

# Vacaville Unified School District



## ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

for Parents, Guardians & Students

### **Information & Notices**

Education Code (EC) 48980 et seq requires school districts to notify parents or guardians of their rights and responsibilities at the beginning of the academic year. EC 48982 requires parents or guardians to sign the notice and return it to school. A signature on the notice is an acknowledgement by parents or guardians that they have been informed of their rights.

## CHOICES FOR EVERY STUDENT

Vacaville Unified School District provides students choices that encourage unique and individualized learning experiences. We work to impart a sense of belonging and a commitment to community. Fostering lifelong learning lays a foundation for strong character, work ethic, collaboration and confidence to aspire and achieve.



## ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS

2024-2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Section 48980 of the Education Code of California requires that notice be given at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term to the parent or guardian of the minor pupils in the school district regarding the rights of the parent or guardian under the California Education Code. This notice is provided to parents on an annual basis in an electronic format or a hard copy. The notice is also posted on the VUSD website throughout the school year. Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 48981, the parent or guardian shall submit to the school a signed acknowledgment of receipt of the notice. Some legislation requires additional notification to the parents or guardians during the school term or at least 15 days prior to a specific activity. (A separate letter will be sent to parents or guardians prior to any of these specified activities or classes, and the student will be excused whenever the parents or guardians file with the principal of the school a statement in writing requesting that their child not participate.) Other legislation grants certain rights that are spelled out in this form.

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

### STUDENT DISCIPLINE

#### **RULES AND PROCEDURES ON SCHOOL DISCIPLINE (EC §35291):**

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

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

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

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

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

**ATTENDANCE OF SUSPENDED PUPIL'S PARENT (EC §48900.1; LC §230.7):** If a teacher suspends a student, the teacher may require the child's parent to attend a portion of the school day in his or her child's class. Employers may not discriminate against parents who are required to comply with this requirement.

#### **SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (EC §35256, 35258):**

The district posts the school accountability report cards on each school's website and ensure that all parents have access to a copy.

**SAFE PLACE TO LEARN ACT (EC §234.1):** The district is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from bullying, as defined in EC §48900(r). Any student who engages in bullying of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. For a copy of the district's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, anti-intimidation, and anti-bullying policies or to report incidences of bullying please contact the district office.

### SCHOOL RECORDS AND ACHIEVEMENT

#### **PUPIL RECORDS/NOTICE OF PRIVACY RIGHTS OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS (EC §49063 et seq., §49069, §49073, 34 CFR 99.30, 34 CFR 99.34, and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act):**

Federal and state laws concerning student records grant certain rights of privacy and right of access to students and to their parents. Full access to all personally identifiable written records maintained by the school district must be granted to: (1) Parents of students 17 and younger; (2) Parents of students age 18 and older if the student is a dependent for tax purposes and the records are needed for a legitimate educational purpose; (3) Students age 18 and older, or students who are enrolled in an institution of postsecondary instruction (called "eligible students"); (4) Pupils age 14 and over who are identified as both homeless and an unaccompanied youth; (5) Individuals who have completed and signed a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit.

Parents, or an eligible student, may review individual records by making a request to the principal. Districts must respond to a pupil record request by providing access no later than five business days following the date of the request. The principal will see that explanation and interpretations are provided if requested. Information that is alleged to be inaccurate or inappropriate may be removed upon request. In addition, parents or eligible students may receive a copy of any information in the records at reasonable cost per page. District policies and procedures relating to: location of, and types of records; kinds of information retained; availability of certificated personnel to interpret records if requested; persons responsible for records; directory information; access by other persons; review and challenge of records are available through the principal at each school. When a student moves to a new district, records will be forwarded upon the request of the new school district within ten school days. At the time of transfer, the parent or eligible student may review, receive a copy (at a reasonable fee), and/or challenge the records.

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

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

**RELEASE OF PUPIL DIRECTORY INFORMATION (EC §49073, 34 CFR 99.37 ):** The district also makes student directory information available in accordance with state and federal laws. This means that each student's name, birth date, address, telephone number, email address, major course of study, participation in officially recognized school activities, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous public or private school attendance may be released in accordance with board policy. In addition, height and weight of athletes may be made available. Appropriate directory information may be provided to any agency or person except private, profit-making organizations (other than employers, potential employers or the news media). Names and addresses of seniors or terminating students may be given to public or private schools and colleges. Parents and eligible students will be notified prior to the destruction of any special education records.

You have the right to inspect a survey or other instrument to be administered or distributed to your child that either collects personal information for marketing or sale or requests information about beliefs and practices and any instructional material to be used as part of your child's educational curriculum. Please contact your child's school if you wish to inspect such a survey or other instrument

*Upon written request from the parent of a student age 17 or younger, the district will withhold directory information about the student. If the student is 18 or older or enrolled in an institution of postsecondary instruction and makes a written request, the student's request to deny access to directory information will be honored. Requests must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this notification. Additionally, directory information related to homeless or unaccompanied youths will not be released without the express written consent for its release by the eligible pupil or guardian.*

**RELEASE OF INFO TO MILITARY SERVICES REPS / RELEASE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS (EC §49073.5; 20 USC §7908):** Parents of secondary students may request in writing that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released to armed forces recruiters without prior written parental consent.

**PARTICIPATION IN STATE ASSESSMENTS AND OPTION TO REQUEST EXEMPTION (EC § 60615, 5 CCR § 852):** Pupils in applicable grade levels will participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) except as exempted by law. Each year, a parent may submit a written request to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the CAASPP assessments for that school year. If the parent submits the exemption request after testing begins, any test(s) completed before the request is submitted will be scored; the results will be included in the pupil's records and reported to the parent. School district employees will not solicit or encourage any exemption request on behalf of a pupil or group of pupils.

**INTERNET ACCESS FOR STUDENTS:**

Pupils utilizes Google G-Suite for Education, an Internet based group of tools that allow students to store documents, access information, and collaborated with other students, teachers, and district staff via the internet. Each year a parent may submit to the school Principal a request to exempt his or her child from using the Google account and the Internet.

**HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM: NOTIFICATION REGARDING COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSES (EC §51229):** The district provides parents of each minor pupil enrolled in grades 9 to 12 written notice of college admission requirements and career technical education courses.

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

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

**STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

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

**VISION APPRAISAL (EC §49455):** The district appraises each student's vision during kindergarten, upon initial enrollment, and in grades 2, 5, and 8. Appraisal in the year immediately following a student's first enrollment in grades 4 or 7 shall not be required. The appraisal shall include tests for visual acuity, near vision, and color vision; however, color vision shall be appraised once and only on male students. The evaluation may be waived upon presentation of a certificate from a physician, surgeon, physician's assistant, or optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the student's vision, including visual acuity and color vision. To exempt a student from mandated screening, parents must notify the school office in writing.

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

the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. When a household is selected for verification of eligibility for free and reduced meals, the District must notify the parent that their child(ren)'s eligibility is being verified.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (EC §48216 and 49403):** The district is authorized to administer immunizing agents to pupils whose parents have consented in writing to the administration of such immunizing agent. The district is required to exclude pupils who have not been properly immunized pursuant to Health and Safety Code 120325 and 120335. The district must notify parents that they have two weeks to supply evidence either that the pupil has been properly immunized or is exempted from the requirement. All students entering kindergarten, advancing from sixth to seventh grade in the district, or prior to his or her first admission to the district, will be required to comply with the immunization requirements of Health and Safety Code section 120335, unless the student provides the district with a valid exemption from a licensed physician. No new personal belief exemptions will be accepted. Students with personal-belief exemptions on file with the district as of January 1, 2016, shall be allowed to continue enrollment until entering the next grade span in the district. Grade spans are defined as birth through preschool, K-6, including transitional kindergarten, and 7-12. Students qualified for an individualized education program may access special education and related services as required by his or her individualized educational program.

**MEDICATION (EC §49423, §49423.1):** Any student who must take prescribed medication at school and who desires assistance of school personnel must submit a written statement of instructions from the physician and a parental request for assistance in administering the medication. Students may also carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine and prescription inhaled asthma medication upon the school's receipt of specified written confirmation with instructions for self-administration and authorization from the student's parent and physician or surgeon. The parent must release the school district and personnel from liability for any harm resulting from the self-administered medication, and provide a release for authorized school personnel to consult with the physician or surgeon.

**MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR PUPILS (EC §§49471 and 49472): (Education Code 49472)** The district does not provide or make available medical and hospital services for pupils who are injured in accidents related to school activity or attendance. Parents may purchase student accident insurance which is available for students while they are at school, school sponsored-activities or while they are being transported to or from school. No student shall be compelled to accept such services without his/her consent or, if a minor, without the consent of a parent or guardian. If you have any questions regarding the plans, please feel free to call Student Insurance toll free number (800) 367-5830 or email: [info@studentinsuranceusa.com](mailto:info@studentinsuranceusa.com).

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

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

**ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR PUPILS (EC §49428):** Mental health services are available to pupils on campus. To access services, parents may contact the school administrator, mental health clinicians, school counselors, or school psychologists. To access community-based mental health services, pupils with Medi-cal, or Medicare insurance, or for pupils who are uninsured, mental health services can be



requested through Solano County Mental Health Access Line at (800) 547-0495. To identify other community based mental health providers, visit solanocares.org. To access 24/7 crisis services please call (707) 428-1131.

**SUN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING/USE OF SUNSCREEN (EC §35183.5):**

School sites must allow for outdoor use of sun-protective clothing and must allow students to use sunscreen, without a prescription or physician’s note, during the school day.

**ASBESTOS (40 CFR 763.84, 40 CFR 763.93):** The district has a plan for eliminating health risks that are created by the presence of asbestos in school buildings. It may be reviewed at the district office.

**USE OF PESTICIDES (EC §§17611.5, 17612 and 48980.3):** The district will inform parents about the use of pesticides on school grounds and provide access to the integrated pest management plan when certain pesticides are used. VUSD anticipates using the following pesticides on an as needed basis.

Pesticide	Active Ingredients
Ant Bait	Hydramethylnon
Bird Repellent	Olybutone
Bug Max Fogger	Cypermethrin
Demand cs	Pyrethroid (microencapsulated)
Dragnet	Permethrin
Flea Fogger	Pyrethrines
Gopher Getter	Diphacinone
Pathfinder II	Tricopyr
Max Force Granular Bait	Hydraamethylnum
Mecomec	2-4D Dicamba
Pendulum AquaCap	Pendimethalin
PT Wasp Freeze	Prallethrin
PT 270 Dursban	Chlorophyrifos
Q4 Plus Herbicide	2-4D Dimethylamine Salt
Revolver	Formassulfuron
Roach Bait	Hydramethylnon
Round Up Pro	Glyphosate
Round Up ProMax	Glyphosate
Speed Zone	2-4D Ethylhexyl Ester
Squirrel Bait	Diphacinon
Tempo WP	B Cyfluthin Cyano
Terro Ant Bait	Borax
Turf Gro	Chlorantranilprole
Weed Hoe	Monosodium and Methanearsonate

**COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN (EC §§32280 et seq.):** Each school shall report on the status of its school safety plan, including a description of its key elements, in the annual school accountability report card (SARC). The planning committee shall hold a public meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to express an opinion about the school plan. The planning committee shall notify specified persons and entities in writing.

**CALIFORNIA LAW REGARDING SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS**

In accordance with SB 906, VUSD would like to remind parents and legal guardians of all students in the Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) of their responsibilities for keeping firearms out of the hands of children as required by California law. There have been many news reports of children bringing firearms to school. In many instances, the child obtained the firearm(s) from his or her home. **These incidents can be easily prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner, including keeping them locked up when not in use and storing them separately from ammunition.**

To help everyone understand their legal responsibilities, this memorandum spells out California law regarding the storage of firearms. Please take some time to review this memorandum and evaluate your own personal practices to assure that you and your family are in compliance with California law.

- With very limited exceptions, California makes a person criminally liable for keeping any firearm, loaded or unloaded, within any premises that are under their custody and control where that person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child’s parent or legal

guardian, and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby (1) causes death or injury to the child or any other person; (2) carries the firearm off the premises or to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, or to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance; or (3) unlawfully brandishes the firearm to others.<sup>[1]</sup>

- **Note:** The criminal penalty may be significantly greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm.
- With very limited exceptions, California also makes it a crime for a person to negligently store or leave any firearm, loaded or unloaded, on their premises in a location where the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to it without the permission of the child’s parent or legal guardian, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child, even where a minor **never** actually accesses the firearm.<sup>[2]</sup>
- In addition to potential fines and terms of imprisonment, as of January 1, 2020, a gun owner found criminally liable under these California laws faces prohibitions from possessing, controlling, owning, receiving, or purchasing a firearm for 10 years.<sup>[3]</sup>
- Finally, a parent or guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person’s child or ward.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Note:** Your county or city may have additional restrictions regarding the safe storage of firearms.

Thank you for helping to keep our children and schools safe. Remember that the easiest and safest way to comply with the law is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable.

<sup>[1]</sup> See California Penal Code sections 25100 through 25125 and 25200 through 25220.

<sup>[2]</sup> See California Penal Code section 25100(c).

<sup>[3]</sup> See California Civil Code Section 29805.

<sup>[4]</sup> See California Civil Code Section 1714.3.

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

**TOBACCO FREE SCHOOLS (HS §104420):** Use of tobacco products at any time by students, staff, parents, or visitors, is strictly prohibited in district-owned or leased buildings, on district property, and in district vehicles. This prohibition applies to all employees, students, and visitors at any school-sponsored instructional program, activity, or athletic event held on or off district property. Prohibited products include any product containing tobacco or nicotine, including, but not limited to, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew, clove cigarettes, and electronic cigarettes that can deliver nicotine and no nicotine vaporized solutions. Exceptions may be made for the use or possession of prescription nicotine products. Any employee or student who violates the district’s tobacco-free schools policy shall be asked to refrain from smoking and shall be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate.

**OPIATE AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

In accordance with SB 367, the Vacaville Unified School District recognizes the dangers surrounding opiate overdoses or poisonings, affecting many communities including Vacaville. In response to the dangers posed to students, staff, and site visitors, VUSD has partnered with a safety consultant, the Vacaville Police Department, Vibe Solano, and student-led efforts to provide opiate awareness training for students and staff. In addition, VUSD utilized the Naloxone Distribution Project managed by the California Department of Health Care Services, and placed nearly 100 doses of Naloxone amongst all VUSD sites, focusing heavily on secondary sites. Naloxone is co-located with every AED, and staff are trained to recognize the signs of opiate overdose. Additionally, staff are trained how to administer this life-saving medication.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

**MINIMUM AGE OF ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN (EC §48000):** A child shall be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten at the beginning of the school year or at a later time in the same year, if the child has his or her fifth birthday, respectively, on or before September 1. Any child who will have his/her birthday between September 2 for the applicable school year and December 2 shall be offered a transitional kindergarten program in accordance with law and district policy. EC §48000.

**MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION (EC §310):** If the district implements a language acquisition program pursuant to EC §310, information on the types of language programs available and a description of each program will be made available with this notice or upon enrollment.

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

**SPECIAL EDUCATION; CHILD FIND SYSTEM (EC §56301):** Any parent suspecting that a child has exceptional needs may request an assessment for eligibility for special education services through the school principal. Policy and procedures shall include written notification to all parents of their rights pursuant to EC §56300.

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

**SECTION 504/DISABLED PUPILS (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973):** Federal law requires the district to annually notify disabled pupils and their parents of the district's non-discriminatory policy and duty under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

**STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972; Americans with Disabilities Act; Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973; EC §200 *et seq.*):** The district does not discriminate on the basis of gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, immigration status, or the perception of one or more of such characteristics. The district's policy of nondiscrimination requires notification in native language if the district's service area contains a community of minority persons with limited English language skills. Notification must state that the district will take steps to assure that the lack of English will not be a barrier to admission and participation in district programs. This policy applies to all students insofar as participation in programs and activities is concerned, with few exceptions such as contact sports. In accordance with federal law, complaints alleging noncompliance with this policy should be directed to the school principal. Appeals may be made to the district superintendent. A copy of the district's nondiscrimination policy is available upon request.

**EDUCATIONAL EQUITY REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, CITIZENSHIP, OR RELIGION (EC §234.7):** Children have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status, citizenship status, or religious beliefs. When enrolling a child, schools must accept a variety of documents from the student's parent to demonstrate proof of child's age or residency. No information about citizenship/immigration status or Social Security number is required to enroll in school. Parents have the

option to provide a school with emergency contact information, including the information of secondary contacts, to identify a trusted adult guardian who can care for a minor student in the event the parent is detained or deported. Parents have the option to complete a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit or a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person, which may enable a trusted adult the authority to make educational and medical decisions for a minor student. Students have the right to report a hate crime or file a complaint to the school district if they are discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or bullied on the basis of actual or perceived nationality, ethnicity, or immigration status. The California Attorney General's website provides "know your rights" resources for immigrant students and family members online at <https://oag.ca.gov/immigrant/rights>.

### **Students Right to a Free Public Education**

All children in the United States have a Constitutional right to equal access to free public education, regardless of immigration status and regardless of the immigration status of the students' parents or guardians.

#### **In California:**

All children have the right to a free public education. All children ages 6 to 18 years must be enrolled in school. All students and staff have the right to attend safe, secure, and peaceful schools. All students have a right to be in a public school learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.

All students have equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity offered by the school, and cannot be discriminated against based on their race, nationality, gender, religion, or immigration status, among other characteristics

#### **School Enrollment**

When enrolling a child, schools must accept a variety of documents from the student's parent or guardian to demonstrate proof of child's age or residency. You never have to provide information about citizenship/immigration status to have your child enrolled in school. Also, you never have to provide a Social Security number to have your child enrolled in school.

#### **Confidentiality of Personal Information**

Federal and state laws protect student education records and personal information. These laws generally require that schools get written consent from parents or guardians before releasing student information, unless the release of information is for educational purposes, is already public, or is in response to a court order or subpoena. Some schools collect and provide publicly basic student "directory information." If they do, then each year, your child's school district must provide parents/guardians with written notice

#### **Family Safety Plans**

You have the option to provide your child's school with emergency contact information, including the information of secondary contacts, to identify a trusted adult guardian who can care for your child in the event you are detained or deported. You have the option to complete a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit or a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person, which may enable a trusted adult the authority to make educational and medical decisions for your child.

#### **Filing a Complaint**

Your child has the right to report a hate crime or file a complaint to the school district if he or she is discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or bullied on the basis of his or her actual or perceived nationality, ethnicity, or immigration status.

## **CHILDREN IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS (42 USC §11431-11435):**

The district shall appoint a liaison for homeless children who shall ensure the dissemination of public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations.

## **SEX / HIV EDUCATION**

### **INSTRUCTION IN COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION**

**AND HIV PREVENTION (EC §51938):** The district shall annually notify parents about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education and research on student health behaviors and risks planned for the school year. Written and audiovisual educational materials used in such education are available for inspection. If arrangement for the instruction is made after the beginning of the school year, parents will be notified no fewer than 14 days prior to the commencement of any such instruction if the district elects to provide the instruction by outside consultants in class or during an assembly. The notice must include the date of instruction, the name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker and information stating that the parent has the right to request a copy of the law pertaining to such instruction. Parents have the right to excuse his or her child from all or part of the comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education by submitting a written request to the district. Those students whose parents do not submit a written request to excuse them will receive such instruction. The law also authorizes the district, without prior parental consent, to use anonymous, voluntary and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks, including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age appropriate questions in grades 7 to 12 about the student's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex. The district must notify parents in writing before any such test, questionnaire, or survey is administered and provide them with an opportunity to review the materials. Parents have the right to excuse his or her child from such participation by submitting a written request to the school district.

### **HEALTH INSTRUCTION/CONFLICTS WITH RELIGIOUS TRAINING AND BELIEFS (EC §51240):**

Upon written request of a parent, students shall be excused from part of any school instruction in health if it conflicts with the religious training and beliefs of a parent.

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/ATTENDANCE ALTERNATIVES**

California law (EC §48980(g)) The district website provides parents of the various ways in which they may choose schools for their children to attend other than the ones assigned by school districts. Students who attend schools other than those assigned by the districts are referred to as "transfer students" throughout this notification. There is one process for choosing a school within the district that the parent lives (Intradistrict transfer), and separate process for selecting schools in other districts (Interdistrict transfer). Processes are described as follows:

### **CHOOSING A SCHOOL WITHIN DISTRICT IN WHICH PARENT LIVES – INTRADISTRICT CONTRACT**

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

- Students who live in the attendance area of a school must be given priority to attend that school over students who do not live in the school's attendance area.
- In cases in which there are more requests to attend a school than there are openings, the process is on a first-come, first-served basis. A district cannot use a student's academic or athletic performance as a reason to accept or reject a transfer.
- A district does not provide transportation assistance to a

student that transfers to another school in the district under these provisions.

If a transfer is denied, a parent does not have an automatic right to appeal the decision. A district may, however, voluntarily decide to put in place a process for parents to appeal a decision

### **CHOOSING A SCHOOL OUTSIDE DISTRICT IN WHICH PARENT LIVES – INTERDISTRICT CONTRACT**

Parents have different option of choosing a school outside the district in which they live. The law allows two or more districts to enter into an agreement for the transfer of one or more students for a period of up to five years. New agreements may be entered into for additional periods of up to five years each. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions under which transfers are permitted. Districts of residence may not deny a transfer of a student whose parent is active duty military where the district of proposed enrollment approves the application. The law on Interdistrict transfers also provides for the following:

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

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

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

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

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS FOR PARENTAL/PUPIL**

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

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

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (EC §231.5; 5 CCR §4917):** The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who files a complaint, testifies, or otherwise participates in the district complaint processes. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district students receive age-appropriate instruction and information on sexual harassment.

Such instruction and information shall include:

- What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence

- A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment
- Encouragement to report observed instances of sexual harassment, even where the victim of the harassment has not complained
- Information about the district's procedure for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made
- Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a criminal complaint, as applicable

Any student who feels that he/she is being or has been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity (e.g., by a visiting athlete or coach) shall immediately contact his/her teacher or any other employee. An employee who receives such a complaint shall report it in accordance with administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any complaints regarding sexual harassment are immediately investigated in accordance with administrative regulation. When the Superintendent or designee has determined that harassment has occurred, he/she shall take prompt, appropriate action to end the harassment and to address its effects on the victim.

Any student who engages in sexual harassment or sexual violence at school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account. All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in the schools.

#### **UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (EC §231.5; 5 CCR §4917)**

The uniform complaint procedures shall be used to investigate and resolve complaints alleging violations of federal or state laws or regulations governing specific educational programs; including state preschool programs, to prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participating in educational activities, and unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The district's uniform complaint procedures policy and administrative regulation shall be posted in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and student government meeting rooms. If 15% or more of students enrolled in a particular school speak a single primary language other than English, the district's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning uniform complaint procedures shall be translated into that language. The following compliance officer(s) shall receive and investigate complaints and shall ensure district compliance with law.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
401 Nut Tree Road  
Vacaville, CA 95687

**DRUG FREE CAMPUS (Alcohol and Other Drug Use Prevention Education):** Possession, use or sale of narcotics, alcohol, or other controlled substances is prohibited and strictly enforced at all school activities. Records will be forwarded to local law enforcement, and district sanctions will result from violations.

**RIGHT TO REFRAIN FROM HARMFUL USE OF ANIMALS (EC §3225 et seq.):** Pupils may choose to refrain from participating in educational projects involving the harmful or destructive use of animals.

**EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (20 USC §6301 et seq.):** Under ESSA, parents have the following rights:

#### **Information Regarding Professional Qualifications of Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Aides:**

Upon request, parents have a right to information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and aides. This includes whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects she/he teaches, whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status because of special circumstances, the teacher's college major, whether she/he has any advanced degrees and the subject(s) of those degrees, and whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications. The district shall also notify parents if their child has been assigned to or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

**Information Regarding Individual Student Reports on Statewide Assessments:** Upon request, parents have a right to information on the level of achievement of their student on every State academic assessment administered to the student.

**Limited English Proficient Students:** The Act requires prior notice be given to parents of English learners regarding limited English proficiency programs, including the reasons for the identification of the student as an English learner, the need of placement in a language instruction educational program, the student's level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, the status of the student's academic achievement, the methods of instruction used in the programs available, how the recommended program will meet the student's needs, program performance, parent options to remove a student from a program and/or to decline initial enrollment, and expected rate of transition into classrooms not tailored for English learners.

*The information provided above is available upon request from your child's school or the district office. Additional notices that may be required under the Every Student Succeeds Act shall be sent separately.*

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

**SCHOOL BUSES/PASSENGER SAFETY (EC §39831.5):** Districts are required to provide safety regulations to all new students and students who have not previously been transported by school bus.

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

#### **EXCUSED ABSENCES (EC §48205)**

Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

- (1) Due to the pupil's illness.
- (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county/city health officer.
- (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.
- (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of the pupil's immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.
- (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
- (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
- (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit

organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

- (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to section 12302 of the Elections Code.
- (9) For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in section 49701, and has been called to duty, is one leave from duty, or has immediately returned from deployment from a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.
- (10) For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States Citizen.
- (11) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

**COMPLAINTS CONCERNING DEFICIENCIES RELATED TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, ETC. (EC §35186):** A Uniform Complaint process is available to help identify and resolve deficiencies related to instructional materials, emergency or urgent facility conditions that pose a threat to the health and safety of pupils or staff, and teacher vacancy or misassignment. Notice of the complaint process and location at which to obtain a complaint form should be posted in the classrooms.

**PUPIL FEES (EC §48904):** California Education Code section 48904 states, in pertinent part, that the parent or guardian of any minor whose willfully cuts, defaces, or otherwise injures in any way any property, real or personal, belonging to the school district or its employees shall be liable for all damages caused by the minor up to \$10,000. District property includes buildings and grounds, textbooks, library books, computers, chrome books, shop materials, physical education clothes and sports equipment. A parent or guardian shall be liable for the amount of any reward. A parent or guardian is liable to the District for all District property loaned to a minor and not returned upon demand. The school is legally authorized to withhold grades, diploma, and transcripts of students until the obligation is cleared.

**LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (EC §§52060-52077):** The district is required to adopt a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and to update the LCAP on or before July 1 of each subsequent year. The LCAP is required to identify annual goals; specific actions geared toward implementing those goals and must measure progress for student subgroups across multiple performance indicators based on eight priorities set by the State. The priorities must be aligned to the district's spending plan. The LCAP must be approved before the annual district budget can be adopted.

Once the budget and LCAP are adopted at the local level, the county superintendent will ensure alignment of projected spending toward goals and services will review the plan. The following are the State priorities:

- Providing all students access to fully credentialed teachers, instructional materials that align with state standards, and safe facilities;
- Implementation of and student access to state academic content and performance standards;
- Parent involvement and participation;
- Improving student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures;
- Supporting student engagement;
- Highlighting school climate and connectedness;
- Ensuring all students have access to a broad course of study;
- Measuring other important student outcomes related to

required areas of study;

- Coordinating instruction for expelled students; and
- Coordinating services for foster children.

The Board of Education is required to establish a parent advisory committee (PAC) and English learner parent advisory committee (ELPAC) to provide advice to the Board of Education and the superintendent regarding the LCAP. (ELPACs are required if enrollment in the school district includes at least 15% English learners and the district enrolls at least 50 pupils who are English learners. Districts are not required to establish a new ELPAC if an English learner parent committee has already been established).

PACs shall include parents of low-income students, English learner students, and foster youth. Each district is required to consult with its teachers, principals, administrators, other school personnel, local bargaining units, parents, and pupils in developing the LCAP. As part of this consultation process, districts must present their proposed plans to the PAC and ELPAC.

The advisory committees can review and comment on the proposed plan. Districts must respond in writing to the comments of the PAC and ELPAC. Districts are also required to notify members of the public that they may submit written comments regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed in the LCAP. Districts must hold at least two public hearings to discuss and adopt (or update) their LCAPs. The district must first hold at least one hearing to solicit recommendations and comments from the public regarding expenditures proposed in the plan, and then adopt (or officially update) the LCAP at a subsequent hearing. Districts are required to post on the school district website the LCAP approved by the Board of Education and any updates or revisions to the LCAP and establish policies for filing a complaint of noncompliance under EC §52075 using the Uniform Complaint Procedures. Information regarding the requirements for a Local Control and Accountability Plan and the complaint process shall be provided to pupils, parents, and employees on an annual basis.

#### **Title I Schools (20 USC 6311,34 CFR 200.61)**

Requires the school district, at the beginning of the school year, to notify parents or guardians of each student attending a school receiving Title I funds that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s). Notification must be in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand. Each year the Superintendent or designee shall identify specific objectives of the district's parent involvement program for schools that receive Title I funding. He/she shall ensure that parents/guardians are consulted and participate in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of the parent involvement program. The Superintendent or designee shall consult with parents/guardians of participating students in the planning and implementation of parent involvement programs, activities, and regulations. He/she also shall involve parents/guardians of participating students in decisions regarding how the district's Title I funds will be allotted for parent involvement activities. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school receiving Title I funds develop a school level parent involvement policy in accordance with 20 US.

#### **VUSD Board of Education**

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