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Report Card



Connecting Our Campuses & Community

State's Nutrition Guidelines Continue to Evolve

Students will notice some changes in their food choices when they return to campus this fall. The Texas Department of Agriculture's new Public School Nutrition Policy takes effect Aug.1 and significantly limits the types and amounts of foods and beverages available to students while they are at school. The state's new policy is in response to the growing rates of childhood obesity and related diseases among Texas schoolchildren.

"In the past few years we have been working toward providing healthier choices," says **Bette Mogg**, director of food and nutrition services. "The recent updates made by the Department of Agriculture generally involve portion sizes for certain foods, such as french fries. Our goal is to work in partnership with the Department of Agriculture to serve healthy meals that kids will still enjoy."

The following chart shows how the state's policy applies to elementary, middle and high schools. For more information about the policy or the types of foods it addresses, visit www.squaremeals.org.

New School Meal Prices for 2004-05

Due to the increase in food supply costs, school meal prices for 2004-05 will increase by 10 cents over last year's prices. This is the first meal price increase for the district since 1997.

- All student breakfasts 90¢
- Elementary student lunch \$1.60
- Secondary student lunch \$2.00
- Adult breakfast \$1.25
- Adult lunch \$2.40
- Reduced-price breakfast* 30¢
- Reduced-price lunch* 40¢

*Available to students who meet federal eligibility guidelines.



FOODS OF MINIMAL NUTRITIONAL VALUE*

SODA WATER

Includes any carbonated beverages, including those with added nutrients such as vitamins, minerals and protein.

WATER ICES

Includes any frozen, sweetened water such as popsicles and other "...sicles" and flavored ice with the exception of products that contain fruit or fruit juice.

CHEWING GUM

Includes any flavored products made from natural or synthetic gums and other ingredients that form an insoluble mass for chewing.

CERTAIN CANDIES

Includes any processed foods made predominantly from sweeteners, including hard candy, jellies and gums, marshmallow candies, fondant, licorice, spun candy and candy-coated popcorn.

*Some items have received exemptions from USDA. Go to www.squaremeals.org for that list.

POLICY	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	MIDDLE SCHOOLS	HIGH SCHOOLS
FMNVs (Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value)	Not allowed at any time during the school day. (Certain exemptions are allowed for school nurses, students with special needs and up to three schoolwide special events approved by campus officials.)	Not allowed until after the last lunch period. (Certain exemptions are allowed for school nurses, students with special needs and up to three schoolwide special events approved by campus officials.)	Not allowed during meal periods in areas where reimbursable meals are served and consumed.
CANDY (including candy bars and packaged candies not included as FMNVs)	Not allowed at any time during the school day. (Certain exemptions are allowed for school nurses, students with special needs and up to three schoolwide special events approved by campus officials.)	Not allowed until after the last lunch period. (Certain exemptions are allowed for students with special needs and up to three schoolwide special events approved by campus officials.)	Allowed.
COMPETITIVE FOODS (all foods and beverages that are not provided by school food service)	Not allowed at any time during the school day.	Not allowed during meal periods.	Not allowed during meal periods in areas where reimbursable meals are consumed.
FRENCH FRIES AND FRIED POTATO PRODUCTS (except chips)	May not exceed 3 oz. servings, may only be served once a week, and may only be purchased one serving at a time.	May not exceed 3 oz. servings, may only be served three times a week, and may only be purchased one serving at a time.	May not exceed 3 oz. servings and may only be purchased one serving at a time.
CARBONATED BEVERAGES	Not allowed at any time during the school day.	Not allowed until after the last lunch period.	Sugared, carbonated beverages cannot be sold in containers larger than 12 oz. and are not allowed during meal periods in areas where reimbursable meals are served and consumed.* By 2005-06 school year: no more than 30 percent of beverages in vending machines should be sugared, carbonated drinks.
<small>*The Texas Department of Agriculture allows exceptions for districts with existing beverage contracts; therefore, Mesquite ISD will be allowed to offer these items in 20 oz. containers for the next four years.</small>			
FRUIT/VEGETABLE JUICES	By the beginning of 2006-07 school year, all beverages will be milk, unflavored water and 100 percent fruit and/or vegetable juices.	N/A	N/A
DEEP-FAT FRYING	Should be eliminated as a method of preparation as soon as possible. Refer to target dates in full policy.		
FATS	Food items containing more than 28 grams of fat per serving size cannot be served more than twice per week. (2006-07 school year goal: reduce limit to 23 grams.)		
MILK	Must offer 2 percent, 1 percent or skim milk at all points where milk is served. Flavored milk cannot contain more than 30 grams of sugar per 8 oz. serving.		
FRUITS & VEGETABLES	Should be offered daily on all points of service, preferably fresh.		

Enrolling in Mesquite ISD Schools

Who?

All students of qualifying age living within the boundaries of Mesquite ISD are eligible for public education in this district.

Where?

Registration will take place on each individual campus. Parents are asked to contact their school office to make an appointment. Campus office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are unsure about which school your child should attend, please call the **Instruction Office** at **972-288-6411**.

When?

Registration officially begins on Monday, Aug. 2, 2004, on each campus unless otherwise indicated by the campus.

For more information, contact your child's school or the Instruction Office at 972-882-7402.

How?

Parents need to provide the following documents when registering their children for school:

1. Enrolling parent's or guardian's photo identification, such as a driver's license.
2. Proof of residency within the school attendance zone. (Apartment renters must present a lease showing the parent's/guardian's name and the child's name.)
3. Copy of the child's birth certificate or other document suitable as proof of the child's identity.
4. Child's immunization record.
5. Copy of records from school most recently attended by your child. If you have the withdrawal form from your child's previous school, please supply that for enrollment also.
6. Child's Social Security card.

Dress Code Q & A

Detailed guidelines about the Mesquite ISD dress code can be found online at www.mesquiteisd.org and in the Student Handbook & Student Code of Conduct, which students will receive the first week of school.

Why does Mesquite ISD have such a strict dress code?

Student dress has a direct impact on the educational environment. Learning is not a casual activity; it is hard work, and student dress should not be distracting to the important work of learning.

What does the district mean by "dressed and groomed appropriately for school?"

Following fads and fashions is a fun and natural part of growing up; however, all fads and fashions are not appropriate for the school environment. Some clothing worn at home or out with friends may not be conducive to the learning environment and may even be a distraction to learning. Appropriate attire for school is modest, nonthreatening, and is not a cause for distraction. Adults understand that certain situations require a particular type of dress. Teaching students this important lesson will help them to earn the respect of others by dressing in an acceptable way for any given situation.

What happens when a student violates the dress code?

If a student wears (or carries) an item of clothing that is not allowed under the dress code, he or she will be sent to the principal's office. If the principal or designee determines that the student's dress and/or grooming is inappropriate, he or she will notify the student's parent/guardian, who will be asked to bring a change of clothing to the student at school. Students will not be allowed to return to class until they are in compliance with the dress code guidelines.

Who has the final word on whether a student is dressed appropriately?

The principal has the final decision on dress code issues.

What if I, as a parent, do not agree with the dress and grooming guidelines set by the district?

It has been upheld in court that public school districts have the right to set dress and grooming standards for students in their schools. The district hopes you, as parents, will assist us by monitoring what your child(ren) wear to school to be sure that it meets the guidelines.

Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Texas School Entrance/Attendance

This chart summarizes the vaccine requirements required by the Texas Department of Health. Vaccinations administered less than or equal to four days before the minimum interval or age shall be counted as valid. For more information about vaccination requirements or exemptions, contact the **Texas Department of Health Immunization Division** at **1-800-252-9152** or go to www.immunizetexas.com.

Vaccine	Required Doses
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	Upon entry into kindergarten: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 doses, one of which has been received on or after the 4th birthday. • 4 doses if the 4th dose was received on or after the 4th birthday. • 3 doses if vaccinations started after the age of 7. Td booster every 10 years.
Poliomyelitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 doses, one of which has been received on or after the 4th birthday • 3 doses if the third dose is received on or after the 4th birthday.
Measles	2 doses, first dose received on or after the 1st birthday.
Mumps	1 dose received on or after the 1st birthday.
Rubella	1 dose received on or after the 1st birthday.
Hepatitis B	3 doses are required for the following grades in the following school years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004-05 K-5 and 7-10 • 2005-06 K-11 • 2006-07 K-12 In some circumstances, the US FDA has approved the use of an alternative dosage schedule for an existing vaccination. To be acceptable, the alternative regimen must be fully documented by including manufacturer and dosage received for each dose.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	1 dose received on or after 1st birthday for the following grades in the following school years: 2004-05 K-4 and 7-10 2005-06 K-5 and 7-11 2006-07 K-12 2 doses are required if the student was 13 years old or older at the time the first dose was received.

COLLEGE NIGHT

for Juniors, Seniors & Parents

EASTFIELD COLLEGE

Monday, Sept. 20, 2004 7:00 p.m.

Meet representatives from more than 100 colleges, junior colleges and technical/trade schools, as well as military recruiters from across the United States and learn about the variety of financial aid options available.

Low-Cost Student Insurance Option Available

Have you wondered who is responsible for the cost of medical care if your child is injured at school? You may not be aware that public school districts have immunity from payment of medical expenses for bodily injury to students and the public, except for limited liability as the result of negligent operation and during the operation of a motorized vehicle. (*Texas Tort Claims Act § 101.021 and § 101.051*) Under Texas law, students and their parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of their medical care if injured on school property.

Mesquite ISD provides an opportunity for parents to purchase student accident insurance at a low cost. Participation in this insurance program is strictly **voluntary**. Enrollment forms are available at the main office of each campus.

You may select from two types of coverage:

- only while your child is at school and school functions, or
- 24 hours a day at home, school or anywhere.

This insurance has no deductible, even if you have other insurance, and it does not require the parent's insurance to co-pay. It will cover the child even when the parents have not met their deductible for other insurance.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to return the completed enrollment form and premium payment directly to the insurance company. Mesquite ISD will not collect forms and payments for this coverage.

Every School Day Counts

Everyone knows the importance of a good education. In order to maximize each child's learning potential, he or she must attend school on a regular basis. According to the Texas Education Code, students must be in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days a class is offered to receive credit. While it is rare for a student to complete his or her education with perfect attendance, it is imperative that even "excused" absences not exceed 10 percent of the days a class is offered.

Once the maximum number of days has been exceeded, credit will be denied unless the Campus Attendance Committee determines that absences were due to extenuating circumstances. In such a case, the committee can elect to restore credit. Parents are encouraged to become more familiar with this and other MISD policies by carefully reading their child's student handbook and Student Code of Conduct.

Mesquite ISD

2004-05 School Calendar



IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Aug. 16	.....	First Day of School
Aug. 24	.....	Middle School Open House; Early Release (middle school only)
Aug. 26	.....	Elementary Open House; Early Release (elementary only)
Aug. 27	.....	Teacher Staff Development
Aug. 30	.....	High School Open House; Early Release (high school only)
Sept. 15	.....	Curricular Planning; Early Release (all students)
Oct. 25	.....	Teacher Staff Development
Dec. 17	.....	Early Release (all students)
Jan. 3	.....	Teacher Preparation Day
Jan. 28	.....	Teacher Staff Development
Feb. 2	.....	Curricular Planning; Early Release (all students)
May 12	.....	Employee Recognition; Early Release (all students)
May 26	.....	Last Day of School; Early Release (all students)
May 27	.....	Teacher Preparation Day

HOLIDAYS

July 5	.....	Independence Day Holiday
Sept. 6	.....	Labor Day
Oct. 4	.....	Fair Day
Nov. 24 - 26	.....	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 20 - 31	.....	Winter Break
Jan. 17	.....	Martin Luther King Holiday
March 14 - 18	.....	Spring Break
March 25	.....	Holiday/Snow Day
April 29	.....	Holiday/Snow Day

STATE ASSESSMENT DATES *

Feb. 22 - 23	.....	TAKS/SDAA
April 5	.....	TAKS/SDAA
April 19 - 22	.....	TAKS/SDAA

Days highlighted in blue are student holidays.

A more detailed version of Mesquite ISD's school calendar and the Motley Elementary year-round school calendar are available online at www.mesquiteisd.org.

* For a complete list of state testing dates, check the Mesquite ISD Web site for a link to the TEA state assessment calendar.

School Day Start & Finish Times

The bell schedule for Mesquite ISD schools is as follows:

	START	FINISH
Elementary Schools	7:55 a.m.	2:55 p.m.
Middle Schools	8:15 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
High Schools	8:35 a.m.	3:45 p.m.

The Mesquite Academy has its own schedule to accommodate its modified instructional programs. For more information about the **Mesquite Academy** school hours or programs, call **(972) 882-7570**.

Early Release Times

On Early Release Days (see school calendar), dismissal times are as follows:

Elementary Schools	1:25 p.m.
Middle Schools	1:55 p.m.
High Schools	2:15 p.m. (new time this year)

District Bus Transportation

Students who live at least two miles from the campus they attend are eligible for school bus transportation to and from school. For bus routes and schedules, call the **Transportation Department** at **(972) 882-7550**.



Release of Student Directory Information

According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Texas Open Records Act, the following student information is considered "directory information," and may be released to the public:

- name
- address
- telephone number
- date and place of birth
- marital status
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- weight and height of athletic team members
- dates of attendance
- expected date of graduation
- awards received in school
- most recent previous school attended.

In Mesquite ISD, student address and phone number are automatically excluded from student directory information and will not be released, with the exception of release allowed to military recruiters (ref.

Sec. 554 of the National Defense Authorization Act). If a parent wants other directory information about his or her child excluded, please notify the principal in writing within 10 days of returning the acknowledgement form found in each child's student handbook. This written request must be made annually to be valid each school year.

Student photographs, names, activities, honors and achievements will be allowed for use in Mesquite ISD communications projects unless a parent specifically requests that such usage be denied.



Free/Reduced-Price Meals Available to Qualifying Students

Mesquite ISD provides free and reduced-price cafeteria meals for students from families who qualify based on federal government guidelines. The meals served each school day are offered through the National School Lunch Program/National School Breakfast Program. Parents may apply for this benefit before the start of the school year at the Food and Nutrition Services Department located in the MISD Service Center at 800 E. Kearney, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Students will bring an application home during the first week of school. Parents may complete the form and return it to the school for processing, which may take up to 10 days. Parents will need to provide lunch money or a sack lunch for their child(ren) until they receive their notification letter. Returning students who were with Mesquite ISD at the end of last school year and had benefits will have their benefits carry over through Sept. 27 (Sept. 13 for Motley Elementary students),

or until the new application is processed. If no application is received, the benefit will end Sept. 27 (Sept. 13 for Motley).

Applications are accepted throughout the school year. Reapplication may be made any time there has been a change in the household status. Applications are strictly confidential and are used only for the purpose of determining eligibility for the meal program.

For more information on applications for free or reduced-price meals, contact the **Food and Nutrition Services Department** at **(972) 882-5512**.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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Don't miss our exciting 2004 Fall Schedule — available now!

For more information, to view our schedule or to register, please visit us at www.communityedclasses.org.

To receive a copy of our 2004 Fall Schedule by mail, call **972-88-CLASS!**

Non-Mesquite residents are always welcome.

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career & Technology Education Programs

Mesquite Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in agriculture, business, health/science technology, family and consumer sciences, marketing, technology, and trade and industry. Admission into a career and technology program is dependent upon interest and aptitude, age appropriateness, and availability of class space.

It is the policy of Mesquite ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Mesquite ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator, **Dr. Denise Kutch**, or the Section 504 coordinator, **Treva Franklin**, at 405 East Davis, **972-288-6411**.

Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and student who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following 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 (ED) –
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of–
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal

information obtained from student for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use–
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Mesquite Independent School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Mesquite Independent School District will directly notify parents and eligible

students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Mesquite Independent School District will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U. S. Mail or e-mail, at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales and other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office U. S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

MISD's Asbestos Management Plan Projects Continue

A copy of the MISD Asbestos Management Plan is on file in the Facilities Management Office at 800 E. Kearney. Individual campus management plans are on file in each school administrative area.

MISD employees licensed by the Texas Department of Health administer the MISD Management Plan. An individual asbestos management planner is assisted by a licensed asbestos inspector, asbestos project supervisors and asbestos workers. Six-month surveillance, three-year reinspections and all response activities are conducted according to the Environmental Protection Agency rules 40 CFR.

Abatement projects took place at **McWhorter Elementary School, Mesquite High School vocational building, North Mesquite High School food lab, and West Mesquite High School food lab** during the past year.

If you have any questions about AHERA, a federally mandated program, please call **James Goodner** at **972-882-5554**.

Mesquite ISD Pest Management Program Patron Notification

Mesquite ISD follows an adopted Integrated Pest Management Policy statement. The policy is based on generally accepted tenets of integrated pest management tactics that are compatible with human health and environmental protection, proper identification of pest problems, monitoring programs to determine when pests are present or when pest problems are severe enough to justify corrective action, use of non-chemical management strategies whenever practical, and preferential use of least-toxic chemical controls when pesticides are needed.

State regulations followed by the district include requirements to notify students, staff and parents of pending pesticide applications; keeping proper pesticide application records including copies of labels and Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) for all pesticides used on school

facilities; adherence to a 12-hour waiting interval between pesticide application and student occupation of treated facilities; use of least hazardous pesticides according to the pesticide approval process for schools; and licensing of all staff who apply pesticides. No person shall store or apply pesticide on school district property without an appropriate pesticide applicator's license. Administrators, teachers, coaches, custodians or any district employees who store and use unapproved pesticides are in violation of MISD policy and are subject to fines and penalties administered by the Texas Structural Pest Control Board, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Insecticide/Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

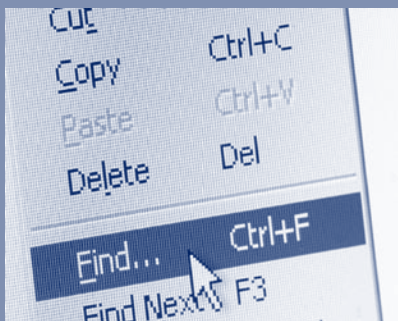
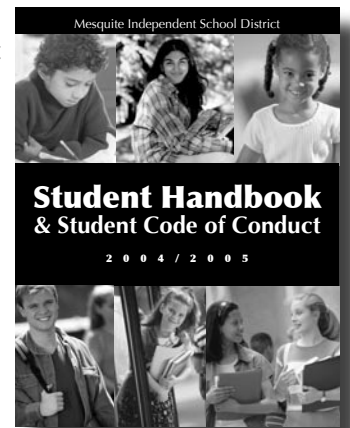
If you have any questions about MISD's IPM Practices, please call **James Goodner** at **(972) 882-5554**.

Review the Student Handbook & Student Code of Conduct

When school begins, every Mesquite ISD student will receive a personal copy of the Student Handbook & Student Code of Conduct. This book outlines the expected behavior of our students and the rules and regulations for the district. In previous years, a different handbook was provided for each level (elementary, middle school and high school). This year, parents will find information for all levels in one convenient book. Information that pertains only to certain grade levels is clearly marked in the text.

All parents must review the code and sign a Student/Parent Acknowledgement Form, which is located on the last page of the booklet. Your signature indicates that you have received a copy of these important rules and procedures. This form should be returned to your child's campus by Friday, Aug. 20, 2004. The book is yours to keep as a reference throughout the school year.

If you have any questions or need further explanation of the Student Code of Conduct, please call **(972) 882-7402** to speak with an administrative officer for instruction.



Answers are just a click away. Visit www.mesquiteisd.org

- School Locator
- Enrollment Information
- Links to Campus Web Sites
- Employment Opportunities
- School Calendar
- Student Handbooks
- TEA District and Campus Reports
- Lunch Menus
- Student and Campus News

and much, much more!

Report Card

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Report Card is published bimonthly by the Mesquite ISD Communications Department under the direction of the superintendent. Its purpose is to inform Mesquite ISD patrons about district programs, student accomplishments and other school-related information. Some postal patrons not served by Mesquite ISD receive this newsletter as a result of postal routes crossing over district lines. In an effort to save taxpayer money, Mesquite ISD uses bulk mail to deliver this newsletter to an entire postal carrier route. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for those who do not wish to receive this publication.

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