

CODE OF CONDUCT/SCHOOL RULES

1. You have a right to review the school rules regarding student discipline. Please see student handbook. (Catalog of Offenses and Administrative Consequences)

The primary function of the school is to provide an environment in which maximum learning can be provided for all students who attend and willingly contribute their positive efforts. A maximum learning environment will result only by the joint, cooperative effort of students, faculty, parents and the total staff organization of each school, in which all share a proportional responsibility that must be actively and continuously pursued.

It is recognized that one of the crucial factors which contributes, either positively or negatively, to the learning environment on any school campus is student conduct. To ensure a positive maximum learning climate, the school has developed a Code of Conduct which defines certain unacceptable behavior and lists guidelines regarding the penalties for willful violation of this code.

The basic guiding principle in the Code of Conduct is that each student has rights as well as responsibilities. One of these student responsibilities is the recognition of the rights of other students have regarding their safety and welfare.

The guidelines are a range of penalties to be utilized with each classification of student misconduct. The guidelines are designed to provide for variations in the circumstances associated with individual students involved in each episode of undesirable behavior. The circumstances associated with an aggravated case may result in the omission of the preliminary steps in the guidelines and the application of the last steps. In those episodes of student misbehavior involving identified mitigating circumstances, the action taken may be modified to include steps less severe than those steps listed in the guidelines.

In any case, when there is evidence that a crime may have been committed, law enforcement officials will be notified.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

2. **Did you know?** Your school is vitally interested in your child's attendance at school each and every day. California State law requires that all children attend school every day until the age of 18 or until they graduate. The average child misses only 10 days of school per year. Compare this average with your own child's attendance. The only legal reason for absences are: personal illness or injury (student only), quarantine, medical, dental, optometric or chiropractic appointment (student only), jury duty (student only), immediate family member funeral (1 day in California, 3 days out of state), 5 days for exclusion to obtain required immunizations.

Make sure that when your child misses school, it is only for a legitimate reason. Babysitting and family outings are not legitimate excuses. Special provisions can be

made with your school principal, however, for a limited amount of independent study for students who must miss school. Contact your school in advance of any trips you may be taking so that you may enroll your student in the independent study program.

Why is daily attendance so important? Children need to be in school to learn. Trying to catch up on days of missed instruction can be an overwhelming and frustrating experience for many children.

Excessive absences may signal an emotional or physical problem that may need special assistance at school. Your school is concerned and can help. Regular attendance increases the quality of your child's education by improving your child's ability to learn and to have a successful school experience. Community agencies are also concerned about the children who are not at school and also not at home. They are often more likely to get into serious trouble.

What can you do? Impress upon your child the importance of regular attendance. If your child does miss school, clearly state in your telephone call or note to the school the reason for the absence.

Be sure to read all communications from your school. Your school might be trying to notify you about an attendance problem that you didn't even know existed. If you are worried about your child's attendance, call your school. Not only do we want to help, we can help.

3. **Absence for religious purposes** – With your written permission, your child may be excused to attend religious services away from school. However, your child will be required to complete a certain number of minutes for that day. Such absences are limited to four days per month. [E.C. 46014]
4. **Absence for justifiable personal reasons** – Upon your written request and approval by the school principal, your child may be excused from school for justifiable personal reasons such as an appearance in court, observation of a religious holiday or ceremony, attendance at religious retreats, or an employment conference. [E.C. 48205]
5. **Interdistrict Attendance Options** – The Governing Board recognizes that students who reside in one district may choose to attend school in another district and that such choices are made for a variety of reasons. The Board desires to communicate with parents/guardians and students regarding the educational programs and services that are available. The Board recognizes that the district may be capable of serving additional students. Therefore, the Superintendent or designee may approve interdistrict attendance agreements with other districts. (see B.P. 5117, available at district office)
6. **Attendance in school district in which parent/guardian is employed** – (Now applicable through the 12th grade. Parent/Guardian applies during elementary grades but now student is allowed to attend school through the 12th grade. [E.C. 48204(f)(7)]) Your child may have the option of attending school in the district where you or your spouse are

employed. If interested, call the school district office for information. [E.C. 48204(f) and 48980(e)]

7. **Attendance where caregiver resides** – If your child lives in the home of a care-giving adult, as defined by law, your child may attend the school district in which that residence is located. Execution of an affidavit under penalty of perjury pursuant to the Family Code by the care-giving adult is required to determine that your child lives in the caregiver’s home. [E.C. 48204(d) and 48980(g)]
8. **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act** - The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act requires every school district to designate a local liaison, whose responsibilities include ensuring that homeless children are identified, enrolled in and attend school. It further assures homeless children opportunities for academic success equal to children with adequate housing. For Strathmore Union Elementary School District the liaison is Dr. Shelly Long. Any information regarding Strathmore families experiencing homelessness should be referred to Dr. Long at 568-1283.
9. **Foster Care Children** - AB 490 requires every school district to designate a local liaison whose responsibilities include ensuring that children under foster care are identified and placed in the least restrictive educational placement and has access to the academic resources, services, and extra curricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils. For Strathmore Union Elementary School District the liaison is Dr. Shelly Long. Any information regarding Strathmore students in foster care should be referred to Dr. Long at 568-1283.
10. **Individualized Instruction** – If your child has a temporary disability which prevents him/her from attending regular classes, the district will provide individual instruction when possible. [E.C. 48206.3 and 48940(d)]
11. **Pupils in hospitals outside of school district** – If your child is, due to a temporary disability, in a hospital or other residential health facility which is located outside your school district, he/she may be eligible to attend the school district in which the hospital is located. [E.C. 48207] If this situation should arise, you should notify both the district where you reside and where the hospital is located so that individualized instruction, if possible, can be provided. [E.C. 48208]
12. **Minimum days or pupil-free staff development days** – The law requires at least one month’s notice prior to such days. [E.C. 48980(c)] Please see yearly school calendar that was sent home to each family at the beginning of the school year.

DISCIPLINE

13. **Release of Student to Peace Officer** – If a school official releases our child from school to a peace officer for the purpose of removing him/her from the school premises, the school official shall take immediate steps to notify you or a responsible relative of your

child, except when a student has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse. In those cases, the peace officer will notify the parent or guardian. [E.C. 48906]

14. **Parent Responsibility** – Parents or guardians are liable for all the damages caused by the willful misconduct of their minor children which result in death or injury to other students, school personnel, or school property. Parents are also liable for any school property loaned to the student and willfully not returned. A parent’s or guardian’s liability may be as much as \$10,000 in damages and another maximum of \$10,000 for payment of a reward, if any. [E.C. 48904]

The school district may withhold the grades, diplomas, or transcripts of the student responsible until such damages are paid or the property returned or until completion of a voluntary work program in lieu of payment of money. [E.C. 48904, Civil Code 1714.1]

If your child commits an obscene act or engages in habitual profanity or vulgarity, disrupts school activities or otherwise willfully defies the authority of school personnel, and is suspended for such misconduct, you may be required to attend a portion of a school day in your child’s classroom. Employers may not discriminate against parents who are required to comply with this requirement.

[E.C. 48900.1]

15. **Student Search and Seizures** – The school principal or designee may search the person of a student (including backpack, purse, bag, etc.) or the student’s locker if there is a reasonable suspicion to believe the student may have a concealed weapon, narcotics, stolen property, or contraband. [E.C. 49050, 49051]
16. **Hazing Prohibition** - Pupils and other persons in attendance are prohibited from conspiring to engage in hazing. [E.C. 32051]

STUDENT SERVICES

17. **Services to disabled pupils** – If you have reason to believe that your child (ages 0 through 21 years) has a disability which requires special services or accommodations, bring this to the attention of the school office. Your child will be evaluated to determine whether he/she is eligible for special instruction or services. [E.C. 56020, et seq.]
18. **Seek, Search, and Serve** - By federal law, all individuals with disabilities residing in the state, including pupils with disabilities who are enrolled in elementary and secondary school, including parochial schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, shall be identified, located, and assessed. Each district, special education local plan area, or county office shall establish written policies and procedures for a continuous child-find system which addresses the relationship among identification, screening, referral, assessment, planning, implementation, review, and the triennial assessment. The policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, written notification of all parents of their special education rights, and the procedure for initiating a referral for assessment to identify individuals with exceptional needs. Parents shall be given a copy of their rights and procedural safeguards upon initial referral for assessment, upon notice of an

individualized education program (IEP) meeting.

19. **Sexual Harassment** – The Governing Board prohibits unlawful sexual harassment of or by any student by anyone in or from the district. Teachers shall discuss this policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of sexual harassment [BP 1312].

Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any employee who permits or engages in sexual harassment may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The Board expects students or staff to immediately report incidents of sexual harassment to the principal or designee or to another district administrator. Any student who feels that he/she is being harassed should immediately contact the principal or designee or another district administrator in order to obtain a copy of AR1312.3: Uniform Complaint Procedures. Complaints of harassment can be filed in accordance with these procedures.

The district prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process. Each complaint of sexual harassment shall be promptly investigated in a way that respects the privacy of all parties concerned.

Complaint Procedure – Informal Resolution Process – To accommodate the unique nature of sexual harassment complaints, an informal process is provided for the primary resolution of a complaint at the earliest possible date. This process shall, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- a. The Principal will be available to receive sexual harassment complaints from students. If the Principal is the alleged harasser, the student may present his/her complaint to the Superintendent. Upon receiving a sexual harassment complaint, the Principal shall:
 - 1) counsel the alleged victim and outline the options available.
 - 2) obtain a factual written statement of the complaint.
 - 3) assist in follow-up investigation, interviewing the accused, witnesses, and supervisor, as appropriate, and recommending the disposition of the complaint.
 - 4) The Title IX Coordinator, Superintendent will maintain all records of the complaint brought forth by students or their parents.
- b. The Principal will review the factual information collected to determine whether the alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, giving consideration to the record as a whole and the totality of the circumstances, including the nature of the sexual advances and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred, and will take and/or authorize appropriate action.

20. **No Child Left Behind Act** - On January 8, 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act became the law of the land for educational reform. On that date, Democrats and Republicans in Congress joined together with President Bush in an historic agreement to improve the educational opportunities for every American child. Accountability, local control and flexibility, new options for parents, and record funding for what works became the cornerstones of the nation's education system. In an effort to provide all Strathmore parents, guardians and community members with further information about the No Child Left Behind Act, a guide is available upon request at every school site office. This guide summarizes the main provisions of the law; answers common questions, and provides information on where you can find additional resources. To obtain a copy, go to any of the district's school site offices.
21. **Student Meal Program** – Your child may be eligible for free or reduced price meals in the cafeteria. You will be provided with information regarding your child's eligibility for this program. [E.C. 49510-59520]

HEALTH SERVICES

22. **Kindergarten and First Grade physical examination** – Good health is important to your child's learning and successful academic career. State law requires that for each child enrolling in the first grade, the parent must present a certificate signed by a physician, verifying that the child has received a physical examination within the last 18 months. You may file with the school district a written objection or waiver stating the reasons if you are unable to obtain such services. You must understand that your child may be sent home if you fail to provide the certificate or waiver, or if your child is suspected to be suffering from a contagious disease. You may find it convenient to have your child immunized at the same time the physical examination is conducted. These services may be available to you at no cost through the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP). [Health and Safety Code 323.5, 324.2, 324.3; E.C. 48211, 49450]
23. **Immunizations** – A pupil may not be admitted to school unless he/she has been fully immunized in the manner and with immunizing agents approved by the State Department of Public Health. The immunizations required for school entry protect the child from contracting diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B for students entering kindergarten or 7th grade (required as of July 1, 1999). The required immunizations are available from the County Health Department or a physician. Documentary proof of immunizations is required upon admission. It is the policy of Strathmore Union Elementary School District that there be no conditional admittance to schools; immunizations must be up-to-date before admission to school is granted.

This requirement does not apply to any person 18 years of age or older or if a district-provided waiver form is signed. The waiver form can be signed by a parent or guardian when immunizations are contrary to their beliefs or a letter or affidavit from a licensed physician is given to the school stating that the physical condition of the pupil is such that

an immunization is not considered safe. If an outbreak of a communicable disease occurs at school, the non-immunized student will be excluded for his/her own safety until such time as determined by health officials or district administrator. [Health and Safety Code 120335 (renumbered)]

Cooperation in Control of Communicable Disease & Immunization of Pupils

The governing board of any school district may permit a licensed physician and surgeon, or a health care practitioner (including a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, licensed vocation nurse or nursing student who is acting under the supervision of a registered nurse as provided by law) who is acting under the direction of a supervising physician and surgeon, to administer an immunizing agent to a pupil whose parent or guardian has consented in writing prior to administration of the immunizing agent. [E.C. 49403]

24. **Assistance with Medication** – If your child must take medication during the school day, which is prescribed by a physician, the medication must be in a prescription bottle from the pharmacy with the student’s name, medication name and dosage listed on the label. In order to administer medication at school, designated school personnel must have a written statement from the physician detailing the method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken. All medication is kept in the school office. [E.C. 49480] Accept-self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine. [E.C. 49423]
25. **Physical Examinations** – When there is a good reason to believe that your child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, he/she may be sent home and shall not be permitted to return to school until the contagious or infectious disease does not exist and/or the school has received a written note from your doctor stating the pupil is no longer contagious. [E.C. 49451]
26. **Scoliosis Screening (Curvature of the Spine)** – The State of California mandates Scoliosis screening of 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys. The school district performs a Scoliosis screening of boys and girls in grades 6th, 7th and 8th grade. If your child is suspected of having curvature of the spine, please notify the school office. If your child is identified at school as having this condition, you will be notified. [E.C. 49452.5]
27. **Vision Appraisal** – Your child’s vision will be checked by the school nurse between grades kindergarten through 8, unless you present to the school a certificate from a physician or optometrist verifying prior testing or that it violates your faith in a recognized religion belief. [E.C. 49455]
28. **Sight and Hearing Test** – The school district is required to provide for the testing of the sight and hearing of each student enrolled in the schools unless you submit a written denial of consent. [E.C. 49452]
29. **Information for Use in Emergencies** – For the protection of your child’s health and welfare, we ask that you fill out and return the Emergency Information Card. This form

is provided when students first enroll. Students can only be sent home with those people you have written on the emergency card. [E.C. 49408]

30. **Confidential Medical Services** – School authorities may excuse any pupil in grades 7-12, inclusive, from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil’s parent/guardian. [E.C. 46010.1] The school will require adequate verification of all medical appointments. Parents may be contacted to verify medical appointments and to assure that adequate arrangements have been made for the supervision and transportation of the pupil.
31. **Head Lice** – School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible. The nurse or designee shall examine the student and any siblings of affected students or members of the same household. If nits or lice are found, the student shall be excluded and parents/ guardians informed about recommended treatment procedures, ways to check the hair, and sources of further information. The principal shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students. [E.C. 48213] Excluded students may return to school when they bring a note from the parent/ guardian indicating the treatment used and when reexamination by the nurse or designee shows that all lice and nits have been removed.
32. **Sun Protective Clothing/Use of Sunscreen** - School sites must allow for outdoor use of sun-protective clothing and must provide for the use of sunscreen by students during the school day by an established policy. [E.C. 35183.5]
33. **Medical and Hospital Services for Pupils** - The district is required to notify parents in writing if it does not provide or make available medical and hospital services for students injured while participating in athletic activities. The district is also authorized to provide medical or hospital services through non-profit membership corporations or insurance policies for student injuries arising out of school-related activities. [E.C. 49471, 49472]

SEX EDUCATION

34. **Sex Education** – Sex Education or Family Life Education Courses are offered as optional classes. You have a right to request in writing that your child not attend these classes, which may contain information regarding sex. You may withdraw this request at any time. You also have the right to inspect and review the instructional materials to be used in these classes prior to the holding of such classes. [E.C. 51550] [Course criteria E.C. 51553]
35. **HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction** – You have a right to request copies of Education Code Sections 51201.5 and 51553 from the district. Copies of these statutes are on file at district offices. These statutes permit parents or guardians to excuse children from AIDS prevention instruction.

The school District provides in-service training and collaborates with the teachers who provide HIV/AIDS prevention education.

The new law also provides: Any time an outside organization or guest speaker is scheduled to deliver AIDS prevention instruction, or any time an assembly is held to deliver AIDS prevention instruction, the parents must be notified.[E.C. 51936] The notice must be mailed at least 15 days before the instruction is delivered. The notice shall include the date of the instruction, the name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker, and information about parents' rights to receive copies of the statutes relating to AIDS prevention instruction.

Under the new law, a pupil shall not be subject to disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction if a parent withholds the pupil from the instruction. Also, during the time of the instruction, an alternative educational activity shall be made available to pupils whose parents have requested that they not receive instruction.

36. **Instruction in AIDS Prevention** – School districts are required by law to ensure that all pupils in grades 7 through 12 receive AIDS prevention instruction from adequately trained instructors in appropriate courses. Each pupil shall receive the instruction at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school. [E.C. 51934]

This instruction will emphasize that sexual abstinence and abstinence from intravenous drug use are the most effective means for AIDS prevention. The instruction will also include development of refusal skills to avoid high-risk activities. The instructional materials related to this instruction are available for your inspection. If you do not want your child to receive this instruction, you may submit that request in writing to the school principal. [E.C. 51201.5]

37. **Venereal Disease Education Course** – Because sexually transmitted diseases have become an ever-growing problem in our society, this topic will be discussed in the Family Life Education course in 7th & 8th grades. A discussion of this topic shall emphasize that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only protection that is 100 percent effective against not only sexually transmitted diseases, but also unwanted teenage pregnancy and AIDS. All material and instruction dealing with these topics shall be age-appropriate and in accordance with criteria established by law. [E.C. 51551]

If your child should enroll in classes dealing with these subjects, you shall be notified in writing and you will be given an opportunity to submit a written request that your child not attend such classes. You will also have the opportunity to inspect and review the instructional materials to be used in the class prior to the holding of such classes. [E.C. 51820]

EXEMPTIONS AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

38. **Parental Rights: Education Empowerment Act of 1998** – The Education Empowerment Act of 1998 establishes various rights for parents, in addition to other rights identified in this annual notice. Your rights, as a parent or guardian, include the following:

Inspection of Instructional Materials: All primary supplemental instructional materials and assessments, including textbooks, teacher’s manuals, films, tapes, and software shall be compiled and stored by the classroom instructor and made available promptly for your inspection in a reasonable timeframe or in accordance with procedures determined by the governing board of the school district.

Observation of School Activities: You have the right to observe instruction and other school activities that involve your child in accordance with procedures determined by the governing board of the school district to ensure the safety of pupils and school personnel and to prevent undue interference with instruction or harassment of school personnel.

Reasonable accommodation of parents and guardians shall be considered by the governing board of this school district. Upon written request by you, school officials shall arrange for your observation of the requested class or classes or activities in a reasonable timeframe and in accordance with procedures determined by the governing board of this school district.

Consent for Evaluations: Your child may not be tested for a behavioral, mental or emotional evaluation without your informed written consent.

Affirmation or Disavowal of Beliefs: A pupil may not be compelled to affirm or disavow any particular personally or privately-held world view, religious doctrine or political opinion. This law does not relieve pupils of any obligation to complete regular classroom assignments.

39. **Other Parental Rights** – The rights of parents and guardians of district pupils include the rights identified below. These rights include your right:
- a. to observe in your child’s classroom (upon reasonable notice).
 - b. to meet with your child’s teacher and the school principal (upon reasonable notice).
 - c. to volunteer your time and resources at the school (as approved by principal/superintendent).
 - d. to be notified on a timely basis if your child is absent from school without permission.
 - e. to be notified concerning your child’s classroom and standardized test performance.
 - f. to request a specific school and teacher and to receive a response from the school district. (This does not obligate the school district to grant the request.)
 - g. to have a safe learning environment for your child.
 - h. to examine curriculum materials of your child’s class (upon reasonable notice).
 - i. to be informed of your child’s progress and appropriate school personnel to contact in the event of problems.
 - j. to access student records for your child (upon reasonable notice).
 - k. to receive information concerning expectations for student learning.

- l. to be informed in advance about school rules, policies, dress codes, and procedures for visiting the school (see student handbook).
 - m. to receive information about any psychological testing of your child and to deny permission for such testing.
 - n. to participate as a member of any school site council or parental advisory councils at the school, in accordance with governing membership and council by-laws.
 - o. to question and receive an answer regarding items in your child's record that appear inaccurate, misleading or that invade privacy.
 - p. to refuse to allow their children to participate in a child abuse primary prevention program.
40. **Dissection of Animals** – If your child chooses not to participate in the dissection of animals, and if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible, then the teacher may work with him/her to develop and agree upon an alternative education project for the purpose of providing your child an alternate avenue for obtaining the information required by the class. The school will need a signed note from you indicating your child's objection. [E.C. 32255]
41. **Excused from instruction due to religious beliefs** – Whenever any part of the instruction in health or family life education conflicts with your religious training and beliefs or personal moral conviction, or those of your child, your child shall be excused from such instruction upon your written request. [E.C. 51240]
42. **Tests on Personal Beliefs** – Unless you give written permission, your child will not be given any test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about your child's, or his/her parents' or guardians' personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, or religion. [E.C. 51513, 60614]
43. **Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)** affords parents certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys. These include the right to:
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any protected information survey, regardless of funding.
 - Inspect, upon request and before administration or use, protected information surveys of students.
 - Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education.
- Protected Information Areas:
- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 - Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or

- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

SCHOOL RECORDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

44. **Pupil Records** – You have a right to inspect and review your child’s school records; to challenge their contents; to have an administrator assist you in interpreting the records; request amendment to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of your child’s privacy rights; to have a district-level hearing to appeal the decision not to change records; and to file a complaint with the State and/or U.S. Department of Education if the district fails to comply with state and federal law with regard to your child’s records. Except for certain exceptions, pupil records are confidential and will not be disclosed without your consent. Please be aware, however, that when your child enrolls or intends to enroll in another district, we will send his or her records to that district. Your child’s records may be shared with school officials and employees, and other persons connected with the school who have a legitimate educational interest and who may need them to perform his or her tasks. For further information or assistance, contact Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20202-4605. [E.C. 49063, 49070; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 34 CFR Part 99]
45. **Standards of Proficiency in Basic Skills** – refer to E.C. 51215, 51216
46. **Regulations regarding Pupil Achievement** – refer to E.C. 49067
47. **Standardized, Norm-Referenced Achievement Tests** – Test times and results are given to parents. [BP 6162.5(a)]
48. **School Accountability Report Card** – The School Accountability Report Card is available on request at the district office. This contains information about the district regarding the quality of the district’s programs and its progress toward achieving stated goals. The SARC can also be found on the District web site at www.suesd.k12.ca.us. [E.C. 33126, 35256, 35258]
49. **Release of Directory Information** – The school district maintains directory information of all pupils. Directory information includes a student’s name and address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, awards received, and school of most recent attendance. Under no circumstances shall directory information be disclosed to a private profit-making entity other than employer, prospective employers, and representatives of the news media. Based on its determination of the best interest of the student, the district may limit or deny the release of specific directory information to any public or private non-profit organization. State law prohibits release of directory information if the district receives a written request by parents/guardians that such information not be released.

50. **Release of Student Records/Compliance with Subpoena or Court Order** - Districts are required to make a reasonable effort to notify parents in advance of disclosing student information pursuant to a subpoena or court order. [E.C. 49076, 49077]

DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

51. **Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures** - A school district shall use the uniform complaint process it has adopted as required by Chapter 5.1 (commencing with Section 4600) of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, with modifications, as necessary, to help identify and resolve any deficiencies related to instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health and safety of pupils or staff, and teacher vacancy or misassignment. [E.C. 35186]
52. **Complaints** – Complaints concerning the school, refer to BP 1312. Complaints regarding employees, refer to BP 1312.1
53. **Uniform Complaint Procedures Annual Notice** - The Board of Education recognizes that the district has primary responsibility for ensuring that it complies with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints at the local level. The district shall follow the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) when addressing complaints alleging: Unlawful discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, color or physical or mental disability, or failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs.

The Board acknowledges and respects students and employee rights to privacy. Discrimination complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the facts. This includes keeping the identity of the complainant confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation, as determined by the Superintendent or designee on a case-by-case basis. Complaints regarding allegations of unlawful discrimination must be filed no later than six months from the alleged occurrence or when knowledge was first obtained.

The Superintendent shall ensure that employees designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. Such employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Board recognizes that a neutral mediator can often suggest an early compromise that is agreeable to all parties in a dispute. The Superintendent shall ensure that the mediation results are consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Board of Education designates the following compliance officer to receive and investigate complaints and ensure district compliance with law: Dr. Shelly Long, District Superintendent, 19811 Orange Belt, P.O. Box 247, Strathmore, CA 93267, (559) 568-1283.

PROCEDURES

The following procedures shall be used to address all complaints filed under the Uniform Complaint Procedures. Compliance officers shall maintain a record of each complaint as required for compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 4632.

STEP 1: FILING OF COMPLAINT

Any individual, public agency or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination may be filed by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination. The complaint must be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged discrimination occurred or when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination. (Title 5, Section 4630) Complainants have the right to file a complaint regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including all forms of sexual harassment, with the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Room 239, 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102.

STEP 2: MEDIATION

Within three days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with the complainant the possibility of using mediation. If the complainant agrees to mediation, the compliance officer shall make all arrangements for this process. Mediation (i.e. bringing the parties together) is optional and cannot be required in individual cases.

Before initiating the mediation of a discrimination complaint, the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to related confidential information. If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the compliance officer shall proceed with his/her investigation of the complaint. The use of mediation shall not extend the district's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time. (Title 5, Section 4631)

STEP 3: INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT

The investigation shall provide an opportunity for the complainant, or the complainant's representative, or both, and local educational agency representatives to present information relevant to the complaint. The investigation may include an opportunity for the parties to the dispute to meet to discuss the complaint or to question each other or each other's witnesses. Complainants who wish to file formal complaints through the district's grievance procedure, and that are not alleging discrimination on the basis of sex, will be referred to the appropriate district employee (the Superintendent/designee) to receive such complaints. Complainants who are alleging discrimination on the basis of sex, and who wish to remain anonymous and not to proceed with a formal complaint through the district's grievance procedure, will be referred to the Title IX coordinator (the Superintendent/designee).

STEP 4: DISTRICT RESPONSE

Within 50 days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall prepare and send the complainant a written report of the district's investigation and decision, as described in step #5 below. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance officer's decision, he/she may,

within five days, file his/her complaint in writing with the Board. The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the compliance officer's decision is final. If the Board hears the complaint, the compliance officer shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 days of the district's initially receiving the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant.

STEP 5: FINAL WRITTEN DECISION

The report of the district's decision shall be written in English and in the language of the complainant whenever feasible or required by law. If it is not feasible to write this report in the complainant's primary language, the district shall arrange a meeting at which a community member will interpret it for the complainant. This report shall include:

1. The findings and disposition of the complaint, including corrective actions, if any (Title 5, Section 4631)
2. The rationale for the above disposition (Title 5, Section 4631)
3. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the decision to the California Department of Education within 15 days, and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal (Title 5, Section 4631)
4. A detailed statement of all specific issues that were brought up during the investigation and the extent to which these issues were resolved

APPEALS TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

If dissatisfied with the district's decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the California Department of Education within 15 days of receiving the district's decision. For good cause, the Superintendent of Public Instruction may grant an extension for filing appeals. (Title 5, Section 4652) When appealing to the California Department of Education, the complainant must specify the reason(s) for appealing the district's decision and must include a copy of the locally filed complaint and the district's decision. (Title 5, Section 4652)

CIVIL LAW REMEDIES

Nothing in this policy precludes a complainant from pursuing available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures. Such remedies may include mediation centers, public/private interest attorneys, injunctions, restraining orders, etc. For discrimination complaints, however, a complainant must wait until 60 days has elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the California Department of Education before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the district has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of his/her right to file a complaint. For assistance complainant may contact Tulare-Kings County Legal Services, 900 W. Oak, Visalia, CA 93291, (559) 733-8770.

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY

54. The Governing Board recognizes that technology provides ways to access the most current and extensive sources of information. Technology also enables students to practice skills and to develop reasoning and problem-solving abilities. Every effort shall

be made to provide equal access to technology throughout the district's schools and classes.

On-Line Services/Internet Access – The Board intends that the Internet and other on-line resources provided by the district be used to support the instructional program and further student learning. The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations governing student access to technology that are age appropriate. These regulations shall prohibit access to harmful matter on the Internet which may be obscene or pornographic and preclude other misuses of the system. In addition, these regulations shall establish the fact that users have no expectation of privacy and that district staff may monitor or examine all system activities to ensure proper use of the system. Students who fail to abide by district rules shall be subject to disciplinary action, revocation of the user account and legal action as appropriate. [BP 6163.4(a) also includes conditions, rules and acceptable use of computer and the Internet, along with the Student User Agreement.]

Because the Internet contains an unregulated collection of resources, the district cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or the appropriateness of any material that a student may encounter. Therefore, before using the district's on-line resources, each student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return an Acceptable Use Agreement. This agreement shall specify user obligations and responsibilities and shall indemnify the district for any damages. The parent/ guardian shall agree to not hold the district responsible for materials acquired by the student on the system, for violations of copyright restrictions, users' mistakes or negligence or any costs incurred by users. Staff shall supervise students while using on-line services and may ask teacher aides and student aides to assist in this supervision.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH/EXPRESSION: PUBLICATIONS CODE

55. Free inquiry and exchange of ideas are essential parts of a democratic education. The Governing Board respects students' rights to express ideas and opinions, take stands, and support causes, whether controversial or not, through their speech, writings, printed materials and/or the wearing of buttons, badges and other insignia. {BP 5145.2, AR 5145.2(a)}

Student freedom of expression shall be limited only as allowed by law in order to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights, health and safety of all members of the school community. Students shall not be disciplined solely on the basis of constitutionally protected speech or other communication. [BP 6144] Because district schools have a closed forum, students may not post or distribute materials regarding the meetings of non-curricular student-initiated groups. [BP 5137, 5144]

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that due process is followed when resolving disputes regarding student freedom of expression. [BP 1325, 6145.5]

MISCELLANEOUS

- 56. **Sex Offender Information, Megan’s Law** – The Sex Offender Identification Line is a telephone service for use by the public and organizations to identify serious sex offenders. This District does not disseminate this information, however anyone at least 18 years of age may call (900) 463-0400. You will need the following information on the person you are checking on: Name and ONE of the following: address, birthdate, driver’s license or social security number. You will be charged a flat rate of \$10 for information on up to two individuals. You may also receive information from your local law enforcement agency or view the Attorney General’s home page: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>

- 57. **Future College or University** – Because of rising costs, it is important for you to invest early for the future college or university education of your child. You may wish to consider appropriate investment options including, but not limited to, U.S. Savings Bonds. [E.C. 48980(c)]

- 58. **Management Plan for Asbestos-Containing Material** – An updated management plan for asbestos-containing material in school buildings is located in the district office. [BP 3514]

- 59. **Tattooing or Body Piercing** – It is a misdemeanor to tattoo or offer to tattoo a person under the age of 18. It is an infraction of the law to perform or offer to perform body piercing on a person under the age of 18, except in the presence of, or as directed by a notarized writing signed by, the parent or guardian. This does not include ear piercing. [Penal Code 19.8, 652, 653]

- 60. **Non-discrimination Policy** – Title IX/Title VI Superintendent. It is the policy of Strathmore Union Elementary School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color or national origin in its education programs, activities or employment as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. As a student of Strathmore Union Elementary School District, your child may not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, color, or national origin in reference to:
 - * Access to enrollment in courses
 - * Access to and use of school facilities
 - * Counseling practices, guidance materials and tests
 - * Vocational Education
 - * Physical Education
 - * Athletics
 - * Graduation requirements
 - * Student rules, regulations and benefits
 - * Financial assistance
 - * Health Services
 - * School-sponsored extracurricular activities

- * Most other aid, benefits or services

If you believe that your child has been discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, color or national origin, you may make a claim that his/her rights have been violated. This claim or grievance may be filed with your school principal.

You will be asked to write down the actions, policies or practices which you believe are discriminatory. You may obtain help from the Title IX/Affirmative Action Officer, Superintendent, or anyone you believe knowledgeable. Once the grievance has been filed, you will be asked to meet with those persons who would be involved in correcting the policies, practices, or programs that you believe are discriminatory. If there is an agreement that your child was discriminated against, corrective actions will be taken to restore his/her rights. If there is not an agreement, you may appeal the grievance to a person with higher authority.

In preparing the grievance, you should give thought to the following:

- * The exact nature of the grievance – how your child may have been discriminated against, any persons who may be responsible
- * The date, time and place of the grievance
- * The names of the people who have knowledge about the grievance
- * Any available written documentation of evidence that is relevant to the grievance
- * The actions that could be taken to correct the grievance

The Strathmore Union Elementary School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment), handicap (or disability), or age in any of its policies, procedures, or practices, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (pertaining to race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (pertaining to sex), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (pertaining to handicap) and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (pertaining to age). This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, the District's programs and activities, including vocational education. Inquiries regarding the equal opportunity policies, the filing of grievance, or to request a copy of the grievance procedures covering discrimination complaints may be directed to:

Dr. Shelly Long, Section 504 Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator
Strathmore Union Elementary School District
19811 Orange Belt Drive, P.O. Box 247
Strathmore, CA 93267
(559) 568-1283

The Strathmore Union Elementary School District recognizes its obligation to provide overall program accessibility throughout the district for handicapped persons. Contact the Section 504 Coordinator to obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the District's program.

If you wish to discuss your child's rights under Title IX or Title VI, to obtain a copy of the grievance procedure, or to obtain help in filing a grievance, contact your school principal or the Title IX/Affirmative Action Officer at the district office.

61. **Special Education** – In order to provide a specially designed instructional program to meet the unique needs of individuals with exceptional needs whose needs cannot be met with a modification of the regular instructional program, the district will provide a special instructional program at no cost to the parent. Individuals with exceptional needs are considered “handicapped children”. This term encompasses children evaluated as being mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, orthopedically impaired, or other health impaired, deaf-blind, multi-handicapped, or having a specific learning disability. [34 C.F.R. Section 300.5] Any individual, public agency, or organization may file a written complaint with the District Superintendent or with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction if they believe the school district has violated federal or state laws regarding special education. [E.C. 56000-56033, 56500 et. seq., 34 C.F.R. Sections 76.780-76.783, Calif. Adm. Code, Title 5, Section 3080]
62. **Emergency, Disaster, and Civil Defense Procedures** – The Strathmore Union Elementary School District has plans and preparations for major emergency situations. We believe that the reactions of people in emergencies depend largely upon their training. Our school staff is trained and drills are held regularly to make certain that the students understand emergency procedures. We want your children to be as safe at school as they are at home in a serious emergency. School buildings have been designed with safety in mind, and inspections are regularly made to remove possible hazards. There are personnel trained in first aid. Our primary concern in the event of emergency is the safety and welfare of the students.

Your children should be instructed to obey the directions of their teachers, and of the bus driver on the way to and from school if they ride the bus. If walking or riding bicycles, they should be told to continue toward their destination (to or from school) when an emergency situation develops. Your cooperation is asked in an emergency:

- * Please do not telephone the school. Telephone lines will be needed for emergency communications.
- * Please do not drive to school. Streets should be as open as possible for emergency vehicles.
- * Do turn your radio to the local station. Information and instructions for picking up students during or after an emergency will be given over the radio.
- * Your children should know the safest and quickest route home in the event that buses are unable to proceed as planned, making it necessary for students to walk home from school.

- * If you are not home during the day, your children should be instructed to go to a neighbor's or relative's home where adults are present. **This procedure applies anytime it is necessary to dismiss school early.** Please be sure to discuss this matter with the neighbor or relative.
- * You should review the above procedures with your children regularly, emphasizing that the regular means of getting home from school will be used except in an extreme emergency.

We assure you that our schools will continue to work closely with the Tulare County Office of Emergency Services and will adjust our plans should changes be necessary.

63. **Primary Language** – In accordance with Education Code 48985, Strathmore Union Elementary School District will provide notices and reports in primary languages when the enrollment of a group reaches 15% or more.
64. **School Attendance Review Board (SARB)** – This board is staffed by community agency persons and volunteers to deal with students and families prior to being referred to the District Attorney or Court Probation. The students are referred after all school resources and services resources have been exhausted. (E.C. 48263, 48320-4)
65. **Suspension by Teacher** – A teacher may suspend any pupil from his or her class, for any of the acts enumerated in Section 48900, for the day of the suspension and the day following. (E.C. 48910) A teacher may also refer a pupil, for any of the acts enumerated in Section 48900, to the principal or designee for consideration of a suspension from the school.
66. **School/Classroom Disruption** – Every minor over sixteen (16) years of age, or any adult who is not a pupil of the school, who comes upon any school ground or into any schoolhouse and there willfully interferes with the discipline, good order, lawful conduct of administration of any school class or activity of the school with the intent to disrupt, obstruct or inflict damage to property or bodily injury upon any person, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (E.C. 44810)
67. **Hostile Educational Environment (E.C. 48900.4)** – Intentionally harassing, threatening or intimidating a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder, and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
68. **Suspension by the Superintendent, Principal, or Principal's Designee** – The principal of the school, the principal's designee, or the superintendent of schools may suspend a pupil from the school for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code Section 48900, and pursuant to Section 48900.5 for no more than five consecutive school days unless the suspension is extended pending expulsion. (E.C. 48911)

69. **Unauthorized Visitors** – Persons who come into any school building or onto any school ground or adjacent areas without lawful business thereon will be referred to law enforcement agencies. (E.C. 44810; P.C. 626.8, 647b, 653g)
70. **Trespassing/Forced Entry** – Persons trespassing or forcing entry into school buildings or school events will be referred to law enforcement agencies. (E.C. 32210, 44810, P.C. 602p, 626.8)
71. **Vandalism** – Disciplinary action will be taken against students whose acts endanger life of students, employees, or visitors or result in damage to school buildings, school property or possessions of students, staff members or visitors; parent or guardian is responsible for payment for damages. (C.A.C. 305; C.C. 171.1; E.C. 19910, 44806, 44810, 48904, 48907, 48909; G.C. 6201, 53069.5, 53069.6; P.C. 448a, 449a, 594, 594.5, 602)
72. **Hate Violence (E.C. 48900.3)** – Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in Education Code 33032.5 (Education Code 48900.3). Education Code 33032.5 defines “hate violence” as any act punishable under Penal Code 422.6, 422.7, or 422.75. Such acts include injuring or intimidating another person, interfering with the exercise of a person’s civil rights, or damaging a person’s property because of the person’s race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
73. **Further Information is Available** – Further information regarding our district schools, programs, policies, and procedures is available to any interested person upon request at our district office at 19811 Orange Belt Drive, P.O. Box 247, Strathmore, CA 93267 (559) 568-1283. [E.C. 48209.13, FERPA 34 CFR 99.7(b)] Information is also available in the Student Handbook. (See table of contents for more information)
74. **Alcohol & Drugs** – Board Policy 5131.6(a) addresses the instruction, intervention and enforcement of alcohol and drugs at our school district.
75. **Parental Custody** - Occasionally, custody of a child is limited to one parent or a joint split. In a case such as this, it is necessary that a legal court order be given to the school. Without a court order on file at the school, both parents have equal rights to every matter involving their child.
76. **Video Surveillance** - Cameras are located at various locations on the campuses for monitoring activities for the safety of our students.
77. **No Child Left Behind** - In January 2002, a new federal law, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, was passed by Congress. All school districts are required to notify parents regarding qualifications of their student's classroom teacher. Every district that receives Title I funds must ensure that all teachers are teaching in "core academic subjects" are highly qualified not later than the end of the 2005-06 school year. This means that any teacher who was hired to teach prior to the first day of the 2002-03 school year has four

years to obtain the necessary credential. Parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher, including:

- Whether the teacher has met state credential or license criteria for grade level and subject matter taught
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and, if so, their qualifications.

Parents must also be notified if their child is taught by a teacher who is not "highly qualified" for four consecutive weeks.

78. **Parent Involvement** - Parent involvement opportunities exist at many levels at SUESD, including planning and designing programs, implementing strategies as volunteers in the classrooms, after-school, and on committees such as School Site Council, GATE, and ELAC/DELAC. Parents are recruited from all ethnic and socioeconomic groups in our district to be representatives on the above committees. The district also has an active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that organizes events throughout the year including Book Fairs, Red Ribbon Week activities, Science Fair, etc.

Parents are also encouraged to be involved in their child's educational process through participation in "Good Citizens" and academic awards assemblies, through scheduled and informal parent/teacher/student conferences, by participating as chaperones on field trips, through family math, literacy, and science nights, and through educational meetings such as gang awareness and gang prevention nights held at the middle school campus.

Regular communications are distributed to parents in both English and Spanish and cover a variety of topics including beginning of the year welcome packets, monthly parent newsletters, notifications of all meetings and school events, school calendars, and student assessment and grade reports. School Accountability Report Cards are made available to parents and the Annual Rights Notification to Parents is distributed each school year and available as requested or on line at the district website www.suesd.k12.ca.us.

Other notification procedures on such issues as parent choice options and safe school status are in place to meet the required timelines indicated by No Child Left Behind. At the beginning of each school year, the district Superintendent sends notice to parents of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher and that they will be notified if their child is being taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified according to the requirements of NCLB.

79. **Categorical Programs** - On an annual basis, the Strathmore Union Elementary School District receives categorical funds to supplement the base/core curriculum. The specific uses of these categorical funds are described in the school's *School Plan for Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs*, commonly known as the *Site Plan*. The Site Plan, which includes the categorical funds budget, is developed and implemented by the School Site

Council (SSC). The SSC is composed of parents and staff members. With input from staff and parents, the SSC annually updates the Site Plan. At Strathmore Union Elementary School District (SUESD), a balanced, rigorous curriculum is provided for **all** students. Categorical funds support additional (supplemental) assistance to help students with special needs succeed in the regular classroom program (base/core curriculum). Supplemental services and materials are used to reinforce instruction by the classroom teacher. The regular classroom teacher has responsibility for the overall educational experience of each student. High expectations, goals, and standards for success in the base/core curriculum are the same for **all** students. Staff development activities are used to improve instructional practices to increase the ability of teachers and other staff to challenge and assist all students to reach their full potential. SUESD implements the following categorical programs:

1. **School Improvement Program (SIP)** - A state-funded program to provide schools with opportunities to enhance activities for **all** students in the major core curriculum areas. These funds are used to provide supplementary materials, instructional equipment, and personnel beyond that which the district normally provides. The purpose of SIP funds is to facilitate overall improvement in curricular programs.
2. **Economic Impact Aide/Limited English Proficient (EIA/LEP)** - A state-funded program for the purpose of meeting the needs of English Learners (EL) whose primary language is other than English. EL services provide English language development and primary language support to English Learners.
3. **Professional Development (SB 1882)** - A state-funded program to provide on-going educational training activities for the purpose of improving the job-related skills of principals, teachers, instructional aides, classroom volunteers, and other student support personnel who serve students in grades nine through twelve.
4. **English Language Acquisition Program (ELAP)** - A state-funded program to improve the English proficiency of English Learners in grades four through eight and to better prepare them to meet the state's academic content and performance standards.
5. **Title I (Helping Disadvantaged Students Meet Standards)** - A federal-funded program for the purpose of meeting the needs of students who are at risk of failing to meet state and/or district standards in reading, language arts, or math. Services and materials supplement and work in concert with the base/core programs.
6. **Title II (Eisenhower Professional Development)** - A federal-funded program focused on enhancing the expertise of teachers and other school staff to enable them to teach all children in the core academic subjects. All SUESD schools benefit from these funds.

7. **Title VI (Innovative Education)** - A federal-funded program for the purpose of providing support for innovative programs, over and above those provided by district funds. Currently, in SUESD, these funds are being used to provide library books and multi-media materials for all schools.

Parent involvement is an important part of implementing categorical programs. SUESD conducts the following parent involvement activities for its categorical programs:

1. **School Site Council (SSC)** - All schools receiving SIP funds are required to form a SSC. The SSC is composed of parents and school personnel. The SSC is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating the School Site Plan programs. Members serve for two years and are elected by their peers. Elections for new members are held annually at the beginning of the school year.
 2. **English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)** - All schools enrolling 21 or more English Learners are required to form an ELAC. The ELAC is composed of parents and school personnel. The ELAC provides input and makes recommendations to the principal, staff, and SSC regarding services for English Learners. Members serve for two years. Parents are elected by parents. The ELAC is formed in the fall of odd-number years.
 3. **Annual Title I Meeting** - All schools receiving Title I funds are required to hold an annual Title I Meeting in which all parents of participating students are invited. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the Title I program and services and to provide parents with an opportunity to have input in the planning and implementation of the Title I Program. The Title I Annual Meeting is held in the fall.
80. **Unsafe School Choice Option** - allows students to transfer to a “safe” public school if they become victims of a violent crime while on public school grounds, or if their school meets the definition of a “persistently dangerous” public school. Such schools must develop a plan to correct the unsafe conditions. The Unsafe School Choice Option applies to all schools in California, regardless of whether they receive Title I funds.