falls High School. Some ISD 361 computer devices use the wireless network while other devices are using our wired network. All ISD #361 devices are filtered. This means all activity is audited and can be monitored.

Hazing Prohibition

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. "Student organization" means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A

student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

Nondiscrimination:

The school district is committed to inclusive education and providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age in its programs and activities. The school board has designated Beth Shermoen, Superintendent as the district's human rights officer to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination.

Notice of Violent Behavior by Students

The school district will give notice to teachers and other appropriate school district staff before students with a history of violent behavior are placed in their classrooms. Prior to giving this notice, district officials will inform the student's parent or guardian that the notice will be given. The student's parents/guardians have the right to review and challenge their child's records, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior.

Drug-Free School and Workplace

The possession or use of alcohol, controlled substances, toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, and edible cannabinoid products are prohibited at school or in any other school location before, during, or after school hours. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances also is prohibited. The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who violates this policy.

District policy is not violated when a person brings a controlled substance that has a currently accepted medical treatment use onto a school location for personal use if the person has a physician's prescription for the substance except marijuana is not allowed on school property even if prescribed. Students who have prescriptions must comply with the school district's "Student Medication and Telehealth" policy. The school district will provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school on chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.

Harassment and Violence Prohibition

The school district strives to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. Detailed information on the school district's "Harassment and Violence Prohibition" policy is included in this handbook.

Special Services

Special Education:

Services provided in accordance with state and federal mandates. Students are entitled to an education in the least restrictive environment.

Section 504:

Federal law prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabling conditions. The district must provide appropriate educational accommodations. Please contact the Dean of Students to inquire about 504 and process.

Safety and Security

Visitors:

To enhance the safety of students, staff and visitors, district officials follow the safety and security guidelines listed below.

- All visitors are asked to report to the office when they arrive at school.
- Staff is expected to question people in the building whom they don't recognize and who are not wearing a nametag or badge, and to question people who are "hanging around" the building after hours.
- Students and staff are expected to immediately report to a teacher or administrator any suspicious behavior or situation that makes them uncomfortable.
- Portions of the building that will not be needed after the regular school day are closed off to the public.
- Safety and security information is included in newsletters and handbooks for students, staff, and parent(s).

School Closing Procedures:

Closure decisions are made by the superintendent. Announcements will be made via the Infinite Campus Alert System and local media.

E-Learning

In the event of a school closure due to snow, inclement weather, or other emergencies, students will participate in E-Learning. Teachers will provide lessons and assignments online, and students are expected to check their school email/learning platform, follow instructions, and complete work as assigned. Attendance and participation in E-Learning days will count toward school requirements.

Searches

The district may conduct searches of students and their possessions if there is reasonable suspicion of contraband.

Lockers and Personal Possessions:

Lockers and desks are school property and can be searched without notice. Personal possessions may be searched with reasonable suspicion.

Parking on School District Property

Parking is a privilege and is restricted to designated areas. Unauthorized vehicles may be towed. Vehicles may be searched with reasonable suspicion.

Vehicles on Campus:

Routine patrols and inspections of student parking lots and other school district locations may occur without notice. Interior searches may occur when school officials have reasonable suspicion. Refusal to comply may result in loss of parking privileges and to disciplinary action.

Canine Detection Services

The International Falls School District has entered into an agreement with Interquest Detection Canines, Inc. to provide trained detection canines to conduct random, unannounced inspections of all campus locations within the district. This does include school and district events taking place off campus. These canines are trained to detect the presence of illicit drugs, alcohol, and gunpowder based items. Campus buildings, parking lots, and grounds will be randomly inspected for prohibited items. This includes the school safety zone extending beyond the school property line which is 300 feet or one block whichever is greater. If prohibited items are detected and found, the district will initiate the appropriate disciplinary action. These canines are non-aggressive retrieving breeds such as Golden and Labrador retrievers. They are trained to discriminate specific scents of contraband items and indicate the area where the scent is detected. InterQuest provides service to over 1,200 public school districts across the nation. With the recent publicity concerning the dramatic increase in teenage drug use and school violence, the International Falls School District is taking every reasonable precaution to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for all concerned.

Health and Safety

Child Abuse and Neglect

District employees are required to immediately report evidence of child physical or sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment or prenatal exposure to controlled substances to the Child Protection Unit of Koochiching County Social Services. Any person who is required to report this evidence and who willfully fails to do so will be guilty of a misdemeanor. At the same time, any person who reports child physical or sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment or prenatal exposure to controlled substances is immune from civil or criminal liability that otherwise might result from such action.

Emergency Closing

The building principal is empowered to close school or to dismiss the school population early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. Such action is never to be taken lightly, for public education is one of the principal functions of the community and should be maintained at a normal level except in extreme circumstances. When this regularity of operation ceases, serious difficulties are caused and the welfare of children may be jeopardized.

Schools may not properly be closed merely to avoid inconvenience. While under certain circumstances it may be prudent to excuse all students from attending school, to delay the opening

hour, or to dismiss students early, the administration has the responsibility to see that as much of the administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued as may be possible. Therefore, if conditions elect only a single school, only that school shall be closed.

The superintendent and building principals shall weigh these factors and shall take action to close the school only after consultation with transportation and weather authorities and school officials from neighboring districts. Students, parents, and staff shall be informed early in each school year of procedures, which will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing.

Fire Drills

The fire alarm is an emergency warning system. They are not to be set off by anyone unless there is a real emergency. Tampering with the alarm system is a violation of federal law, and violators will be reported to the proper legal authorities.

Fire drills will be held periodically to keep students familiar with procedures of evacuation.

Active Shooter Drills

Parents will be notified in the event of a scheduled Active Shooter Drill. They will be able to excuse their child from class on the day of the drill.

Health Services

The purpose of the health service in the school is to help each child attend school in optimum health and to benefit from the school experience. With this purpose in mind, the school shall work to stimulate in every child the desire to safeguard his or her own health so that he or she may face the school experience with a healthy body and an eager mind. However, the school is not to take over the responsibility that belongs to the parents. The training of the school staff does not qualify them to prescribe or make diagnosis.

First Aid

First aid measures are initiated by school personnel in case of emergency until the parents/guardians can take over. In emergency situations, the parents/guardians are notified as soon as possible. Parents/guardians are reminded to keep up to date information available on emergency cards at school. The nurse's office in each building is equipped to handle minor injuries requiring first aid. If the nurse's office is not open, assistance can be sought from the building's administrative office. If a student experiences a more serious medical emergency at school, 911 will be called and/or a parent/guardian will be contacted.

Illness at School - If a student becomes ill while in school, school officials will make every effort to contact parents/guardians or others designated on their child's emergency card.

Communicable Diseases- To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent or guardian suspects that his/her child has a communicable or contagious disease, the parent or guardian should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

Health Consultation - The school nurse is available for health consultations to students, parents, and school staff. The school nurse can be reached by contacting the school office.

Parents/guardians should contact the school nurse as soon as possible if their child(ren) have special health needs.

Do Not Resuscitate-Do Not Intubate

The school district will not honor “Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Intubate” Orders regarding students and such orders shall not be incorporated into any of its individual student education plans or any of its individual student health care plans.

School district staff will provide reasonable emergency care and assistance when a student is undergoing a medical emergency during school or school activities.

School district staff will activate emergency medical services (911) as soon as possible when a student is undergoing a medical emergency during school or school activities.

The parent/guardian will be notified of the emergency as soon as possible.

Notwithstanding this school district policy, IEP (individual education plan) and 504 teams must develop individualized medical emergency care plans for students when indicated in keeping with state and federal law.

Parents/guardians who request that emergency care be withheld for their child or who present DNR-DNI Orders, shall be advised of and shall be given a copy of this policy.

Immunization Requirements

All students are required to provide proof of immunization, or appropriate documentation exempting the student from such immunization, and such other data necessary to ensure that the student is free from any communicable diseases, as a condition of enrollment.

Immunization Requirements (Includes home schooled students)

1. Prior to a student’s first day of attendance at school or participation in any school-sponsored activity, the student or the student’s parent/guardian shall provide the school nurse with one of the following:
 - a. a statement from a physician or a public clinic which provides immunizations, documenting that the student received the immunizations required by law,
 - b. a statement from a physician or a public clinic which provides immunizations documenting that the student has commenced a schedule of the remaining required immunizations and is not overdue for any immunizations per the “catch-up” schedule.

The statement of a parent or guardian of a student or an emancipated student may be substituted for the statement of a physician or public clinic which administers immunizations. If such a statement is substituted, this statement must indicate the day, month and year each immunization was administered.

Upon request, the designated school district administrator

1. will provide information to the parent or guardian of a student or an emancipated student of the dosages required for each vaccine according to the age of the students.
2. The parent or guardian of persons receiving instruction in a home school shall submit one of the statements listed above or statement of exemption to the superintendent of the school district by October 1 of each school year.
3. When there is evidence of the presence of a communicable disease, or when required by any state or federal agency or law, students and/or parents or guardians may be required to submit such other health care data as is necessary to ensure that the student has received any necessary immunizations and/or is free of any communicable diseases. No student may be enrolled or remain enrolled in any district school until the required data has been provided. Students shall have required immunization records prior to being enrolled. Students who do not provide the appropriate proof or documentation shall be excluded from school until such time as it has been provided.

Exemptions

Students will be exempt from the foregoing immunization requirements under the following circumstances:

1. The parent or guardian of a minor students or an emancipated student submits a physician's signed statement stating that the immunization of the student is contraindicated for medical reasons or that laboratory confirmation of the presence of adequate immunity exists; or
2. The parent or guardian of a minor student or emancipated student submits his or her notarized statement stating the student has not been immunized because of the conscientiously held beliefs of the parent, guardian, or student.

School health staff will review records and if necessary, notify parents of potential for school exclusion due to noncompliance with Minnesota immunization statutes.

Medications at School During the School Day

The school district acknowledges that some students may require prescribed drugs or medication during the school day. The administration of prescription medication or drugs at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent. An "Administering Prescription Medications" form must be completed once a year and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs.

- Prescription medications must be brought to school in the original container labeled for the student by a pharmacist, and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.
- Prescription medications are not to be carried by the student, but will be left with the appropriate school personnel. Exceptions that may be allowed include: prescription asthma medications administered with an inhaler pursuant to school district policy and procedures, medications administered as noted in a written agreement between the school district and parent or as specified in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (§504 Plan), or an individual health plan (IHP).
- The school district is to be notified of any change in a student's prescription medication administration.

Suicide Prevention Information

The school district issues identification cards to students in middle school, junior high school, or high school, it must provide contact information for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (<https://988lifeline.org/>), the Crisis Text line, and the county mobile crisis services.

Mental Health Support Services

The purpose of the Mental Health Support Services in the school is to help each child attend school in an optimum state to ensure students are able to reach their full academic potential. With this purpose in mind, the school employs a School Social Worker to support the students at Koochiching County School District through a referral at no cost to the family. This support may include but is not limited to:

- Counseling support
- Social Emotional Learning/Social Skills
- Teacher consultation and support in the classroom
- Parent Consultation and Education
- Individual or group work submitted

However, the school is not to take over the responsibility that belongs to the parents. While the training of the school staff may qualify them to make a mental health diagnosis, it is not the role of the School Social Worker. The role of the School Social Worker is not intended to be a long-term mental health supportive service. For this reason, this service is not intended to replace Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS), or Psychotherapy services which require a Diagnostic Assessment and a qualifying mental health diagnosis. If you feel your child needs additional support the School Social Worker can make referrals to internal or external providers. If a student is requesting to see the School Social Worker on a regular basis, it is the Koochiching County School District's standard procedure to make contact with the parent by phone or email no later than the 3rd visit.

Risk Assessments - If your child is at risk of harming themselves or others, a risk assessment is initiated by school personnel in case of emergency until the parents/guardians can take over. In emergency situations that require a threat or risk assessment the parents/guardians are notified as soon as possible.

Mental Health Consultation –

The School Social Worker, is available for mental health consultations to students, parents, and school staff. The School Social Worker can be reached by contacting the school office. Parents/guardians should contact the School Social Worker as soon as possible if their child(ren) have special mental health needs.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:

Anyone can dial or text 988 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to reach crisis support or to use an online feature to connect with crisis support. Dial 988 if you need help or if someone else needs

crisis support.

Koochiching County Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response Services 1-844-772-4724

Cafeteria

Students who enroll in the district will be issued a food service account. Each student is assigned a unique four-digit pin number along with a finger id using a touchpad finger reader. Do not share your pin number with other students. The student pin number needs to remain confidential as it allows the student to purchase food in the FHS Cafeteria. The finger id is a unique secure code to help ensure purchases are only made by the student assigned to the account. Anyone attempting to use an account number not their own will be subject to disciplinary measures. If you suspect your account privacy has been jeopardized, please contact the office to obtain a new pin number.

Ala Carte:

To purchase ala carte items a student must have money available in their meal account. Ala cart items are not included with the state funded free breakfast and lunch program. Purchases for ala carte items will be refused by the cashier when there is not enough money in the student(s) account to pay for the entire ala carte purchase. Ala carte items are considered to be beverages including a second milk, snacks, a 2nd entrée or a 2nd meal purchase.

Breakfast & Lunch:

Each student is entitled to one breakfast and one lunch at no charge each school day.

Parents, families or guardians are asked to complete the MN Dept of Education Application for Educational Benefits even though a breakfast and a lunch are provided daily to each student by the state, free of charge. The district receives assistance from the state and federal grants based on the number of qualifying meal applications on file. This funding is very important for the district as it enables additional funding for educational programs and decreases sports/activities fees for qualifying students.

Breakfast is served from 7:30 am – 7:55 am at the high school each school day; Lunch times vary depending on class schedule.

Food will be served in the cafeteria before 8:00 a.m. and at designated lunch hours only.

Behavior and appearance in the cafeteria reflect the cultural level of our student body. Please abide by these guidelines:

- A. No pushing, shoving or getting ahead in line.
- B. Keep the condiment cart clean and dispose of wrappers.
- C. Students are responsible for keeping the area where they sit clean and for removing all lunch items from the table.
- D. Do not throw trays in the garbage.
- E. No throwing of food is allowed.
- F. Food is to be eaten in the cafeteria.

- G. Students must remain in the cafeteria, lobby, front entrance, or library during lunch.
- H. Students are allowed to purchase food and drinks from the cafeteria between classes. All wrappers and bottles must be disposed of properly. If wrappers, bottles, and other garbage are left in the hallways, students will not be allowed to purchase food items between classes.
- I. Ala carte purchases will be permitted for students with positive balances in their meal accounts.
- J. Students are not allowed to order food to be delivered to the school for lunch.
- K. Be respectful to cafeteria staff.

****Violations of the above guidelines may result in cleaning duty, detention, and/or suspension.**

Closed Noon Hour/Leaving School Grounds

FHS has a closed campus for all age levels, excluding FHS **JUNIORS** and **SENIORS** who have authorized permission.

- Students are to **eat** their noon lunches **in the cafeteria**. Those who do not wish to purchase a school lunch that is served daily may bring lunches from home to be **eaten in the cafeteria**.
- Students who leave the building without prior permission may be regarded as truant or skipping and will face disciplinary action. Habitual violators will be suspended.
- Students called out for lunch by a parent/guardian must stop in the office before leaving the building to **sign out and must sign back in upon returning.**
- Students are to remain in the cafeteria, lobby, or gymnasium, during the lunch period.
- Roaming the halls or in the parking lot is not allowed and may result in disciplinary action.
- Students may leave with a parent/guardian for lunch if notification is given prior to a student's lunch period.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

- Cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited.
- Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive no credit for the work involved. Such conduct will require the notification of an administrator and the teacher will contact the student's parent/guardian. Repeated violation may result in loss of credit for the class.

Class Rank/Honor Roll:

Class Rank: The International Falls School District does not award valedictorian and salutatorian honors.

Recognition for Academic Achievement:

- Graduating with Honors: Awarded to seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.80 or higher through their senior year.
- Academic Excellence Award: All 9th -12th grade students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher may apply. Information with sample criteria and an application are mailed to eligible students in the spring. Those students meeting the guidelines of 300 points or higher are recognized during an Academic Excellence Award ceremony with an "Award of Academic Excellence" certificate, which enables students to purchase a Greek award to be applied to a letterman's jacket. The "Academic Excellence" designation is also added to their transcript for each year they qualify.
- Principal's List: Awarded to students who have a 4.0 GPA, honor roll is issued after each marking period. (Semester 1/Semester 2)

- A Honor Roll: Awarded to students who have a 3.700-3.999 GPA, honor roll is issued after each marking period. (Semester 1/Semester 2)
- B Honor Roll: Awarded to students who have a 3.000-3.699 GPA, honor roll is issued after each marking period. (Semester 1/Semester 2)

High School Grading Scale

A	B	C	D	F
A = 4.00	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	F = 0
A- = 3.7	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	
	A- = 2.7	B- = 1.7	C- = 0.6	

Grades:

- Grades are reported at mid-term and the end of each grading period.
- Report cards are mailed to parents at the end of each semester. Report cards are sent after each quarter.

Parent Portal:

- Provides access to student schedules, attendance, behavior records, report cards, transcripts, and assignments.
- Features include student and family calendars, teacher email access, and online payments for fees and meal plans.

ISD School District 361 will be using Infinite Campus as our Student Information System starting in Fall of 2025. To access Parent Portal, a link has been provided on the District 361 website at <https://www.isd361.k12.mn.us> or you can type in the Parent Portal address at: <https://internationalfallsmn.infinitecampus.org/campus/internationalfalls.jsp>

If you have not applied for Parent Portal access, you can email the technology director at ISD 361 to request a login. The information provided on Parent Portal is intended for the use of authorized parents/guardians only. ISD 361 schools are not responsible for the misuse of usernames and passwords or the distribution of information obtained from Parent Portal by unauthorized individuals.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO):

- ISD 361 adheres to state rules for the PSEO program.
- Students who wish to enroll in PSEO courses must participate in a (PSEO) meeting that consists of the school guidance counselor, parents and student. At this meeting a PSEO contract that outlines student responsibilities must be signed by both students and parents by May 30. Students wishing to take a PSEO course should contact the High School Guidance office.

Concurrent Enrollment (College In The Schools):

- Falls High School offers a variety of Concurrent Enrollment (CE) or College In the Schools (CIS) courses. Students participating in these courses may be able to receive both high school and college credit for approved courses taken at FHS.

- Eligible juniors and seniors who are interested in taking Concurrent Enrollment or College in the Schools courses should schedule a planning meeting with the FHS guidance counselor.

Online Learning (Edmentum):

- Students in grades 9-12 may participate in online courses that FHS is not able to offer through Edmentum. Students who wish to take an online course through Edmentum need to schedule an appointment with the FHS guidance counselor.
- Students who wish to enroll in an online course need to do so during registration or within the first 5 days of the semester. Students will not be allowed to register for online courses through Edmentum after the drop/add window of each semester.

Alternative Educational Opportunities:

- Some students may be at risk of not continuing or completing their educational programs. ISD 361 provides alternative learning options for students at risk of not succeeding in school. Alternative educational opportunities may include special tutoring, modified curriculum and instruction, instruction through electronic media, special education services, homebound instruction, and enrollment in an alternative learning center, among others. Students and parents with questions about these programs should contact the building principal.
- Students entering the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) must meet entrance criteria established for “at risk” students under Minnesota Statute. Questions regarding enrollment into the ALC should be directed to the building principal.

Schedule Change Policy (Drop/Add Window):

Students are expected to keep the classes they chose during registration. A schedule change will only be considered when one of the following conditions exists:

- A student did not receive a requested class;
- A student received a non-requested class;
- A class is needed for graduation;
- A student received a class with an instructor that he/she previously failed.
- Classes are not sequential;
- A student needs to balance study halls into both semesters.

Schedules **will not** be changed for any of the following reasons:

- To be with friends;
- To change teachers;
- To get less work;
- To get easier classes;

Dropping Classes (Electives)

A student may not change classes they have registered for unless there are extenuating circumstances. In the event of extenuating circumstances a student shall have five (5) school days from the beginning of any course/semester to drop/add a class with no penalty. Students may drop/add after the five (5) day period only with the permission of the instructor or extenuating circumstances. Dropping without teacher approval after five (5) days will result in an “F”. PSEO and Online learner withdrawal after five (5) days will result in an “F” on your high school transcript and

coinciding mark on postsecondary transcript. The permission of the parent/guardian is needed before a student is allowed to drop a class.

- A form will be given to the student to take home for his/her parent's/guardian's signature.
- It is the student's responsibility to contact the counselor concerning the dropping of a course, taking the form home to be signed by the parent/guardian, and returning the signed form to the counselor before the deadline date for each semester.
- Concurrent Enrollment Students may transition into high school classes to maintain high school credit if the course work becomes too difficult.
- Parents/guardians are urged to contact the Principal's Office or the Counselor's Office if they have questions regarding the process for dropping classes or the athletic eligibility of their students by calling 283-2571.

Work Based Learning

Work-based learning is a structured academic program where students engage in real-world activities with instruction occurring both at school and at a community based setting with an employer.

The experience provides students with opportunities to explore careers, master specific learning objectives, and earn academic credit under the supervision of a licensed work-based learning coordinator. Students in grades 10-12 are eligible for Work -based learning. Students should schedule an appointment with the FHS guidance counselor for more information.

Summer School/Night School:

The district may offer summer school learning opportunities. Contact the FHS Guidance Counselor for more information.

Graduation Requirements:

Students must meet all course requirements and graduation standards, as established by the state and school board in order to graduate from Falls High School. All students must also pass the state-identified proficiency tests, Minnesota Comprehensive assessments, alternate assessments, and/or other applicable tests. Students will have the first opportunity to take a test in basic skill requirements in grade 7. Parents may opt out of the Statewide assessments for their student(s) by completing the form in Appendix A and returning it to the FHS office.

High School Level Courses Required for Graduation		
Subject Area	Credits	Explanation
Language Arts	4	
Mathematics	3	Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry
Science	3	Must include one credit of biology and one credit in chemistry or physics.
Social Studies	4	Must include United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, economics, and personal finance standards.

Arts	1	Visual and/or Performing Arts
Technology/FACS	1	
Phy ED	1	
Health	.5	
Personal Finance	.5	Can be incorporated in Social Studies Req.
Electives	6.5	

Personal Finance:

Students who begin grade 9 in the 24-25 school year and later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12.

Homework:

Homework assignments are made by the teachers. The amount of homework varies by teacher and subject area. The school district asks parents/guardians to encourage their child(ren) to complete homework thoroughly and promptly.

Retention/Promotion:

All students are expected to achieve an acceptable level of proficiency. Students who achieve at an acceptable level will be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of the school year. Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents/guardians feel that it is in the best interest of the student. The superintendent’s decision will be final. The district has a variety of services to help students succeed in school. For more information, contact the building principal.

Parent Right to Know:

If a parent requests it, the school district will provide information regarding the professional qualifications of his/her child’s classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

1. whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional licensing status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree;
4. whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, the school district will provide parents with information as to the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments. The school district will provide notice to parents if their child has been assigned to, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Student Journalism and Expression

Student journalists have the right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media with exceptions for speech that:

- is defamatory;
- is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;
- constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;

- violates federal or state law;
- causes a material and substantial disruption of school activities; or
- is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules.

In addition, a student journalist has the right to determine the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school sponsored media. Non school-sponsored publications may not be distributed without prior approval.

Distribution of Non school-Sponsored Materials on School Premises

The school district recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes distributing non-school-sponsored material, subject to school district regulations and procedures, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner. For detailed information, see the complete "Distribution of Non-school-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees" policy (*Appendix 2*).

Open Study Hall

Open Study Hall is a privilege that allows juniors and seniors the option of leaving school or reporting to designated areas during their open hour. A student who has been approved for open study hall and receives ISS or OSS will lose their open study hall privilege; first offense 2 weeks and second offense the remainder of the semester. If a student exhibits poor or unsafe behavior(s) during open study hall, is failing a class, or is not credit competent for his/her academic year, administration reserves the right to revoke the open study hall privilege until deemed appropriate to reinstitute.

Open Study Hall Applications may be picked up in the high school office the first week of school. Parents must stop in the FHS office to complete the form or a student may take the form with them to be notarized and returned to the office. The student must meet with Dean of Students to go over the form before open study hall is granted.

Student Discipline and Code of Conduct:

The International Falls School District is committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment. All students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct. Disciplinary actions are set according to federal and state laws and district policies. The goal of school discipline is to assist all students in functioning in their educational and social environments as well as protect the school community and public property. Discipline aims to promote positive behavior change. School staff will use a wide array of behavioral interventions to support students that are having behavioral difficulties that are not a direct threat to the safety of staff and students. Administrative actions and interventions should be designed to address student behavior, reinforce school and classroom expectations for appropriate behavior, and prevent future behavioral issues. Disciplinary actions should ensure time out of the classroom is minimal to avoid missing key instruction needed for making academic progress.

Falls High School uses "Restorative Practices" as part of our student discipline approach. Restorative Practices (RP) are rooted in relationship building and rebuilding to create a culture of

equity and belonging that results in healing and learning. Falls High School embraces RP ensuring that all, including those who have been harmed, will have their needs and experiences recognized and acted upon, thus creating a supportive climate of empowerment for all. RP has shown to significantly reduce suspensions across all grade levels while making schools safer. RP is not just about reducing suspensions and expulsions, it is also about changing the way students and teachers interact, giving students a voice and opportunity to change their behavior, and creating a whole-school culture that values all the individuals in the school community.

Disciplinary Approach

The district follows a progressive discipline model, adjusting disciplinary measures based on the specifics of each case. Disciplinary actions can range from a verbal warning to expulsion, depending on the nature and severity of the misconduct.

The goal is to help students improve their behavior through skill-building, support, and restorative practices. Non-exclusionary discipline is prioritized, meaning that alternative disciplinary measures must be attempted before a student is removed from class. Removal occurs only when a student's behavior significantly disrupts the learning environment, endangers themselves or others, or prevents the teacher from effectively conducting class. The removal should be temporary and focused on addressing the underlying behavioral issues to prevent recurrence.

Removal from class:

When a student's behavior warrants removal from a classroom or school space the following procedure will be followed:

- The initial right and responsibility for the removal of a student from class is that of the classroom teacher. The teacher and/or staff member will contact their site administrator who will escort the student to the office.
- The teacher/certified staff member involved will call home on the same day the violation occurred.
- In the event the parent/guardian can't be reached via phone, a follow up email will be sent asking the parent/guardian to contact them with a brief explanation of the day's occurrence.
- A formal write up and communication documentation will be submitted by the teacher/certified staff member into infinite campus by the end of the school day.
- Consequences will be at the discretion of the Principal or Dean of Students and may include a Restorative Conference, parent/guardian meeting, detention, ISS, etc.

Detention:

Detention is a disciplinary measure which is used as a deterrent to several major school rule infractions. When a student is assigned detention, they are expected to have the time served no later than 6 days from the infraction or date specified by the building principal, or Dean of Students. Students will follow all school rules while serving detention which includes no electronic devices or sleeping. Students are required to bring school work and follow the directions of the detention supervisor.

When students get repeated discipline infractions (detention) assigned they may be required to participate in Social Emotional Learning activities with an assigned staff during detention.

Students who receive multiple discipline occurrences or infractions for similar offenses may be required to serve their detention after school rather than in the morning.

Detention Hours:

- Monday-Friday 7:15 am-7:55 am
- M, T, TH, F 2:50-3:30

Suspension:

Out of School suspension may be assigned when deemed necessary. Examples of behaviors that result in suspension are generally behaviors that you may find under the category III section of the behavior offenses and category guide.

In School Suspension:

Students serving in school suspension will be required to follow the same rules that apply to detention. Students will be required to bring work and may have to participate in structured Social Emotional Learning curriculum based on behavior infraction.

The following table/guidelines represent the majority of violations that occur in schools, but other violations may occur which will warrant disciplinary action. In general, the school response will include

accountability response and preventive response. The purpose of this approach is to ensure all students and staff understand the consequences to behavior that violates the code of conduct as well as a plan to repair harm and/or prevent further behavioral issues to avoid missing classroom instruction.

The principal's discretion regarding the enforcement of policy will be used when age, culture, and development/ability are factors in behavioral matters.

Behavioral Offenses and Consequences Guide

Category I Offenses	Category II Offenses	Category III Offenses
Brief Insubordination Running Out of Seat OI-task behavior Yelling Tattling Horse Play Dress Code Public Displays of Affection Disrespect Minor/Brief Disruption Minor Name Calling/Teasing Cell Phone/Electronics Leaving Classroom without permission Cheating/Plagiarism Prohibited Items/Distractions (including toys)	Three Minor Category I Violations Abuse, Verbal Bullying Disruption, Gross Destruction of Property Fire Extinguisher, use Fireworks, use/possession Gambling Incendiary Device, Possession/Use Insubordination, Gross Inappropriate Language Inappropriate Gestures Name Calling/Teasing Obstruction Physical Contact Public Display of Affection major/repeated Technology Violation Threatening Language Vandalism Vehicle, Unauthorized Use	Ammunition Possession Arson Assault, Physical Bodily Harm Bomb Threat Burglary Chemical Paraphernalia Chemical Possession, including Vapes Chemical Use, including Vapes Distribution/Selling Chemicals Explosive Possession/Use Extortion/Robbery Fighting Fire Alarm, False Harassment Hate Speech Hazing Sexual Violence Stealing Theft/Receiving Stolen Property Trespassing Vandalism, Major Weapon Weapon Look Alike
Possible Consequences/Restorative Practices	Possible Consequences/Restorative Practices	Possible Consequences/Restorative Practices
Address behavior Increased proximity Remind appropriate behavior Non-verbal redirection Verbal redirection Conference with student Phone call home Confiscate (cell phone/electronics) Offer student a choice Loss of Privilege Minor Documentation (Required) Behavior Contract Zero on Assignment/Re-Do Assignment/Grade Reduction	Conference with Dean or Principal Conference/Phone call to parent/guardian Lunch detention Remove from activity Documentation After School Detention Apology Social Skills, individual or group After/Before School Program Restorative Practices In School Suspension Removal from Class Loss of Privilege	Conference with Dean or Principal Conference with parent Lunch detention Removal from activity/sport After school detention In-School Suspension Tobacco Cessation Program Apology Social Skills, individual or group Out of School Suspension Referral to Law Enforcement Expulsion Alternative Educational Placement Loss of Privilege

Confiscation of Property

Confiscation by school district personnel and/or by law enforcement of any item, article, object, or thing, prohibited by, or used in the violation of, any school district policy, rule, regulation, procedure, or state or federal law. If confiscated by the school district, the confiscated item, article, object, or thing will be released only to the parent/guardian following the completion of any investigation or disciplinary action instituted or taken related to the violation.

- Parent contact
- Parent conference
- Removal from class
- In-school suspension
- Suspension from extracurricular activities
- Detention or restriction of privileges
- Loss of school privileges
- In-school monitoring or revised class schedule
- Referral to in-school support services
- Referral to community resources or outside agency services
- Financial restitution
- Referral to police, other law enforcement agencies, or other appropriate authorities
- A request for a petition to be filed in district court for juvenile delinquency adjudication
- Out-of-school suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act
- Preparation of an admission or readmission plan
- Expulsion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act
- Exclusion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act
- Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school district

Bullying Prohibition [*]

The school district is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Acts of bullying, in any form, by either an individual student or a group of students, are prohibited on school district property, at school-related functions or activities, on school transportation, and by misuse of technology. For detailed information, see the school district's "Bullying Prohibition" policy 514.

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/562589/514_Bullying_Prohibition_Policy.pdf

Tobacco-Free Environment

Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is tobacco free.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel of

the school district, or person smokes or uses tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls. In addition, this prohibition includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for work purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all school district property and all ol-campus events sponsored by the school district.

A violation of this policy occurs when any elementary school, middle school, or secondary school student possesses any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls and includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for school purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all school district property and all ol-campus events sponsored by the school district.

The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or person who is found to have violated this policy.

The school district will not solicit or accept any contributions or gifts of money, curricula, materials, or equipment from companies that directly manufacture and are identified with tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices. The school district will not promote or allow promotion of tobacco products or electronic delivery devices on school property or at school-sponsored events.

TOBACCO AND TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES DEFINED

“Electronic delivery device” means any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. Electronic delivery devices include, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipe, vape pens, modes, tank systems, or under any other product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery device includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery device excludes drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

“Heated tobacco product” means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.

“Tobacco” means cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product including, but not limited to, cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff, snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and

Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

“Tobacco-related devices” means cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or other devices intentionally designed or intended to be used in a manner which enables the chewing, sniffing, smoking, or inhalation of aerosol or vapors of tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco-related devices include components of tobacco-related devices which may be marketed or sold separately.

“Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. Smoking includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.

“Vaping” means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

EXCEPTIONS

A violation of this policy does not occur when an Indian adult lights tobacco on school district property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony. An American Indian student may carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices. An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe as defined under Minnesota law.

A violation of this policy does not occur when an adult nonstudent possesses a tobacco or nicotine product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose. Nothing in this exception authorizes smoking or use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices on school property or at off-campus events sponsored by the school district.

ENFORCEMENT

1. All individuals on school premises shall adhere to this policy.
2. Students who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to school district discipline procedures.
3. School district administrators and other school personnel who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to school district discipline procedures.
4. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota or federal law, and school district policies.
5. Persons who violate this tobacco-free policy may be referred to the building administration or other school district supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program at which the violation occurred.
6. School administrators may call the local law enforcement agency to assist with enforcement of this policy. Smoking or use of any tobacco product in a public school is a violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and/or the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 and is a petty misdemeanor. A court injunction may be instituted against a repeated violator.

7. No persons shall be discharged, refused to be hired, penalized, discriminated against, or in any manner retaliated against for exercising any right to a smoke-free environment provided by the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 or other law.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices

Purpose

This policy aims to limit instructional distractions while still allowing reasonable cell phone access for students in grades 7-12 during their lunch period and before and after school.

The use of cell phones, earphones, and other personal electronic devices on school grounds during the instructional day is restricted to promote an environment conducive to learning, with the exception of **before school, after school, lunch and passing times**.

Guidelines for Cell Phone Use

Possession:

- Cell phones, earphones, and other electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight during all instructional time, from the start of class as indicated by the bell,
- Cell phones may not be used in locker rooms or restrooms at any time.
- Cell phones must be stored in lockers or turned off (out of site, or in the provided locked phone box) while in class.
- Taking photographs or recordings is strictly prohibited at all times without explicit teacher or administrative permission, will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of administration, no matter when the posting occurred.
- Sexting-the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones. Students involved in such activities will be referred to law enforcement and may face school sanctions as if it is determined that any part of the event took place during school hours.
- Exceptions to the headphones are administration approved, noise cancelling headphones as per the student's Individual Learning Plans

Violations and Consequences

Classroom Procedures

First Violation: The teacher has a one-on-one conversation with the student, instructing them to turn off their device.

Second Violation: If the student is found using their device again, the teacher will collect the device for the remainder of the class period. Additionally, the teacher will call parents/guardians and will subsequently write this up as a Personal Tech Violation in Infinite Campus. If a student refuses to give up the phone, see Administrative procedures.

Administrative Procedures

If a student refuses to give up the phone, the student will be disciplined for insubordination and will be referred to the administration. This will result in a write-up.

First Offense:

- The administration will pick up the phone from the classroom.
- The teacher will write it up in Infinite Campus as a Personal Tech Violation
- The administration conferences with the student and calls parents/guardians.
- The student may pick up the phone at the end of the day.

Second Offense:

- The student will be sent to the office with their phone.
- The student's device will be returned to a parent or guardian after a conference with parents and students is held.

Repeat Offenses

Repeated violations of this policy may result in the full revocation of cell phone privileges on campus and increasing consequences related to insubordination. An in-person meeting with parents and students will take place. Consequences will be up to the discretion of administration.

Prohibited Uses

Students may not use cell phones for any purposes prohibited by the student code of conduct, such as bullying, harassment, or academic dishonesty. This may result in revocation.

Liability

The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones or other electronic devices.

Buses—Conduct on School Transportation

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in place for all students on school buses, including nonpublic and public school students. The school district will not provide transportation for students whose transportation privileges have been revoked. The school district is committed to transporting students in a safe and orderly manner. To accomplish this, student riders are expected to follow school district rules for waiting at a school bus stop and rules for riding on a school bus.

While waiting for the bus or after being dropped off at a school bus stop, all students must comply with the following rules:

- Get to the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- Respect the property of others while waiting at the bus stop.
- Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- Use appropriate language.
- Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

While riding a school bus, all riders must comply with the following rules:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Remain seated facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- Keep arms, legs, and belongings to yourself and out of the aisle.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- Do not throw any object.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- Do not damage the school bus.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. All school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school principal or dean of students. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement. The school zone and bus/school rules include 50 yards from the bus stop.

Misbehavior in School Vehicles

Bus behaviors include but are not limited to the following. The consequence for these offenses on the bus will include family contact, and could include bus suspensions based on the number and severity of the incident.

Insubordination when the bus is in motion (as required by Minnesota Statute 159.447), including not keeping hands, arms, legs and head inside their area, language or disrespecting others. Students must stay seated while the bus is in motion and use safety belt when applicable.

Tampering With Emergency or Safety Equipment

Unauthorized handling of emergency or safety equipment on the bus, including first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and emergency doors, windows or hatches.

Throwing Objects

Throwing any items inside a bus, from outside to inside or from inside to outside a bus.

Improper Boarding or Departing

Getting on or off the bus in a manner which could cause injury to self or others.

The following outlines an example of progressive discipline for continued violation of school bus expectations. Assigned seating may be used at the full discretion of the driver or school administration. Refusal to comply with assigned seating may result in immediate loss of riding privileges.

TRANSPORTATION

1st offense: Verbal conference with student by the driver and call to the parent.

2nd offense: Written referral to building administrator/transportation department from driver; may

include meeting with student, driver, parent & administration.

3rd offense: Possible consequences include, but not limited to – Detention or ISS, up to 1-3 days suspension from the bus; suspension from riding the bus will require a parent/student meeting to return to full bus privileges.

4th offense: Possible consequences include, but not limited to – Detention, ISS, OSS, up to 3-5 days suspension from the bus; suspension from riding the bus will require a parent/student meeting to return to full bus privileges.

Further offenses: Individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time (5-10 days), up to and including the remainder of the school year.

Serious misconduct may result in police action. Student use of electronic devices to take pictures or video of anyone on the bus is strictly prohibited.

Drivers need to be notified regarding any specific student behavior plans.

Examples of behaviors that may result in immediate bus suspension include vandalism, assault/fighting, harassment/bullying, and drugs/weapons violation.

Video and Audio Recording

School Buses

All school buses used by the school district may be equipped for the placement and operation of a video camera. The school district will post a notice in a conspicuous location informing students that their conversations or actions may be recorded. The school district may use a video recording of the actions of student passengers as evidence in any disciplinary action arising from the students' misconduct on the bus.

Places Other Than Buses

The school district buildings and grounds may be equipped with video cameras. Video surveillance may occur in any school district building or on any school district property. Video surveillance of locker rooms or bathrooms will only be utilized in extreme situations, with extraordinary controls, and only as expressly approved by the superintendent.

Minnesota State High School League Activities

School Activities

The school district provides opportunities for students to pursue special interests that contribute to their physical, mental, and emotional health; however, instruction is the school district's priority.

Students who participate in school-sponsored activities are expected to responsibly represent the school and community. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline apply to school activities.

All spectators at school-sponsored activities are expected to behave appropriately. Students and employees may be subject to discipline and parents/guardians and other spectators may be subject to sanctions for inappropriate, illegal, or unsportsmanlike behavior at these activities or events.

The International Falls School District is a member of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). Students who participate in MSHSL activities must also abide by the MSHSL rules. The district will enforce all MSHSL rules during the school year and in the summer where applicable.

Employees who conduct MSHSL activities will cover applicable rules, penalties, and opportunities with students and parents/guardians prior to the start of an activity. For more information about the MSHSL rules and student eligibility requirements, contact the school athletic director.

2025-2026 EXTRA-CURRICULAR FEES

ACTIVITIES	Junior High/7-8th	Varsity/Junior Varsity 9th-12th
FOOTBALL	\$80 + \$40 equipment fee	\$120 + \$40 equipment fee
VOLLEYBALL	\$80	\$120
CROSS COUNTRY	\$120	\$120
SWIMMING	\$120	\$120
BASKETBALL	\$80	\$120
HOCKEY	\$120 + \$40 equipment fee (girls)	\$120 + \$40 equipment fee
BASEBALL	\$80	\$120
GOLF	\$80	\$120
SOFTBALL	\$80	\$120
TRACK & FIELD	\$80	\$120
CHEERLEADING	NA	\$60
SPEECH	\$60	\$60
ONE ACT PLAY	\$60.00	\$60.00
KNOWLEDGE BOWL	\$60.00	\$60.00
MHS Induction Fee	NA	\$40.00
Math Team	NA	\$60.00
Bowling Club	fee set by Bowling Club	fee set by Bowling Club
Trap Club	fee set by Trap Club	fee set by Trap Club
Managers for Sports	no fee	no fee

Fees are paid to ISD #361

Fees must be paid before the first scheduled contest. Fees can be paid online through Skyward or in the FHS office.

Maximum fee paid by any one family with more than one child in varsity activities will be \$275.

REFUNDS will be made for the following reasons:

1. Injury or illness approved with a physician's statement.
2. Moving out of the school district.
3. Cut from squad by the coaches.

Full refunds will be made up until the time of the first contest. After the first contest, refunds of 50% will be made up until the mid-season of each activity. There will be NO REFUNDS made after the activity has passed the mid-season point.

Refunds will NOT be made to those who quit or are dismissed from an activity for discipline or rule violations.

Academic Eligibility Policy for Student Athletes

Students will be certified eligible to represent Falls High School in Minnesota State High School League activities, all clubs and extra/co-curricular activities, in grades 7-12 according to Article I, Section 10, of the MSHSL rules and the following criteria:

1. In order to be scholastically eligible, a student must be passing all their classes. Falls High School eligibility will be based upon Quarter 1, Semester 1, Quarter 3 and Semester 2 grades. Scholastic eligibility can be regained by following steps 3 through 12 below.
2. If a student is ruled ineligible because of a failing grade, s/he may become eligible in two games or two weeks, whichever is greater, after the date that grades become official. It is the student's responsibility to show evidence of satisfactory (passing) work in ALL classes in the second week of the semester. A student not passing after the 2 weeks or 2 games penalty will remain ineligible until passing all classes.
3. A student who drops a course with a grade of "F" will be ineligible for two weeks or two contests (whichever is greater) with a minimum ineligibility of two weeks. A student shall have one week at the beginning of any course to drop that course with no penalty. A student may also drop a course within one week after the start of any semester with no penalty. A student who drops a course after the one-week period will receive a grade of "F" in the course and will be ineligible from the date the course is officially dropped for two weeks or two contests whichever is greater, with a minimum ineligibility of two weeks.
4. A student who is ruled ineligible for one quarter may practice but not play, with the approval of the principal, the coach, and the activities director.
5. Students who are assigned to Special Education classes shall be eligible as long as they are making satisfactory progress towards their Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals.
6. Official school records constitute the basis for determining scholastic eligibility.
7. Work done during summer school or other district approved activities, for the purpose of removing scholastic deficiencies, may be used in determining eligibility in athletics/activities. All deficiencies must be successfully removed prior to being certified for eligibility.
8. Medical excuses and other emergencies will be considered on an individual basis.
9. College courses taken for high school credit are covered by academic rules of School District #361. Any student who receives a failing grade or a no-credit for a college course taken for high school credit will be declared ineligible on the date Falls High School grades become official, with a minimum ineligibility of two weeks or two games whichever is greater.
10. In an elective course, if at any time the teacher, student, and parent unanimously agree that the dropping of a course is desirable, there will be no eligibility penalty.

11. A student may appeal his/her ineligibility status. The appeal will be heard by a panel of the Principal, Activities Director, and one non-involved teacher. The panel will hear from the student, the teacher involved, parents and other interested parties, and give its decision within one week. The student will remain eligible until the appeal is decided. If the appeal is denied, a five week ineligible period begins on the day the student is informed of the panel's decision.
12. All students enrolled in approved on-line learning programs and students who are home-schooled will be required to follow the same guidelines and deadlines as students enrolled at Falls High School. Students in an on-line class will be ineligible if the class is not completed at the end of the semester unless Administration deems an extenuating circumstance.

LEGAL REFERENCE ~ Minnesota State High School League Rules, Article I, Section 10 (EDU 701)

To regain full eligibility:

The ineligible student must pick up an "Academic Eligibility Form" from the Activities Office and give it to the teacher of the course in question. The student will become eligible when the teacher signs the form and returns it to the Activities Director, who will inform the coach or advisor of the student's reinstated eligibility.

End of Semester Academic Violation:

Any student that receives an F in a semester long class at the end of the semester will be deemed ineligible for their next event. The infraction for the first semester grading period will be served starting the day after teacher grades are due to the office. Year long classes at the semester grade period will be treated as a midterm grading period. If the infraction occurs for the SECOND semester grading period the infraction will be served the first contest or performance the following fall season. Students who make up their second semester failing grade during the summer will be fully eligible for the following fall.

Attendance on a Day of an Event, Practice or Rehearsal

Student athletes and Fine Arts participants must be present in school for a half day in order to be eligible for participating in practice and to compete in any athletic or fine arts competition.

Students may be deemed eligible if the absence is pre-approved, verified, and allowed by school administration. Examples of excused absences include scheduled doctor appointments, funerals, religious obligations, college visits, etc. Administration may require doctor's notes or other verification.

Please note, administration has the right to determine whether an absence called in by a parent/guardian is considered excused or unexcused.

Statewide Assessments:

Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. By requiring that all students take statewide assessments, schools and teachers have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools to continuously improve the education they provide and to identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) or the [WIDA English Language Development Standards](#). These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K–12 districts and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education and statewide assessments give educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

MCA and the alternate assessments (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)/Alternate MCA) are the annual assessments in reading, mathematics and science that measure a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards.

ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

The ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS are the annual assessments for English learners that provide information about their progress in learning academic English, based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments helps families see a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students can use MCA results:

- For Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) in grade 10.
- For course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.

English learners who take the ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements, have the opportunity to exit from English learner programs.

Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions on how to use money and resources to support all students.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the form below. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, the student would not have the opportunity to exit their English learner program.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Since all eligible students are included in some calculations even when they do not participate, school and district accountability results are impacted. This may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Explore the [Statewide Testing page](#) for more information.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any additional consequences for not participating.

(education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing)

Additional Information

- On average, students spend less than 1% of instructional time taking statewide assessments each year.
- Minnesota statutes limit the total amount of time students can spend taking other district- or school-wide assessments to 11 hours or less each school year, depending on the grade.
- School districts and charter schools are required to publish an assessment calendar on their website by the beginning of each school year. Refer to your district or charter school's website for more information on assessments.

Statewide Assessment: Parent/Guardian Decision Not to Participate

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that your student will not participate in statewide assessments and will not receive individual assessment results.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Current Grade in School: _____ Student ID Number (if known): _____
School: _____ District: _____
Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
Reason for Refusal: _____

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting your student out of this school year:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MCA/MTAS Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> MCA/Alternate MCA Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MCA/MTAS Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS |

Contact your school or district for more information on how to opt out of local assessments.

(Note: This form is only applicable for the 20__ to 20__ school year.)

Policies:

Hazing policy:

- [525 Hazing Prohibition](#)

Bullying Prohibition

- [514 Bullying Prohibition Policy](#)
- [514 Bullying Prohibition Policy Forms](#)

Violence and Harassment Policy:

- [525 Violence Prevention \(Applicable to Students and Staff\)](#)

Pledge of Allegiance Law:

- [531 The Pledge of Allegiance](#)

Crisis

- [805 Crisis Management Policy](#)
- [805 Crisis Management Policy Form](#)

Background Check Information

Employees: All employees must undergo a background check.

- [404 Employment Background Checks](#)
- [404 Employment Background Checks Form & Notice](#)

Volunteers: Require background checks for volunteers who work with students, in classrooms, or travel with children. Athletic coaches: Require background checks for individuals who coach sports or other extracurricular activities.