VANGUARD ACADEMY

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

"A Purpose in Life, A Reason for Learning"

2026–2027

Preface

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to Vanguard Academy!

We are committed to creating a safe, respectful, responsible, and engaging learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our goal is to foster school climates that reflect the core values of respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

At Vanguard, we believe that success is a shared responsibility between students, parents, and staff. This Student Code of Conduct outlines our collective expectations and serves as a foundational guide to support a positive and productive school experience. It is designed to help students develop the social-emotional and behavioral skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond—skills such as self-awareness, self-discipline, empathy, cultural competency, responsible decision-making, and positive relationship-building.

Please note that this document is not a Student Handbook. It is the official Code of Conduct, developed under Vanguard Academy's charter authority and laws that apply to Texas open-enrollment charter schools. The Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Board of Directors, and provides information to parents and students regarding expectations for behavior, consequences for misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline.

We ask parents to review the entire Code of Conduct with their child and keep it as a reference throughout the school year.

Should you have any questions about the contents of this Code of Conduct, please contact your campus principal.

Together, let us make this year a safe, respectful, responsible, and enriching experience for all.

"A Purpose in Life, A Reason for Learning"

Table of Contents

Preface **1**

Elementary Campus Information 4

Secondary Campus Information 5

Section 1: Overview of the Student Code of Conduct **6**

1.1 Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct 6

Campus and Classroom Rules 6

Participation in Student Activities 6

1.2 Authority and Jurisdiction 7

Campus Behavior Coordinator 8

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team 8

Reporting Crimes 8

1.3 Standards for Student Conduct 8

1.4 Behavioral Support Framework 9

Section 2: Disciplinary Practices **9**

2.1 Discipline Management Techniques 9

2.2 Guiding Principles for Staff Responses to Student Behavior 10

2.3 Levels of Response 11

Level I 11

Level II 12

Level III 13

Level IV-Level V 14

2.4 Disciplinary Techniques 15

2.5 Prohibited Aversive Techniques 30

Corporal Punishment 30

Restricting Participation in Recess or Other Physical Activity 30

2.6 Notification 31

Removal from the School Bus 31

Bus Transportation Rules 31

2.7 Procedures for Use of Restraint 32

2.8 Procedures for Use of Time-Out 32

2.9 Student Code of Conduct Offenses 33

General Conduct Violation 33
Disregard for Authority 33
Maltreatment of Others 33
Property Offense 34
Possession of Prohibited Items 34
Possession of Telecommunication or Other Electronic Devices 35
Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs 35
Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet 36
Safety Transgressions 36
Miscellaneous Offense 37
2.10 Student Code of Conduct Consequences 37
Suspension 37
In School Suspension 37
Out of School Suspension 38
Special Rules for Suspensions Involving Homeless Students 38
Emergency Placement 38
2.11 Conferences, Hearings, and Appeals 39
Process for Suspensions Lasting Up to Three Days 39
Process for Expulsion 39
Hearing Before the Principal 39
Appeal to the Superintendent 40
Appeal to the Board of Directors 40
No Credit Earned 40
2.12 Placement of Students with Disabilities 41
2.13 Gun-Free Schools Act 41
2.14 Gang-Free Zone Notice 42
2.15 Glossary 42

Acknowledgement and Approval of Student/Parent Handbook
and Student Code of Conduct 52

Elementary Campus Information

School Opens: 7:15 a.m.

Office Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m

Instructional Time: 8:00 a.m.– 3:45 p.m.

After School Program: 3:45 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Campus	Principal	Campus Behavior Coordinator	Phone	Email
Beethoven Elementary Pre-Kindergarten 3 – 5th Grade	Laura Sanchez	Ricardo Albertos	(956) 318 – 0211	ralbertos@vanguardac.net
Monet Elementary Pre-Kindergarten 3 – 6th grade	Dr. Anna Gonzalez	Dr. Anna Gonzalez	(956) 403-5020	anngonzalez@vanguardac.net
Mozart Early Child Center Pre-Kindergarten 3 -Kindergarten	Rosa Garcia	Rosa Garcia	(956) 403-5030	r_garcia@vanfguardac.net
Mozart Elementary Pre-Kindergarten 3 – 5th grade	Maria Cantu	Gina Sanchez	(956) 702 - 2548	gihernandez@vanguardac.net
Picasso Elementary Pre-Kindergarten 3 – 5th grade	Sonia Martinez	Heather Garza	(956) 702 - 0134	so_martinez@vanguardac.net
Rembrandt Elementary Pre-Kindergarten 3 – 4th grade	Mayra Padilla	Katy Garcia	(956) 283 - 1700	k_garcia@vanguardac.net
Van Gogh Elementary Pre-Kindergarten 3– 5th grade	Aisha Loya	Thelma De La Garza	(956) 403 - 5000	t_delagarza@vanguardac.net
Palmview Head Start Director	Martina Garcia	Martina Garcia	(956) 583-4435	administration@hchsp.org

Secondary Campus Information

School Opens: 7:15 a.m.

Office Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m

Instructional Time: 8:00 a.m.– 3:45 p.m.

After School Program: 3:45 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Campus	Principal	Campus Behavior Coordinator	Phone	Email
Beethoven Early College High School 4th – 12th Grade	Jose Gonzalez	Cecilia Martinez	(956) 318 – 0211	cecmartinez@vanguardac.net
Mozart P-TECH Early College High School 6th Grade – 12th Grade	Angelica Martinez	Jessica Ochoa	(956) 223 - 2030	j_ochoa@vanguardac.net
Rembrandt P-TECH Early College High School 5th Grade – 12th Grade	Dina Cano	Vanessa Castro	(956) 283 - 0600	vcatro@vanguardac.net
Van Gogh Early College Secondary 6th Grade – 10th Grade	Vanessa Gonzalez	Laurie Pogue	(956) 403 - 5000	lpogue@vanguardac.net

SECTION 1 : OVERVIEW OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1.1 Purpose of the Student Code of Conduct

The **Vanguard Academy Student Code of Conduct** outlines the framework for managing student behavior, maintaining discipline within classrooms and on school grounds, and addressing conduct issues through prevention and intervention strategies.

In compliance with state law, the Code defines categories of student misconduct that may—or must—result in specific disciplinary consequences. These consequences range from removal from the regular classroom setting to expulsion from school. The Code has been formally adopted by the **Vanguard Academy Board of Directors** and serves as an authoritative guide for students, parents, and staff regarding behavioral expectations, disciplinary procedures, and consequences for violations.

The Student Code of Conduct remains in effect at all times, including during summer school and at school-related events and activities that occur outside the regular academic calendar.

A copy of the Code will be available for review at each campus principal's office and at the campus behavior coordinator's office.

As the Student Code of Conduct is adopted by the Board of Directors, it carries the force of policy. In the event of any conflict between the Code and the Student Handbook, the provisions of the Code will prevail.

Campus and Classroom Rules

While the Student Code of Conduct establishes district-wide expectations, it may not address every form of student behavior or every circumstance that may arise. Campuses and teachers may establish additional rules and expectations specific to their educational environment. These supplemental rules may be posted, included in campus or classroom procedures, or communicated directly to students and parents.

Failure to follow campus or classroom rules may result in appropriate interventions or disciplinary consequences authorized under the Student Code of Conduct. However, supplemental rules may not create a new expellable offense, conflict with the Student Code of Conduct, or independently authorize a student's withdrawal or disenrollment from Vanguard Academy.

Participation in Student Activities

Students who participate in **extracurricular activities** are also expected to comply with the guidelines, bylaws, and constitutions of the organizations in which they are involved. These additional expectations support Vanguard Academy's standards for student behavior and outline the consequences for violations within those specific programs.

1.2 Authority and Jurisdiction

Vanguard Academy has disciplinary authority over a student when the student's conduct occurs:

1. During the regular school day, including lunch periods and any time the student is under the supervision or authority of Vanguard Academy personnel
2. While traveling to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity on transportation provided or arranged by Vanguard Academy;
3. While attending or participating in any school-sponsored or school-related activity, event, program, or trip, regardless of whether the activity occurs on or off Vanguard Academy property;
4. While participating in a remote or virtual classroom, online instructional program, or other electronic activity provided, sponsored, or supervised by Vanguard Academy;
5. On the property of another public or private school in Texas or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity of another school, when Vanguard Academy is authorized by law or this Code to impose disciplinary consequences;
6. When the student engages in retaliation against, or threatens retaliation against, a Vanguard Academy employee or volunteer because of the person's employment or association with Vanguard Academy, regardless of the time or location of the conduct;
7. When the student commits criminal mischief against Vanguard Academy property or property used for a Vanguard Academy activity;
8. When the student engages in conduct identified as expellable under this Code and Vanguard Academy has lawful jurisdiction over the conduct; or
9. When off-campus conduct has a substantial connection to Vanguard Academy and materially and substantially disrupts school operations, threatens the safety of students, employees, or others in the school community, interferes with the rights of others, or affects a school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to expand Vanguard Academy's disciplinary authority beyond that permitted by applicable federal or state law. Off-campus conduct shall not result in expulsion unless the conduct is specifically identified as an expellable offense in this Code and Vanguard Academy is legally authorized to impose expulsion for that conduct.

Campus Behavior Coordinator

Vanguard Academy will designate at least one employee at each campus to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. The designated person may be the principal or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The campus behavior coordinator is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline. Contact information for each campus behavior coordinator may be found online at www.vanguardacademy.net

Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Team

The campus behavior coordinator or other appropriate administrator shall work closely with the campus threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to implement Vanguard Academy's threat assessment policies and procedures.

A threat assessment is a safety and prevention process and does not, by itself, constitute a disciplinary finding. Any disciplinary consequences must be assessed in accordance with this Student Code of Conduct and applicable law.

Reporting Crimes

In addition to disciplinary consequences, misdemeanor and felony offenses committed on campus or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities will be reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

1.3 STANDARDS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

Each student is expected to:

Be Safe

- Behave in a manner that protects the physical and emotional well-being of self and others.
- Avoid behaviors that cause or contribute to intentional or unintentional harm.
- Follow campus procedures designed to maintain order and safety.
- Practice self-care and seek help from staff when in need of emotional, mental, or physical support.
- Use school resources appropriately and report unsafe behaviors or situations to trusted adults.

Be Respectful

- Treat all students, staff, and visitors with kindness, courtesy, and dignity.
- Accept and appreciate differences, including but not limited to: ability (cognitive, social-emotional, and physical), age, ethnicity, family structure, sex, language, nationality, race, religion, and socioeconomic background.
- Express personal values, opinions, and beliefs in a respectful and civil manner.
- Respect the rights, privacy, and property of others, including school property.

Be Responsible

- Attend school every day, on time, and ready to learn.
- Engage actively in classroom learning and complete assignments in a timely manner. Prepare for each class with the necessary materials and a focused mindset.
- Set personal goals, monitor academic progress, and take ownership of learning.
- Ask questions and seek support when needed to meet academic and behavioral expectations.
- Follow all school and classroom rules and dress in accordance with the district's standards.
- Take responsibility for actions, including participating in restorative practices when harm has occurred.
- Contribute to a positive classroom culture where all students are supported and encouraged to succeed.

1.4 BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

Vanguard Academy uses a proactive, tiered behavioral-support framework aligned with the Student Code of Conduct. This framework emphasizes prevention, early intervention, consistent expectations, positive behavior supports, and appropriate responses to student misconduct.

Behavioral supports are intended to help students understand expectations, develop appropriate skills, and successfully participate in the educational environment. The use of behavioral interventions or supports does not prevent Vanguard Academy from imposing disciplinary consequences permitted under this Code.

Vanguard Academy is committed to using consistent, equitable, and data-informed practices while maintaining high expectations for student conduct, accountability, school safety, and a structured learning environment.

SECTION 2 : DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES

2.1 DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Discipline management techniques are intended to improve conduct, promote accountability, and encourage students to meet school expectations. Disciplinary decisions will be based on the professional judgment of teachers and administrators and may include interventions, supports, and consequences authorized by this Code.

Except when required by law or by the Code of Conduct, consequences are not automatic. In determining an appropriate response, the decision-maker must consider the evidence and may consider other factors, including the seriousness of the conduct, the student's age, grade level, intent, self-defense, disciplinary history, disability, homelessness or foster-care status, the effect on the school environment, and whether the consequence is proportionate to the verified conduct. Because each incident involves individual facts and circumstances, disciplinary responses may vary.

2.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR STAFF RESPONSES TO STUDENT BEHAVIOR

At Vanguard Academy, we embrace a philosophy that focuses on equipping students with the skills, support, and relationships they need to meet behavioral expectations. Behavioral infractions are seen as opportunities for instruction, not punishment.

The following examples of staff responses are intended to teach, reinforce, and motivate appropriate behavior, while providing appropriate accountability when expectations are not met. These responses are grounded in the belief that all behavior is a form of communication and that sustainable change occurs through connection, consistency, and collaboration.

Staff are encouraged to use a variety of proactive and responsive strategies aligned to student needs, including:

- Teaching and reteaching expectations
- Using corrective, instructional, problem-solving, and behavior-support strategies
- Building strong adult-student relationships
- Providing structured support and feedback
- Modifying environmental or instructional triggers

These responses are not exhaustive and may be adapted to fit individual student circumstances. When necessary, staff are encouraged to engage the student's support network, including families, counselors, behavior specialists, and other staff, to align strategies and promote continuity across environments.

Disciplinary interventions should follow a progressive and tiered approach, consistent with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). This ensures that support increases in intensity as student needs become more complex, while always maintaining a focus on student growth, accountability, and belonging. However, there are circumstances where progressive and tiered approaches are not used, meaning that students may be subject to suspension or expulsion for certain conduct without first having a tiered disciplinary approach.

2.3 LEVELS OF RESPONSE

The Vanguard Academy Student Code of Conduct provides levels of response based on specific rules violations. Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible.

These responses are not exhaustive and may be adapted to fit individual student circumstances. When necessary, staff are encouraged to engage the student's support network, including families, counselors, behavior specialists, and other staff, to align strategies and promote continuity across environments.

The following discipline management techniques may be used—alone or in combination—for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules:

Level I – Minor Infractions (Classroom-Managed Behaviors)

These are low-level, non-disruptive behaviors typically handled by the classroom teacher using in-class interventions.

Teacher Intervention/Response: These examples of documented responses by staff are designed to teach and motivate students to demonstrate appropriate behavior and provide appropriate accountability for behavioral infractions. Staff are encouraged to implement a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies and are not limited to these examples. When appropriate, staff may engage the student's support system to ensure successful learning and consistency of response, and change the conditions that contribute to the student's inappropriate or disruptive behavior. These responses should be used in a progressive fashion, as appropriate

NOTE: Support staff must consult with the appropriate teacher or administrator to determine appropriate interventions/ consequences. Bus drivers may assign a seat change without formal documentation.

• Verbal warning • Parent contact • Nonverbal cues for redirection • Give clear and concise directions • Modify expectation accommodation is needed • Revisit, clarify, and reinforce expectations/ agreements	• Problem solving process • Use positive reinforcement for expected behavior • Reflection time and journaling (written or recorded) • Classroom cool-down area • Partner with another teacher for short-term reflection	• Teacher/student conference • Teacher/student/parent conference • Teacher/student/counselor conference • Teacher assigned and supervised lunch detention • Teacher referral to another classroom for a short period of time.

Level II – Moderate Infractions (Office-Managed but Non-Criminal)

These behaviors interfere with the learning environment and may require administrative support or disciplinary action beyond the classroom.

Chronic minor behavior may result in an office referral for behavior that has not been successfully addressed by staff utilizing level one supports. Referrals to the campus administration may also be appropriate for moderate infractions, even if level one supports have not been implemented. These example responses below are designed to teach appropriate behavior so that students are respectful and can learn and contribute to a safe environment. Many of these responses engage the student's support system and are designed to alter conditions that contribute to the student's inappropriate or disruptive behavior. These responses aim to correct behavior by stressing its severity and acknowledging potential implications for future harm, while still keeping the student in school.

NOTE: Support staff (non-certificated positions) must consult with the appropriate teacher or administrator to determine appropriate interventions/ consequences.

Administrator Supports/Responses: Administrative action must be documented in the student information system.

- Warning
- Parent contact
- Revisit, clarify, and reinforce expectations/ agreements
- Give clear and concise directions
- Provide explicit instructions
- Modify expectation if accommodation is needed
- Use positive reinforcement for expected behavior
- Lunch detention assigned/managed by Administrator

- Reflection time and journaling (written or recorded)
- Change seating with review of expectations
- Referral to counselor/behavior support
- Referral to RTI Behavior or 504
- Administrator/teacher/ student conference
- Create Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) that addresses the function of student's behavior, create goal(s), and progress monitor

- For students with IEPs: conduct Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), and create a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)
- Identify adult mentor
- Provide reflection time followed by utilizing a problem-solving process
- Assign reflection and corrective action plan (written or graphic representation)

Teacher Intervention/Support: Continued level one interventions and supports as appropriate. Interventions to support student needs should be documented.

Level III – Serious Infractions (State-Reportable)

These are serious violations that may involve removal from the regular classroom and are reportable thru PEIMS Discipline coding to TEA. They often require formal disciplinary procedures.

These example responses engage the student's support system to ensure successful learning and to alter conditions that contribute to the student's inappropriate or disruptive behavior. These responses aim to correct behavior by stressing its severity and acknowledging potential implications for future harm, while still keeping the student in school. These responses may involve In-School Interventions (ISI) or In-School Suspensions (ISS).

Administrator Supports/Responses/Removal: Administrative action must be documented in the student information system.

• Parent contact • Review expectations • Confiscate item(s) of disturbance for a limited amount of time and allow student to journal reflection on expectations and why item(s) was confiscated • Create Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) that addresses the function of student's behavior • Use of cool down area/calming strategies	• Conflict resolution • Lunch detention assigned/managed by Administrator • Temporary removal of school privileges • Removal from student activities/athletics • In-school Suspension (Supervised Study) • Create Behavior Plan that addresses the function of student's behavior, create goal(s), and progress monitor • Referral to counselor/behavior support/ social worker	• Referral to RTI Screening, when appropriate • For students with IEPs: conduct/review Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), and update or create a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) • Adult mentor assigned • Check-in/check-out • Temporary assignment out of class to an alternative learning location • Administrator/teacher/ student conference • Behavioral contract • Plan for re-entry after suspension

Teacher Intervention/Support: Continued level one interventions and supports as appropriate. Interventions to support student needs should be documented.

Level IV - Level V: Administrator Directed Supports/Responses/Out-of-School Removal or Superintendent/Designee Directed Supports/Responses/ Extended Out-of-School Removal

Crisis Level / Safety Concern
Description: Behaviors that pose an **immediate safety risk** to the student or others and require urgent intervention.

These responses are designed to address serious or persistent behavioral concerns that may significantly disrupt the learning environment or pose a threat to the safety and well-being of the school community. In most cases, the goal is to support the student while keeping them engaged in their educational program. However, in certain circumstances, a student may be recommended for suspension or expulsion due to serious misconduct prohibited by the Code of Conduct.

These actions are intended to ensure a safe, orderly, and productive educational setting.

Administrator Supports/Responses/Removal: Administrative action must be documented in the students records and reported to PEIMS.

• Parent meeting • Out of school suspension (OSS) • Consult with Executive Director of Student Services • Expulsion thru the Office of Student Support Services • Limit of 3 OSS Days	• Removal of school privileges until identified criteria is met • Community service plan/project • Threat Assessment	• Assignment to another Vanguard Academy campus thru the Office of Student Support Services • For students with IEPs: conduct/review Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), and update or create a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) • Plan for re-entry after suspension

Students who are expelled from Vanguard Academy are ineligible to enroll at any other campus within the Vanguard Academy District. Re-enrollment may only be considered at the sole discretion of the district, and no student has an automatic right to re-enroll following an expulsion. Any such consideration will be subject to administrative review and in compliance with state and federal law.

Teacher Intervention/Support: Continued interventions and supports as appropriate. Interventions to support students must be documented.

2.4 DISCIPLINARY TECHNIQUES

In assigning disciplinary actions, the campus administrator may take into consideration:

1. Self-defense (see glossary),
2. Intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct,
3. The student's disciplinary history
4. A disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct,
5. A student's status in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care), or
6. A student's status as homeless.

The appropriate administrator shall determine any restrictions on participation in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

Incident	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3 or More Offenses
Abuse of a Volatile Chemical **6**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, **** Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Aggravated Assault of school Staff or Volunteer **29** **Assault against a school district employee or volunteer** **27**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		

Aggravated Assault of Someone other than School Staff **31**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Assault against a non-school district employee or volunteer **28**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Alcohol **5**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on PPO	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, *** Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Arson **16**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	

Bullying **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of OSS, Place on BC, Stay Away Agreement	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Possible removal to another Vanguard campus ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Bullying Bullying that encourages suicide, incites group violence, or shares/threatens to share intimate images without consent will result in disciplinary action or removal. **61**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Day of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	[redacted]	
Damaging/ Destroying School Property **22**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact, 2 Days of Out of School Suspension(OSS)	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of In School Suspension, Place on Behavior Contract (BC)	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of Out of School Suspension (OSS) ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

Dangerous Instruments & Fireworks **21/14**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days OSS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	[redacted]
Digital Sexual Exploitation / AI-Generated Intimate Images **61**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference 3 Days of OSS Immediate confiscation of device used in the offense (in accordance with HB 1481), Removal of personal communication device privileges for the remainder of the semester or school year (as determined by administration), Placement on Behavior Contract (BC) *If charges are filed, mandatory expulsion	****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Disruptive Behavior During Bus Transportation **21**	Mandatory student & parent conference, Place on BC	Mandatory student & parent conference, 3 days of bus removal	Mandatory student & parent conference, 10 days Bus Removal or for remainder of school year
Documented repeated or significant disruption to the classroom **66**	Mandatory Parent/Student Conference, 3 Days of ISS, Place on BC	Mandatory Parent/Student Conference, 3 Days of OSS	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

Dress Code Violation **Hair Color Violations:** Students will receive written parent/guardian notification and five calendar days to correct the violation. Continued noncompliance will follow the disciplinary progression listed in this row. No additional five-day period will be given. **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 1 day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent, Conference, 2 days of OSS ****If the hair-color violation continues after the student completes the two-day OSS, campus administration may refer the matter for district review under Persistent Misconduct.*
Drug Paraphernalia **21**	Mandatory Parent/Student Conference, 1 Day of OSS	Mandatory Parent/Student Conference, 2 Days Out of School Suspension, Place on Behavior Contract	Mandatory Parent/Student Conference, 3 Days Out of School Suspension, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Extortion or Attempted Extortion **21**	Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of OSS	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Failure to Serve ISS or OSS **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS ***Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

False Alarm/False Report Involving a Public School **(Causes significant disruption to the school environment)** **35**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Felony Criminal Mischief **22**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	[redacted]	
Felony Controlled Substance or Dangerous Drug Violation **36**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		
Fighting / Mutual Combat **41**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days of OSS,	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

Firearm **11**	Conference, 3 days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		
Harassment **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference 2 Days of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Harassment Against an Employee of the School District **60**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		
Harassment Against a Student **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference 2 Days of ISS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference 2 Days of OSS, Place on BC (Part B) ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Inappropriate Use of Personal Communication Devices (HB 1481) ***Student Handbook** **21**	Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Meeting Banned personal communication device for the semester	Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Meeting Banned personal communication device for the year 1 day of OSS Placed on Behavior Contract	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of ISS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Inappropriate Use of Personal Communication Devices in Restroom/Locker Room (HB 1481) ***Student Handbook** **21**	Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Location Restricted Knife **12**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		

Lying **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 1 Day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS, Place on BC
Non-Title 5 Felony Committed off Campus **10**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Pantsing **The act of pulling someone's pants down in an educational setting** **21** **If the act results in exposure of body parts, the behavior may be considered sexual in nature and may constitute sexual assault or sexual misconduct depending on the circumstances, intent, and impact on the student. (see Assault)** **28**	Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.* ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	Student/Parent Conference, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	

Persistent Misconduct **21**	Mandatory student/parent conference, 2 Day of OSS Place on BC (Part A)	Mandatory student/parent conference, 2 Day of OSS Place on BC (Part B) ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	[redacted]
Possessed, Sold, Gave, Used, Delivered, or Was Under the Influence of Marijuana/THC **62**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place student on Path to Positive Outcomes (PPO) contract	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Possessed, Sold, Gave, Used, Delivered, or Was Under the Influence of Other Controlled Substance **64**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place student on Path to Positive Outcomes (PPO) contract	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Possessed, Sold, Used or Under the Influence of Over-the-Counter Substance **64**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Possess, Purchase, Use, Sold or Accept Tobacco Products **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 days OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

Possesses or uses e-cigarettes **67** **Sells, gives, or delivers e-cigarettes** **68**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, Up to 3 Days of ISS, Place student on Path to Positive Outcomes (PPO) contract Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, Up to 3 Days of ISS, Place student on Path to Positive Outcomes (PPO) contract	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Possessing or Selling Items Portrayed as Drugs **64**	Parent/Student Conference, 2 Days of ISS	Parent/Student Conference, 2 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Profanity **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Parent Contact	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 1 day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 1 day of ISS, Place on BC
Prohibited Weapon **14**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		
Prohibited Weapon **14**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly*		

	designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.		
Public Lewdness/ Indecent Exposure **7**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Replica Ammunition /Look-a-like Weapons **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days of OSS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Day of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Retaliation against School Employee **8**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	

Safety or Security Transgressions **21**	Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of In School Suspension	Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Sexual Acts/Inappropriate exposure of body parts **7**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of OSS, Place on BC 2 days of ISS (Elementary), Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	
Tardies **21**	Warning	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, Mandatory Parent Conference, 1 Day of In School Suspension
Terroristic Threat **26**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*	[redacted]	
Theft **21**	Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days of ISS	Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

Throwing Objects **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Phone Call, 1 day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of In School Suspension, Place on Behavior Contract (BC)	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of Out of School Suspension
Title 5 Felony Committed off Campus **9**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*		
Trespassing **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Call, 1 day of In School Suspension	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of In School Suspension	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of Out of School Suspension
Truancy **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 1 day of ISS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS, Possible revocation of student activities
Unacceptable Physical contact **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*

Vandalism **(Felony Criminal Mischief)** **22**	Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS,	Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS, Place on BC	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Verbal Abuse **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact 1 day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, Mandatory Parent, and Behavior Contract 3 Days of OSS
Verbal Abuse **21 (Student)** **60 (Employee)**	Mandatory Student Conference, Mandatory Parent Contact, 1 day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, Mandatory Parent, 3 Days of OSS
Verbal Assault by threat against student/staff **21**	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of ISS, Place on BC	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 3 Days of OSS	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, ****Administrative review for additional consequences. A recommendation for expulsion may be considered only when the conduct, including persistent serious misconduct as defined by this Code, is expressly designated as expellable; subject to due process and governing board determination.*
Voluntary Absences (Skipping) **21**	Mandatory Student Conference, Parent Contact, 1 day of ISS	Mandatory Student/Parent Conference, 2 days of ISS	Student/Parent Conference, 3 days of OSS, Place on BC

2.5 PROHIBITED AVERSIVE TECHNIQUES

Vanguard Academy prohibits the use of aversive techniques as a form of disciplinary consequences; aversive techniques are defined as techniques or interventions intended to reduce the reoccurrence of a behavior by intentionally inflicting significant physical or emotional discomfort or pain.

Aversive techniques include:

- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain.
- Using techniques designed or likely to cause physical pain by electric shock or any procedure involving pressure points or joint locks.
- Directed release of noxious, toxic, or unpleasant spray, mist, or substance near a student 's face.
- Denying adequate sleep, air, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, supervision, or access to a restroom facility.
- Ridiculing or demeaning a student in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning or mental health of the student or constitutes verbal abuse.
- Employing a device, material, or object that immobilizes all four of a student 's extremities, including prone or supine floor restraint.
- Impairing the student 's breathing, including applying pressure to the student's torso or neck or placing something in, on, or over the student 's mouth or nose or covering the student's face.
- Restricting the student 's circulation.
- Securing the student to a stationary object while the student is standing or sitting.
- Inhibiting, reducing, or hindering the student 's ability to communicate.
- Using chemical restraints.
- Using time-out in a manner that prevents the student from being able to be involved in and progress appropriately in the required curriculum or any applicable individualized education program (IEP) goals, including isolating the student by the use of physical barriers.
- Depriving the student of one or more of the students ' senses unless the technique does not cause the student discomfort or complies with the student 's IEP or behavior intervention plan (BIP).

Corporal Punishment

Vanguard Academy will NOT administer corporal punishment on a student for misconduct.

Restricting Participation in Recess or Other Physical Activity

In providing physical education programs, Vanguard Academy may not restrict participation in:

1. Recess or other physical activity offered as part of Vanguard Academy's physical education curriculum for a student enrolled in kindergarten or in a grade level below grade six as a penalty for the student's academic performance or behavior; or
2. Physical activity offered as part of Vanguard Academy's physical education curriculum for a student enrolled in grade levels 6-8 as a penalty for the student's academic performance or behavior.

2.6 NOTIFICATION

The campus behavior coordinator shall promptly notify a student 's parent by phone or in person of any violation that may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension or expulsion. The campus behavior coordinator shall also notify a student 's parent if the student is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer under the disciplinary provisions of the Education Code.

A good faith effort shall be made on the day the action was taken to provide to the student for delivery to the student's parent written notification of the disciplinary action. If the parent has not been reached by telephone or in person by 5:00 p.m. of the first business day after the day the disciplinary action was taken, the campus behavior coordinator shall send written notification by U.S. Mail. If the campus behavior coordinator is not able to provide notice to the parent, the principal or designee shall provide the notice.

Before the principal or appropriate administrator assigns a student under age 18 to detention outside regular school hours, notice shall be given to the student 's parent to inform him or her of the reason for the detention and permit arrangements for necessary transportation.

Removal from the School Bus

A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or the CBC's office to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal or CBC must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

To transport students safely, the vehicle operator must focus on driving and not be distracted by student misbehavior. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or the CBC may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

Bus Transportation Rules:

1. Follow the driver's directions at all times;
2. Enter and leave the vehicle in an orderly manner;
3. Remain seated unless entering or exiting the vehicle;
4. Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle;
5. Keep the vehicle or its equipment free from drawing, writing, or other defacement/destruction;
6. Keep head, hands, arms, legs, or an object inside the vehicle at all times; and
7. Wait for the driver's signal in order to leave or cross in front of the vehicle.

2.7 PROCEDURES FOR USE OF RESTRAINT

School employees, volunteers or independent contractors are authorized to use restraint in the event of an emergency and subject to the following limitations:

- Only reasonable force as is necessary to address the emergency may be used.
- The restraint must be discontinued at the point at which the emergency no longer exists.
- The restraint must be implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the student and others.
- The student may not be deprived of basic human necessities.

"Restraint" generally means the use of physical force or a mechanical device to significantly restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student's body.

"Emergency" means a situation in which a student's behavior poses a threat of:

1. Imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others; or
2. Imminent, serious property destruction.

In a case where restraint is used, school employees, volunteers, or independent contractors shall document the incident as required by the Texas Education Agency. Additionally, Vanguard Academy shall report electronically to the Texas Education Agency, following standards provided by the Commissioner of Education, information relating to the use of restraint by a peace officer performing law enforcement duties on school property or during a school-sponsored or school-related activity. The report must be consistent with the requirements adopted by the Commissioner of Education for reporting the use of restraint involving students with disabilities.

2.8 PROCEDURES FOR USE OF TIME-OUT

A school employee, volunteer, or independent contractor may use time-out with the following limitations:

1. Physical force or the threat of physical force will not be used to place a student in time-out.
2. Time-out may only be used in conjunction with an array of positive behavior intervention strategies and techniques, and must be included in the student's IEP or BIP if it is utilized on a recurrent basis to increase or decrease targeted behavior.
3. Time-out will not be utilized in a manner that precludes the ability of the student to be involved in progress in the general curriculum and advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals specified in the student's IEP.

"Time-out" means a behavior management technique in which, to provide a student with an opportunity to regain self-control, the student is separated from other students for a limited period in a setting:

1. That is not locked; and
2. From which the exit is not physically blocked by furniture, a closed door held shut from the outside, or another inanimate object.

Necessary documentation or data collection regarding the use of time-out, if any, must be addressed in the IEP or BIP. The student's ARD committee must use any collected data to judge the effectiveness of the intervention and provide a basis for making determinations regarding its continued use.

2.9 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENSES

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school and all school-related activities.

General Conduct Violations

The categories of conduct below are prohibited at school, in vehicles owned or operated by the district, and at all school-related activities, but the list does not include the most severe offenses.

Disregard for Authority

Students shall not:

- Fail to comply with directives given by school personnel.
- Leave school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- Disobey rules for conduct in district vehicles.
- Refuse to accept discipline or consequence assigned by a teacher or principal.

Mistreatment of Others

Students shall not:

- Use profanity or vulgar language or make obscene gestures.
- Fight or scuffle.
- Threaten a district student, employee, or volunteer, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Engage in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. (See **glossary** for all four terms.)
- Engage in any behavior that violates the Code of Conduct and is motivated by antisemitism or any other form of discrimination prohibited by law.
- Release or threaten to release intimate visual material of a minor or a student who is 18 years of age or older without the student's consent.

- Engage in sex-based discrimination, harassment, or abuse, whether by word, gesture, or any other conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, board member, or volunteer.
- Engage in conduct that constitutes dating violence. (See **glossary**.)
- Engage in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts.
- Participate in hazing. (See **glossary**.)
- Coerce an individual to act through the use or threat of force.
- Commit extortion or blackmail.
- Engage in inappropriate verbal, physical, or sexual conduct directed toward another person, including a district student, employee, or volunteer.
- Record the voice or image of another without the prior consent of the individual being recorded or in any way that disrupts the educational environment or invades the privacy of others.

Property Offenses

Students shall not:

- Damage or vandalize property owned by others.
- Deface or damage school property, including textbooks, technology and electronic resources, lockers, furniture, and other equipment, with graffiti or by other means.
- Steal from students, staff, or the school.
- Commit or assist in a robbery or theft, even if it does not constitute a felony according to the Penal Code.
- Enter, without authorization, district facilities that are not open for operations.

Possession of Prohibited Items

Students shall not possess or use:

- Fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device;
- A razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person;
- A "look-alike" weapon that is intended to be used as a weapon or could reasonably be perceived as a weapon;
- An air gun or BB gun;
- Ammunition;
- A hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown;

- A firearm silencer or suppressor;
- *A location-restricted knife;
- *A club;
- *A firearm;
- A stun gun;
- Knuckles;
- A pocket knife or any other small knife;
- Mace or pepper spray;
- Pornographic material;
- Tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and any component, part, or accessory for an e-cigarette device;
- Matches or a lighter;
- A laser pointer, unless it is for an approved use; or
- Any articles not generally considered to be weapons, including school supplies, when the principal or designee determines that a danger exists.

*For weapons and firearms. In many circumstances, possession of these items is punishable by mandatory expulsion under federal or state law.

Possession of Telecommunications or Other Electronic Devices

Students shall not:

- Use a telecommunications device, including a cell phone, or other electronic device in violation of district and campus rules.

Illegal, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Students shall not:

- Possess, use, give, or sell alcohol or an illegal drug.
- Possess or sell seeds or pieces of marijuana in less than a usable amount.
- Possess, use, give, or sell paraphernalia related to any prohibited substance. (See **glossary** for "paraphernalia.")
- Possess, use, abuse, or sell look-alike drugs or attempt to pass items off as drugs or contraband.

- Abuse the student's own prescription drug, give a prescription drug to another student, or possess or be under the influence of another person's prescription drug on school property or at a school-related event. (See **glossary** for "abuse.")
- Abuse over-the-counter drugs. (See **glossary** for "abuse.")
- Be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter drugs that cause impairment to the body or mind. (See **glossary** for "under the influence.")
- Have or take prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs at school other than as provided by district policy.

Misuse of Technology Resources and the Internet

Students shall not:

- Violate policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or the student's parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempt to access or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees or upload or create computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempt to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources including, but not limited to, computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Use the internet or other electronic communications to threaten or harass district students, employees, board members, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Send, post, deliver, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting," either on or off school property, if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.
- Use the internet or other electronic communication to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the rights of another student at school.

Safety Transgressions

Students shall not:

- Possess published or electronic material that is designed to promote or encourage illegal behavior or that could threaten school safety.
- Engage in verbal (oral or written) exchanges that threaten the safety of another student, a school employee, or school property.

- Make false accusations or perpetrate hoaxes regarding school safety.
- Engage in any conduct that school officials might reasonably believe will substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- Throw objects that can cause bodily injury or property damage.
- Discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause.

Miscellaneous Offenses

Students shall not:

- Violate dress and grooming standards as communicated in the Student Handbook.
- Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination.
- Gamble.
- Falsify records, passes, or other school-related documents.
- Engage in actions or demonstrations that substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities.
- Repeatedly violate other communicated campus or classroom standards of conduct.

The district may impose campus or classroom rules in addition to those found in the Code of Conduct. These rules may be posted in classrooms or given to the student and may or may not constitute violations of the Code of Conduct.

2.10 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT CONSEQUENCES

Suspension

Vanguard Academy utilizes two kinds of suspension: **In School Suspension (ISS)** and **Out of School Suspension (OSS).**

In School Suspension

The following rules and regulations apply to all students assigned to in school suspension ("ISS"):

1. Students must report to the campus ISS designated area.
2. Students will bring materials to work on, including an ISS assignment with their teachers' names, subjects, and assignments. Students are responsible for obtaining assignments from each teacher.
3. Students may not bring food or drink into the detention room.
4. No disruptive behavior will be allowed.
5. Unexcused absences from suspension will be referred to the principal or designee.
6. Sleeping is prohibited.
7. Students must abide by Vanguard Academy's policies and behavioral standards during their suspension period.
8. A student who misses a scheduled ISS session without a confirmed excuse will be assigned one day out of school suspension. If a student misses more than one scheduled ISS session without a confirmed excuse, he or she may be subject to expulsion.

Failure to follow these guidelines will be reported to the principal or designee for further action, which may include up to three days of out of school suspension or any other Level I consequence.

Out of School Suspension

In deciding whether to impose out-of-school suspension, the administrator may take into consideration factors including self-defense, prior discipline history, the student's status as a student in foster care or who is homeless, intent or lack of intent and other appropriate or mitigating factors determined by the administrator.

In addition to the Code of Conduct violations listed above that may result in suspension, the Principal or designee has authority to suspend a student for a period of up to three school days for any of the following additional reasons:

1. The need to further investigate an incident,
2. A recommendation to expel the student, or
3. An emergency constitutes endangerment to health or safety.

Special Rules for Suspensions Involving Homeless Students

Vanguard Academy may not place a student who is homeless in out-of-school suspension unless the student engages in the following conduct while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property:

1. Conduct that contains the elements of the offenses of unlawful carrying of weapons or possession of prohibited weapons:
2. Conduct that threatens the immediate health and safety of other students in the classroom;
3. Documented conduct that results in repeated or significant disruption to the classroom; or
4. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of marijuana or a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or an alcoholic beverage.

Emergency Placement

Vanguard Academy may remove a student from class if the student:

1. Repeatedly interferes with a teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn;
2. Demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward the teacher, another adult, or another student; or
3. Engages in conduct that constitutes bullying.

The Principal or designee may place a student removed from class for the conduct listed above into another appropriate classroom, into ISS, or issue an out-of-school suspension if the Principal or designee reasonably believes such action is necessary to protect persons or property from imminent harm. At the time of such an emergency removal, the student will be given verbal notice of the reason for the action and appropriate disciplinary conferences or hearings will be scheduled within a reasonable time after the emergency removal.

2.11 CONFERENCES, HEARINGS, AND APPEALS

All students are entitled to conferences, hearings, and/or appeals of disciplinary matters as provided by applicable state and federal law, and Vanguard Academy policy.

Process for Suspensions Lasting Up to Three Days

Prior to suspending a student for up to three days, the principal or designee must attempt to hold an informal conference with the student to:

1. Notify the student of the reported misconduct,
2. Allow the student to relate his or her version of the incident, and
3. Determine whether the student's conduct warrants suspension.

If the Principal or designee determines the student's conduct warrants suspension during the school day for up to three days, the Principal or designee will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent(s) that the student has been suspended before the student is sent home. The Principal or designee will notify a suspended student's parent(s) of the period of suspension, the grounds for the suspension, and the time and place for an opportunity to confer with the Principal or designee.

A student shall receive credit for work missed during the period of suspension if the student makes up work missed during the period of suspension within the same number of school days the student was absent on suspension.

Process for Expulsion

When the Principal or designee determine that a student's conduct warrants a recommendation for expulsion, but prior to taking any such action, the Principal or designee will provide the student's parent(s) with written notice of:

1. The reasons for the proposed disciplinary action; and
2. The date and location for a hearing before the Principal or designee, within five school days from the date of the disciplinary action.

The notice shall further state that, at the hearing, the student:

1. May be present;
2. Shall have an opportunity to present evidence;
3. Shall be apprised and informed of Vanguard Academy's evidence;
4. May be accompanied by his or her parent(s); and
5. May be represented by an attorney.

Hearing Before the Principal

Vanguard Academy shall make a good faith effort to inform the student and the student's parent(s) of the time and place for the hearing, and Vanguard Academy shall hold the hearing regardless of whether the student, the student's parent(s) or another adult representing the student attends. The Principal designee may audio record the hearing.

Within 48 hours or two school days, whichever is later, following the hearing, the Principal or designee will notify the student and the student's parent(s) in writing of his or her decision as to whether the student's conduct warrants expulsion and, if so, the decision shall specify:

1. The length of the expulsion or alternate disciplinary consequence if a different consequence is deemed appropriate;
2. When or if the expulsion is not permanent, the procedures for re-admittance at the end of the expulsion period if at all; and
3. The right to appeal the Principal or designee's decision to the Board of Directors or the Board's designee.

The notice shall also state that failure to timely request such an appeal constitutes a waiver of further rights in the matter, and that disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal.

Appeal to the Superintendent

A student or his or her parent(s) may appeal an expulsion decision to the Superintendent by notifying the Principal in writing within five calendar days of receipt of the disciplinary decision. The Superintendent or designee will review the disciplinary hearing record and the complete disciplinary file, and notify the student and his or her parent(s) of the appeal decision, in writing, within ten calendar days of the appeal.

Appeal to the Board of Directors

The student or his or her parent(s) may appeal the Superintendent or designee's decision to the Board of Directors by notifying the Superintendent in writing within five calendar days of the date of receipt of the Principal or designee's decision. The student and/or his or her parent(s) will be informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting in which the disciplinary consequence will be reviewed. The Board of Directors will review the disciplinary administrative record at a regular or specially called meeting in closed session as permitted by the Texas Open Meetings Act. The appeal shall be limited to the issues and documents considered during the initial disciplinary hearing.

The Board of Directors may, but is not required to, allow an opportunity for the student or parent(s) and the administration to each make a presentation and provide rebuttal and an opportunity for questioning by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consider the appeal and may request that the administration provide an explanation for the disciplinary decision.

The Board of Directors will communicate its decision, if any, orally or in writing before or during the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting. If no decision is made by the end of the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting, the Principal or designee's decision with respect to the disciplinary action appeal shall be upheld. The Board of Directors may not delegate its authority to issue a decision, and any decision by the Board of Directors is final and may not be appealed.

As stated above, disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal of an extended suspension or expulsion to the Board of Directors.

No Credit Earned

Except when required by law, students will not earn academic credit during a period of expulsion.

2.12 PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All disciplinary actions regarding students with disabilities (504 or special education under the IDEA) shall be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

A student with a disability shall not be removed from his or her current placement for disciplinary reasons and/or pending appeal to the Board of Directors for more than ten days without action by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee to determine appropriate services in the interim and otherwise in accordance with applicable law. If a special education due process appeal to a TEA special education hearing officer is made, the student with a disability shall remain in the then current education setting in place at the time such appeal is noticed to Vanguard Academy, unless Vanguard Academy and the student's parent(s) agree otherwise.

If a student's IEP includes a behavior improvement plan or behavioral intervention plan, the student's ARD committee shall review the plan at least annually and more frequently if appropriate to address:

1. Changes in a student's circumstances that may impact the student's behavior, such as:
    a. Placement of the student in a different educational setting;
    b. An increase or persistence in disciplinary actions taken regarding the student for similar types of behavioral incidents;
    c. A pattern of unexcused absences; or
    d. An unauthorized unsupervised departure from an educational setting; or
2. The safety of the student or others.

2.13 GUN-FREE SCHOOLS ACT

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free Schools Act, Vanguard Academy shall expel, from the student's regular program for a period of one year, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school. The Principal or designee may modify the term of expulsion for a student or assess another comparable penalty that results in the student's expulsion from the regular school program on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with legal requirements.

For the purposes of this section, "firearm" means:

1. Any weapon – including a starter gun – which will, or is designed to, or which may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive from the frame or receiver of any such weapon;

2. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer;

3. Any destructive device. "Destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than 1/4 ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the preceding described devices. It also means any type of weapon – other than a shotgun shell or a shotgun that is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes – by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than 1/2 inch in diameter; and any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device as described, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

2.14 GANG-FREE ZONE NOTICE

Students and parents should be aware that certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on or within 1,000 feet of any Vanguard Academy-owned or leased property or campus playground.

Vanguard Academy believes the presence of gangs and/or gang activities can cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with school and school activities.

2.15 GLOSSARY

The glossary provides legal definitions and locally established definitions and is intended to assist in understanding terms related to the Student Code of Conduct.

Abuse is improper or excessive use.

Abusable volatile chemical offense, as defined by Health and Safety Code § 485.001 and 485.031. No student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use, or possess an abusable volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use any of these in a manner:

1. Contrary to the directions for use, cautions, or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the chemical; and
2. Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination, or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance, or coordination.

No student shall knowingly deliver to a person younger than 18 an abusable volatile chemical. Health and Safety Code § 485.032

No student shall knowingly use or possess with intent to use inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the human body an abusable volatile chemical. No student shall knowingly deliver, sell, or possess with intent to deliver or sell inhalant paraphernalia knowing that that person who receives it intends to use it to inhale, ingest, apply, use, or otherwise introduce into the human body an abusable volatile chemical. Health and Safety Code § 485.033.

Antisemitism means a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of antisemitism are also included with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism" adopted on May 26, 2026.

Armor-piercing ammunition is handgun ammunition used principally in pistols and revolvers and that is designed primarily for the purpose of penetrating metal or body armor.

Arson is defined by Texas Penal Code § 28.02 and occurs when a person starts a fire, regardless of whether the fire continues after ignition, or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:

- Any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or
- Any building, habitation, or vehicle:
  - Knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town,
  - Knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction,
  - Knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest,
  - Knowing that it is located on property belonging to another,
  - Knowing that it is located within property belonging to another, or
  - When the person starting the fire is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.

Arson also occurs when a person:

- Recklessly starts a fire or causes an explosion while manufacturing or attempting to manufacture a controlled substance and the fire or explosion damages any building, habitation, or vehicle; or
- Intentionally starts a fire or causes an explosion and in so doing recklessly damages or destroys a building belonging to another, or recklessly causes another person to suffer bodily injury or death.

Assault is defined in part by Texas Penal Code § 22.01 as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another; intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury; or intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another that can reasonably be regarded as offensive or provocative.

Breach of computer security includes knowingly accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system without the effective consent of the owner as defined in Texas Penal Code 33.02, if the conduct involves accessing a computer, computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a public school; and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school property or information; or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system.

Bullying is defined as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that (1) has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; (3) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the school; or (4) infringes on the rights of the victim at school. Bullying also includes "cyberbullying," which means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device including a cellular telephone or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool. Bullying conduct includes conduct (1) that occurs on or is delivered to Vanguard Academy property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property; (2) that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity;

and (3) cyberbullying that occurs off Vanguard Academy property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying (i) interferes with a student's educational opportunities or (ii) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, Vanguard Academy, or a school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Chemical dispensing device is a device designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being.

Club is an instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death, including but not limited to a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled substances or dangerous drugs include but are not limited to marijuana; any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant, amphetamine, barbiturate; anabolic steroid; or prescription medicine provided to any person other than the person for whom the prescription was written. The term also includes all controlled substances listed in Chapters 481 and 483 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Criminal street gang means three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship or any of the person's past or subsequent partners, as defined by Texas Family Code § 71.0021. This type of conduct is considered harassment if it is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

Deadly conduct occurs when a person recklessly engages in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, and includes, but is not limited to, knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

Deep fake image or video means an image or video that appears to depict a real person performing an action that did not occur in reality.

Deferred adjudication is an alternative to seeking a conviction in court that may be offered to a juvenile for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Deferred prosecution may be offered to a juvenile as an alternative to seeking a conviction in court for delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision.

Delinquent conduct is conduct that:

- Violates either state or federal law, other than a traffic offense, and is punishable by imprisonment or confinement in jail;
- Violates a lawful order of a court under circumstances that would constitute contempt of that court in a justice or municipal court, or a county court for conduct punishable only by a fine;
- Constitutes an intoxication and alcoholic beverage offense under Chapter 49 of the Texas Penal Code;

or

- Violates Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 106.041 relating to driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor (third or subsequent offense).

Discretionary means that something is left to or regulated by a local decision maker.

Discrimination means treating someone differently or unfairly because of individual characteristics such as race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Disruptive activity means

- Obstructing or restraining the passage of persons in an exit, entrance, or hallway of a building without the authorization of school administrators;
- Seizing control of a building or portion of a building to interfere with an administrative, educational, research, or other authorized activity;
- Preventing or attempting to prevent by force or violence or the threat of force or violence a lawful assembly authorized by the school administration so that a person attempting to participate in the assembly is unable to participate due to the use of force or violence or due to a reasonable fear that force or violence is likely to occur;
- Disrupting by force or violence or the threat of force or violence a lawful assembly in progress; or
- Obstructing or resisting the passage of a person at an exit or entrance to the campus or property or preventing or attempting to prevent by force or violence or by threats of force or violence the ingress or egress of a person to or from the property or campus without the authorization of school administrators.

Disruption of classes includes:

- Emitting noise of an intensity that prevents or hinders classroom instruction;
- Enticing or attempting to entice a student away from a class or other school activity that the student is required to attend;
- Preventing or attempting to prevent a student from attending a class or other school activity that the student is required to attend; and
- Entering a classroom without the consent of either a principal or teacher and, through either acts of misconduct or the use of loud or profane language, disrupting class activities.

Discretionary means that something is left to or regulated by a local decisionmaker.

E-Cigarette or electronic cigarette means an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device, or a consumable liquid solution or other material aerosolized or vaporized during the use of an electronic cigarette or other similar device. The term also includes any device that is manufactured, distributed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, or e-pipe; a dab pen; a vapor product; or any other similar device under another product name or description. Also included is any component, part, or accessory for the device, regardless of whether the component, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device. The term does not include a prescription medical device unrelated to the cessation of smoking.

Exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm means intentionally engaging in the following conduct in a manner intended to cause alarm or personal injury to another person or to damage school property:

- Exhibiting or using a firearm (i) in or on any property, including a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area, that is owned by Vanguard Academy; or (ii) on a school bus being used to transport children to or from school-sponsored activities;
- Threatening to exhibit or use a firearm in or on Vanguard Academy property or on a school bus and was in possession of or had immediate access to a firearm; or
- Threatening to exhibit or use a firearm in or on Vanguard Academy property or on a school bus.

Explosive weapon is any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror, and includes a device designed, made, or adapted for delivery or shooting an explosive weapon.

False alarm or report occurs when a person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

- Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
- Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

False alarm to induce emergency response occurs when a person makes a report of a criminal offense or an emergency or causes a report of a criminal offense or an emergency to be made to a peace officer, law enforcement agency, 9-1-1 service, official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies, or any other governmental employee or contractor who is authorized to receive reports of a criminal offense or emergency when (1) the person knows the report is false and
(2) the report causes an emergency response from a law enforcement agency or other emergency responder.

Firearm is defined by federal law (18 U.S.C. § 921(a)) as:

- Any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- Any firearm muffler or firearm weapon; or
- Any destructive device, such as any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Such a term does not include an antique firearm.

Firearm silencer or suppressor means any device designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm.

Graffiti means making marks with paint, an indelible pen or marker, or an etching or engraving device on tangible property without the effective consent of the owner. The markings may include inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings.

Handgun is defined by Texas Penal Code § 46.01 as any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

Harassment is:

- Conduct that meets the definition of harassment set in Board policy and/or the Handbook;
- Conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, is sexually intimidating or obscene, causes physical damage to the property of another student, subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety; or
- Conduct including the elements of (1) initiating a communication and in the course of the communication making a comment, request, suggest, or proposal that is obscene; (2) threatening, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property; (3) conveying a false report that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury; (4) causing the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or making repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another; (5) making a telephone call and intentionally failing to hang up or disengage the connection; (6) knowingly permitting a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to engage in harassment; or (7) publishing on an Internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern; or (8) making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an internet application or other technological means.

Hazing is an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, that is directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization, if the act involves situations outlined in Texas Education Code § 37.151.

Hit list is a list of people targeted to be harmed using a firearm, a knife, or any other object to be used with intent to cause bodily harm or otherwise listing or identifying an individual or individuals in a manner that evidences a desire or wish for the individual or individuals to be harmed.

Improvised explosive device is defined by Texas Penal Code § 46.01 as a completed and operational bomb designed to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage that is fabricated in an improvised manner using nonmilitary components.

Indecent exposure means exposing one's anus or genitals with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person while being reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Intimate parts means the naked genitals, pubic area, anus, buttocks, or female nipple of a person.

Intimate visual material means visual material that depicts a person (a) with the person's intimate parts exposed; or (b) engaged in sexual conduct.

Knuckles means any instrument consisting of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance and designed or adapted for inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles.

Location-restricted knife means a knife with a blade over five and one-half inches.

Look-alike weapon means an item that resembles a weapon but is not intended to be used to cause serious bodily injury.

Machine gun is any firearm that is capable of shooting more than two shots automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

Mandatory means that something is obligatory or required because of an authority.

Online impersonation occurs when a person, without obtaining the consent of another person and with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten any persons, uses the name or persona of another person to:

- Create a web page on a commercial social networking site or other Internet website; or
- Post or send one or more messages on or through a commercial social networking site or other Internet website, other than on or through an electronic mail program or message board program.

Online impersonation also occurs when a person sends an electronic mail, instant message, text message, or similar communication that reference a name, domain address, phone number, or other item of identifying information belonging to any person:

- Without obtaining the other person's consent;
- With the intent to cause a recipient of the communication to reasonably believe that the other person authorized or transmitted the communication; and
- With the intent to harm or defraud any person.

Paraphernalia are devices that can be used for inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into a human body. It also includes equipment, products, or materials used or intended for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, or concealing a controlled substance.

Persistent Misbehavior means that there are three or more separate, documented violations of the Student Code of Conduct during the same school year, or continued noncompliance with a specific Code requirement after documented notice, a reasonable opportunity to comply, and completion of the applicable disciplinary progression.

Possession means to have an item on one's person or in one's personal property, including but not limited to clothing, purse, or backpack; a private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, including, but not limited, to an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; or any other school property used by the student, including, but not limited to, a locker or desk.

Prohibited weapon means an explosive weapon; a machine gun; a short-barrel firearm; armor-piercing ammunition; a chemical dispensing device; a zip gun; a tire deflation device; or an improvised explosive device, or as otherwise defined at Penal Code § 46.05(a).

Public lewdness occurs when a person knowingly engages in an act of sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact in a public place or, if not in a public place, is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking additional members from the students enrolled in school based on a decision of its membership rather than on the free choice of a qualified student.

Reasonable belief is a determination made by the superintendent or designee using all available information, including the information furnished under Article 15.27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Self-defense is the use of force against another to the degree a person reasonably believes the force is immediately necessary to protect himself or herself.

Sexual conduct means conduct described by Penal Code § 21.16(a)(3).

A short-barrel firearm is a rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun that, as altered, has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Switchblade knife is any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or by the force of gravity or by the application of centrifugal force. The term does not include a knife that has a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure and open the knife.

Terroristic threat is a threat of violence to any person or property with intent to:

- Cause a reaction of any type by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
- Place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury;

- Prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building; room, place of assembly, or place to which the public has access; place of employment or occupation; aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance; or other public place;
- Cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service;
- Place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or
- Influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state, or a public charter school (including Vanguard Academy).

Tire deflation device means a device, including a caltrop or spike strip, that, when driven over, impedes or stops the movement of a wheeled vehicle by puncturing one or more of the vehicle's tires.

Title 5 offenses are those that involve injury to a person and include murder; manslaughter; criminally negligent homicide; trafficking in persons; unlawful transport; kidnapping; assault (on a public servant); aggravated assault; sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; unlawful restraint; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; harassment of a public servant; improper photography; smuggling persons; and tampering with a consumer product.

Trespassing means entering or remaining on the property of another (including Vanguard Academy) without effective consent of the owner, and the person (1) had notice that the entry was forbidden; or (2) received notice to depart but failed to do so. Trespassing may also include presence on Vanguard Academy campus if expelled or suspended.

Under the influence means lacking the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Impairment of a person's physical or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol use, or by admission. A student "under the influence" need not be legally intoxicated to trigger disciplinary action.

Use means voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance.

Vapor product means electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or any other device that uses a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver vapor that may include nicotine to the individual inhaling from the device, or any substance used to fill or refill the device.

Zip gun is a device or combination of devices, not originally a firearm, but adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.

Acknowledgement and Approval of Student Code of Conduct

Our signatures below acknowledges that Vanguard Academy has made its Student Code of Conduct available to us; that we have been given notice of the rules, responsibilities and consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct; that we have been informed that when my child is enrolled in Vanguard Academy, all information herein is applicable to student, parent/guardian, and all school staff; and that we have expressed intent to review this Student/Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct contained within and to abide thereby.

Printed Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____Date: _____

Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying Contract
Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement

Vanguard Academy strives to be a bully free district where students, parents and staff can feel safe and proud to be a part of. Our district has a zero tolerance for bullying of any kind and/or harassment. At Vanguard, it is our goal to assure families that their children are attending a safe environment where our core values of respect, responsibility, and safety are upheld, promoting an atmosphere of kindness, mutual respect, and personal accountability. We strongly believe that everyone has the right to feel socially, emotionally, mentally and physically safe at Vanguard Academy.

Student's Responsibility:

As a student at Vanguard Academy, I commit and promise that I will NOT BULLY my peers, teachers or other staff members at my school. When I witness bullying either in person or online I will report it to an adult. As a member of my school's community I will do my best to preserve and create a safe social, emotional, and physical environment for my peers, teachers, and staff at Vanguard Academy.

Printed Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Responsibility:

As a parent/guardian to a student at Vanguard Academy, I commit to encourage my child to always respect others. I have instructed my child not to bully others either socially, emotionally, or physically. I have advised my child to report any bullying or harassing activities that they witness either in person or on a social media platform. I have directed my child to report any bullying or harassment to adults, teachers, and/or administrators on campus.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Contrato contra el acoso y acoso cibernético
Acuerdo entre estudiantes y padres/tutores

El distrito de Vanguard Academy se esfuerza por ser un distrito libre de acoso escolar donde los estudiantes, los padres y el personal pueden sentirse seguros y orgullosos de ser parte de él. En Vanguard, nuestro objetivo es garantizar a las familias que sus hijos asistan a un ambiente seguro donde se mantienen nuestros valores fundamentales de respeto, responsabilidad y seguridad, promoviendo una atmósfera de bondad, respeto mutuo y responsabilidad personal. Creemos firmemente que todos tienen derecho a sentirse social, emocional, mental y físicamente seguros en Vanguard Academy.

Responsabilidad del Estudiante:

Como estudiante en Vanguard Academy, me comprometo y prometo que NO ACOSARÉ a mis compañeros, maestros u otros miembros del personal de mi escuela. Cuando presencie acoso, ya sea en persona o en línea, lo reportaré a un adulto. Como miembro de la comunidad de mi escuela, haré todo lo posible para preservar y crear un entorno social, emocional y físicamente seguro para mis compañeros, maestros y personal en Vanguard Academy.

Nombre del Estudiante: _____ Grado: _____

Firma del Estudiante: _____ Fecha: _____

Responsabilidad del Padre:

Como padre de un estudiante en Vanguard Academy, me comprometo a alentar a mi hijo(a) a siempre respetar a los demás. He instruido a mi hijo(a) a no acosar a otros ya sea social, emocional o físicamente. He aconsejado a mi hijo(a) a reportar cualquier actividad de acoso que presencie ya sea en persona o en una plataforma de redes sociales. He indicado a mi hijo(a) reportar cualquier hostigamiento o acoso escolar a adultos, maestros y/o administradores en la escuela.

Nombre del Padre: _____

Firma del Padre: _____ Fecha: _____