



2026-2027 MISD DANCE/DRILL TEAM HANDBOOK

Fine Arts Department
McKinney Independent School District
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MISD Dance/Drill Team Handbook and Guidelines 2026-2027

All MISD High School dance/drill team members must adhere to the following articles. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, the student becomes a representative of McKinney I.S.D. and each member must maintain high moral and ethical standards. Membership is from the tryout date through the last day of school or a written resignation.

Article I. Purpose

The purpose of the varsity and junior varsity drill/dance team is to promote spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing the high school throughout the community, state, and nation.

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each student selected must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline.

Students are exposed to teaching, practice, and performance opportunities that result in the development of responsibility, self-respect, and that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork, and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards.

Article II. Eligibility Qualifications and Requirements

- A. Students and Parent/Guardian are encouraged to submit online application information by March 2nd, 2026. The required information that should be completed online can be found at the website of the school or team that the candidate will attend. These websites can be found in the following pages of this document. By submitting the form online, you are agreeing to abide by all guidelines set forth in this document. A copy of your proof of residency and a copy of all four pages of the MISD UIL Physical Form must be scanned and emailed to drill team director at the campus the student attends or will attend. Please save the label the documents with the candidate's first and last name. If you are a current drill team member, your physical is already on file. There is no need to email the director a copy.

Example: Susie Smith Proof of Residency
Susie Smith MISD Physical Form

If you are unable to scan and email these three documents, you must contact the drill team director prior to the start of clinic and bring a copy of these documents to the first day of clinic.

Please note: If you choose to bring the documents to the first day of clinic, you may miss material covered that day during the clinic. We will not begin accepting these documents until the start of the clinic, and it does take a few minutes to verify each proof of residency and ensure that the physical has been completed correctly.

- B. Candidates who sustain injuries that prohibit them from auditioning in the director's opinion, may be able to present a video of their dancing, if the injury and video meet campus requirements per the director and assigned administrator's approval.
- C. Candidates may only tryout for drill team at one campus. If a transfer occurs after the audition date, the student forfeits his/her position on the current team and will not be placed on the Team on the campus to which the student is transferring. See letter J for information for transfers.
- D. Candidates must be entering grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
- E. Student must disclose all medical conditions that may affect the safety of themselves or others prior to trying out. All such information will be confidential and maintained in accordance with the McKinney ISD Board Policies.
- F. Students must be present during auditions.
- G. Candidates, and their families, must agree to the financial responsibilities of being a drill team member and meet all financial obligations throughout the year
- H. All financial obligations to drill team organization must be cleared prior to auditions.
- I. Drill team members who have been dismissed or resigned from the previous year must have permission from the director and principal to audition.
- J. If a student transfers to McKinney I.S.D. or transfers school within MISD after auditions, the student may audition for the JV team. They cannot audition for the Varsity team. These auditions will be conducted by the campus dance director.
- K. Varsity returning members may be subject to re-audition depending on the campus team guidelines.

Article III. The Audition

- A. Varsity
 - 1. The audition will be held on a date designated by MISD.
 - 2. There shall be no minimum set number of drill team members for the team.
 - 3. Candidates will audition before a panel of 3-5 professionally qualified dance/drill team judges hired by the director/administration.
 - 4. The judges will select a number of girls/boys to be on the team, based on the judging panel's consensus. The judges decide how many candidates will be on the varsity and junior varsity. The judges' decision is final.
 - 5. Candidates will be evaluated on showmanship, technique, overall presentation and memory within the following categories.
 - a. Jazz Performance
 - b. Kick Performance
 - c. Splits
 - 6. Auditions are closed to all spectators. Those eligible for attendance include candidates, judges, and district designees.
 - 7. Audition workshops are only open to candidates.
 - 8. Announcement of the team will be posted on the team websites.
 - 9. If a parent wishes to review his/her student's individual documents regarding tryouts, he/she must make an appointment with the drill team director or officiating administrator. Parents are allowed to view their student's individual documents only. The statute of limitations for viewing is five (5) school days following the tryout session. Parents are not allowed to view any other student's documents.

- B. Junior Varsity
 - 1. JV Drill Team will be comprised of those members who the judges decide would comprise a strong junior varsity team.

Article IV. Membership Requirements and Expectations

- A. All drill team members must be enrolled for the designated drill team class for the fall and spring semesters of their membership year.
- B. Drill team members are required to attend summer practices and camp.
- C. Attendance to all drill team activities, practices, and performances is mandatory.
- D. Members are expected to arrive on time and attend the entire practice until dismissed by the director.
- E. All organizational trips, projects, and activities must be under the direction and approval of the director.
- F. Members must audition for performances. Members are not guaranteed to dance every performance.
- G. The director reserves the right to pull any member from a performance due to absence, conduct, or lack of effort.
- H. Members may lose performance eligibility if financial obligations are not met.
- I. Drill team members must abide by the school codes of conduct both in and out of uniform, both at and away from school. If an incident occurs during school, while on a team trip, during competition or exhibition, which is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct or Student Acceptable Use Policy, a member should expect disciplinary action from the school as well as from the drill team.
- J. Drill team members must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- K. Drill team members must be courteous and respectful to their teammates, directors, teachers, classmates, and all school/district administrators at all times.
- L. Drill team members must refrain from public displays of affection.
- M. Drill team members should not engage in inappropriate messaging, dialogue, use of content (pictures, labels, artwork, etc) on any social networking site, email, texting, etc. Failure to adhere to these social media guidelines may result in loss of performance privileges or other consequences deemed necessary by the director.
- N. Drill team members will wear practice and performance uniforms as designated by the director.
- O. No visible tattoos will be allowed during any drill team function/activity.
- P. All members must maintain behavior and character that is above reproach. The director, along with school administration, determines what behavior is beyond reproach. Conducting yourself in any other manner could result in immediate dismissal from the team.

Article V. Attendance

- A. Excused Absences
 - 1. The director will determine the status of an absence.
Reasons for excused absences are:
 - a. Personal illness or accident
 - b. Doctor's Appointment with a doctor's note
 - c. Death in the family
 - d. Religious holidays
 - e. Special school UIL activity and college visit with advance approval from the director.
 - 2. Absence from practice/class may result in student being benched from the next performance if the director determines that the student's absence hindered the ability of the team to practice efficiently for that performance.
- B. Unexcused Absences
 - 1. Any absence the director has not pre-approved.
 - 2. Absences for reasons other than those listed above will be unexcused (this includes absences from the Drill team class).
 - 3. Unexcused absences will result in the receipt of demerits and may result in loss of performance eligibility, suspension or dismissal.
 - 4. Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of drill team activities.

Article VI. Routine Evaluations and Performances

- A. Drill team members will audition for performances.
- B. The director has the final decision on who makes the performances.
- C. A member unable to meet the standards set for that performance will not be allowed to perform in that particular performance and will be placed on reserve status. She must attend the practices and performance in uniform and assume her responsibilities as usual.
- D. A complete uniform and equipment check will be held prior to any activity/performance and performance eligibility may be lost if requirements are not met.

Article VII. Uniforms and Equipment

- A. Drill team members will be supplied items by the McKinney I.S.D. and/or parent organization. Drill team members are responsible for the upkeep of each item received and will be held financially responsible for the item if lost or damaged.
- B. Drill team members are responsible for purchasing practice attire and other necessary clothing and accessories, as required and all personal items must be labeled with the member's name.
- C. Practice attire/uniforms are to be kept clean and in good condition.
- D. All designated uniforms, jackets, etc. are to be worn by Drill team members only.
- E. The uniform is only to be worn in conjunction with school-sponsored events.
- F. Hair and make-up will be worn as specified by the director.
- G. No Drill team member will lend her uniform for Powder Puff, Halloween, etc.
- H. No jewelry will be worn during practices, performances, or pictures unless designated by the director.
- I. Only nail polish designated by the director may be worn during practice or performance.

Article VIII. Finances and Fund-raising

- A. If a Drill team member is dismissed or resigns, she will be held financially responsible for any and all items already ordered. No refunds will be made. She will be placed on the hold list until all balances are paid in full.
- B. Individual refunds from fund-raising profits will not be made.
- C. Estimated Required Costs for Drill Team - Not to exceed \$2,000 per year for Varsity and \$1000 for JV. Please contact the Drill team Director for a detailed list of expenses. All campuses offer payment plan options.

Article IX. The Disciplinary System

- A. Demerits may be given to Drill team members at any practice, performance, event, or for school disciplinary reasons.
- B. The calculating period for demerits will be from the time the new team is announced until the last day of school the following school year.
- C. Demerits can be worked off at the request of the director, before or after practice, within one week of receiving the demerit.
- D. Drill team members may be required to re-audition the following year after receiving a set number of demerits as outlined in each campus dance/drill team handbook.
- E. Merits are the means by which the Drill team member may work off demerits and be rewarded for extra service to the organization.
- F. Each campus will outline demerits/merits.

Article X. Misconduct, Probation, Dismissal, and Resignation

- A. Misconduct - any infraction of school rules as set forth in the MISD Student Code of Conduct, Student Acceptable Use Policy, MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Contract, the MISD Drill Team Handbook, and/or campus drill team guidelines will result in disciplinary action and may cause removal from the team.
 - 1. Directors have the authority to bench or possibly remove members from the squad for misconduct infractions.

Failure to Meet Academic Requirements– The student will be put on probation and will not have performance privileges. The probation is aligned with the MISD eligibility calendar. He or she will not be allowed to perform at games or pep rallies or suit out and travel with the team, but during this time he/she must still attend and participate in all practices. If, at the designated district time, the substandard grade is brought up to 70 or better, the Drill team member will no longer be on probation. MISD will follow the TEA UIL Eligibility Calendar.

Academics are the school's top priority. Therefore, if a Drill team member is placed on probation twice because of substandard grades in the same course or in different courses during the school year and a third offense occurs, the student will be removed from the drill team for the remainder of the same school year. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt from the ineligibility rule.

Failure to Meet Behavior Requirements– In addition to the general conduct rules outlined, each director will be responsible for communicating behavioral requirements and consequences.

B. Performance Benching

1. Performance benching is a period designated in which the member continues to uphold all responsibilities of being a D.T. member, but may not participate in performances. Member continues to attend and participate at all rehearsals and attends all performances and social activities in uniform.
2. Directors have the authority to bench members.

C. Probation

1. Probation eliminates the member from participation in performances and special events. The member may not attend D.T. social activities. The member is not allowed to wear any part of the uniform to school or activities during the period of probation. The member may not travel or sit with the D.T. at performance events or public activities. The member will continue to attend D.T. class and all rehearsals. The member must continue to participate in all fundraisers.
2. A probationary contract will be written for the member with the length of the probation to be decided upon by the director. The member, parent, and director will be given a copy of the probation contract.
3. If the contract is not adhered to, the D.T. member is subject to dismissal.
4. Failure to meet the expectations outlined in MISD Student Code of Conduct, MISD Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular Contract, MISD Drill Team Handbook, and/or any campus handbook may result in probation.

D. Dismissal

1. Dismissal involves a loss of membership from the organization. All school equipment and uniforms must be returned, and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week of dismissal. Once a member has been dismissed, she loses all privileges of the organization. This includes awards, recognitions, etc., that may have been earned over the duration of the D.T. year. This also includes attending D.T. only events, using the D.T. facilities, and wearing D.T. attire.
2. A D.T. member who has been dismissed will not be eligible to participate in the next year's tryout without approval from the director and principal.
3. In all cases of dismissal, the director will confer with an administrator in the school.
4. Reasons for Dismissal:
 - a. Failure to meet necessary requirements to be removed from probation
 - b. After 2 disciplinary probations
 - c. Upon the 3rd academic probation
 - d. Placement in OSS or Alternative school may result in dismissal from the team.
 - e. A D.T. member who is expelled from school will be dismissed from the team immediately.
 - f. Excessive absences from D.T. class, practices, performances, and functions – review for dismissal to be determined by the director and principal.
 - g. Any inappropriate behaviors

E. Resignation

1. Resignation shall be defined as, "a choice made by the individual member that she/he no longer desires to participate in the organization."
 2. Once a member has resigned from the organization, she forfeits all privileges of the organization. This includes awards, recognitions, etc., although they may have accrued over the duration of the D.T. year. This also includes attending D.T. only events, using the D.T. facilities, and wearing D.T. attire.
 3. Resignation procedures may involve a written or verbal resignation.
- F. All equipment must be turned in and financial obligations cleared at the time of resignation.
- G. Upon dismissal or resignation, the student will be transferred out of D.T. Class and into a Physical Education Class or Dance Class. In the event of dismissal or resignation during mid-semester, the student will be required to dress out and uphold requirements of state Physical Education and Dance Curriculum. Grading policy will be based on classroom participation and preparation.

Article XI. Handbook/Guideline Changes and Steps to Resolution

- A. The handbook is subject to change at any time due to Texas Education Agency rule changes or with approval from the administration.
- B. At any time, additions may be made to the handbook as it becomes necessary and with the approval of the director and the Director of Fine Arts.
- C. The director may enforce other rules as they become necessary during the school year for the benefit of the organization.
- D. Parents should follow appropriate avenues to communicate issues pertaining to their child. Students and parents should follow the steps below if an issue or concern arises.
- Step 1:** Contact the Director and notify her of the concern.
- Step 2:** If no resolution after initial contact with the Director, schedule an in-person conference with the director.
- Step 3:** If the issue has not been resolved after the conference with the Director, contact the Assistant Principal on campus who oversees drill/dance and schedule an in-person conference with the Assistant Principal.
- Step 4:** If there still is not a resolution to the concern, contact the Principal and schedule an in-person conference.

AUDITION INFORMATION/DATES

Please read the entire application packet then both, candidate and a parent /guardian, complete and submit the online application. Parents are responsible for providing their child transportation to and from the clinic and tryouts. All clinics and auditions are at the campus for which you are auditioning. All tryout clinics are mandatory pending director approval.

Parent Informational Meetings

MBHS: Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 at 6:00 PM in MBHS Library

MHS: Tuesday, February 24th, 2026 at 6:00PM in MHS cafeteria

MNHS: Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 at 6:00 PM in MNHS cafeteria

Monday, March 9th & Tuesday, March 10th

Clinics will be held at each campus. Please refer to campus websites for detailed dates and times for clinics.

Wednesday, March 11th

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Auditions will be held at the campus that you are auditioning for in the gym.

MISD Audition Results Posted on team websites after conclusion of team tryouts

Team Websites

McKinney Boyd High School: www.boydbailadoras.com

McKinney High School: www.mckinneymarquettes.com

McKinney North High School: <http://mckinneynorthstars.weebly.com/>

Clinic and Audition Dress Code

Clinic:

- Proper dance attire
- Hair should be pulled back in a secure ponytail
- No jewelry or gum

Audition:

- Black form fitted top or leotard (no stomach, cleavage or bra straps showing-no exceptions)
- Pin your shirt down if needed
- Black leggings, black tights with black jazz mini shorts, or black jazz/yoga pants only
- Jazz shoes, ballet shoes or other director approved dance shoes
- Hair pulled back in a secure ponytail. No whispies or stray hairs in face.
- Stage Make-up (mascara, blush, RED lipstick)

Please contact the director for the campus you are trying out with any questions or concerns.

McKinney Boyd High School

Director: Caris Dunn

Email: cadunn@mckinneyisd.net

McKinney High School

Director: Amy Neely

Email: aneely@mckinneyisd.net

McKinney North High School

Director: Abby Penprase

Email: abpenprase@mckinneyisd.net

REQUIRED FORMS

The forms within Section 3 are also included online at the link listed below. All information should be **completed and submitted online** prior to the beginning of the first day of clinic.

Please carefully read all material within this entire packet. By submitting these forms online, you are indicating that you have read and also agree to abide by **all** information contained within this document.

Audition Checklist

- ☐ GO TO THE CAMPUS LINK TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION
- ☐ ATTEND THE TRYOUT MEETING FOR YOUR CAMPUS

- ☐ SCAN and EMAIL a current copy of the candidate's Proof of Residency to the drill team director of the campus for which you are trying out.
 - Please save the document with your student's first and last name followed by Proof of Residency.
 - EX: Susie Smith Proof of Residency
 - Must be from January/February 2026

- ☐ SCAN and EMAIL a current copy of the candidate's MISD UIL Physical Form to the appropriate director of the campus for which you are trying out.
 - Please save the document with your student's first and last name followed by MISD UIL Physical Form.
 - EX: Susie Smith Physical Form
 - Must be dated after January 1, 2026 - IF YOUR STUDENT HAS A PHYSICAL ON FILE WITH THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY, EMAIL THE DIRECTOR TO LET THEM KNOW THAT WITH THEIR STUDENT ID #.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY

You must have a current proof of residency on file prior to the first day of clinic. The proof of residency will be verified by MISD.

The following are acceptable forms of proof of residency for MISD and the parent/guardian name(s) and physical address must be on the document:

Gas bill
Electric bill
Water bill
Apt/house Lease
House Contract
Proof of Residency Affidavit

A copy of a recent utility bill (January or February) is required.

TRANSFERS

Any student transferring high school campuses must follow all MISD policies and comply with all deadlines. Students transferring under an Employee Transfer, Zone Exemption or any other reason (open enrollment) must submit transfer applications to MISD. For any questions regarding transfers, please contact the Office of Administrative Services.

PHYSICALS

Physicals must be completed on the MISD physical form which can be acquired through the athletic trainer at each high school campus. Students who have a current physical on file with MISD do not need an additional physical for drill team tryouts. If your student has a physical on file for the 2025-2026 school year, you must email the drill team director at the campus your student is auditioning with your student's first and last name, student id number and current campus. The drill team director will verify there is a physical form on file. Students who do not have a current physical on file with MISD must have a physical completed on the MISD form, and submitted prior to tryout workshops in order to participate.

Note: Physicals may be obtained through your family physician or by contacting one of the local care clinics:

CareNow: <http://www.carenow.com>

Primacare: <http://primacare.com>

E-Care: <http://www.e-carecenters.com>

Acute Kids Urgent Care: <http://www.acutekidsicare.com>

Phone – 972-529-4500

Phone - 469-952-3737

Phone - 972-548-7277

Phone - 972-727-3800