



New Frontiers Public Schools

New Frontiers Public Schools Student/Parent Handbook 2023-2024

Topics in the Student Handbook Addendum include important information on Academics, School Activities, School Operations, and Requirements Specific to NFPS and Alamo Colleges. Be sure both you and your child are familiar with the various issues addressed in this Handbook. Revisions may be made. Notifications of any changes will be sent

home.

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Board Approved on July 19, 2023

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SECTION I: ACADEMICS AND GRADING

Greg A. Garcia, Academic Standards

- FLMECHS//IDECHS/GAGECIS is recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as an Early College/intermediate/ School . As an ECHS, FLMECHS/IDECHS academic standards and requirements are carefully prescribed and have been identified in the Four-Year Plan, which can be located on the campus website. Students are required to maintain strict adherence to the Four-Year Plan as part of the Memorandum of Understanding and Shared Services Agreement with Palo Alto College, a college of the Alamo College District.
- FLMECHS/IDECHS students must satisfy the academic progress standards as outlined by Alamo Community College District (ACCD) policy. Acceptable scholastic performance is based upon student progress toward successful course and program completion and indicates that the student's grade point average (GPA) is at least 2.0. The components used to compute Academic Standing are GPA and course completion.
- The FLMECHS/IDECHS Counselor and a ALAMO COLLEGES Advisor will conduct an academic review of FLMECHS/IDECHS students each fall and spring semester to determine if summer courses are needed.
- Students who need to repeat a course (FLMECHS/IDECHS or ALAMO COLLEGES) must repeat the course during the summer after the academic year and earn a satisfactory grade. All costs for summer enrollment in ALAMO COLLEGES courses (including textbooks) will be paid by the student or student's family.
- FLMECHS/IDECHS students who have not earned credit for ENGL 1301 & 1302 by the end of the summer between their junior and senior years may be removed from the FLMECHS/IDECHS program and ACCD.
- Alamo Colleges and FLMECHS/IDECHS Early Alert systems will be utilized to identify any FLMECHS/IDECHS student with a GPA below a 2.0 in a class or disrupting the learning environment.
- FLMECHS/IDECHS sophomores must be college-ready (i.e., passing the Essay and ELAR portions of the TSI) by April 15th of his/her sophomore year.
- The FLMECHS/IDECHS junior must be college-ready in Mathematics by April 15th of his/her junior year.
- Per ACCD policy, parents may not have direct communications with ALAMO COLLEGES faculty and staff. Any concerns or questions should be addressed to appropriate FLMECHS/IDECHS staff.

Academic Probation

Students who begin any semester term in Good Academic Standing but fail to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher are placed on Academic Probation. Notification of probationary status is communicated by ACCD electronically through students' ACES Portal (Alamo Colleges Educational Services) email addresses. Students on Academic Probation may re-enroll for one semester after meeting with FLMECHS/IDECHS and ALAMO COLLEGES officials and completing the FLMECHS/IDECHS Probation Contract. Student status is evaluated after each semester term. Students must earn a semester term GPA of 2.0 and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to remain enrolled at FLMECHS/IDECHS and ACCD while on Academic Probation. **A student must be dually enrolled at FLMECHS/IDECHS and at ALAMO COLLEGES in order to stay in the program; therefore, if a student is Academically Dismissed from ALAMO COLLEGES, that student will be dismissed from FLMECHS/IDECHS and must return to the high school in their assigned attendance zone.**

Academic Dismissal Greg A. Garcia If a student on Academic Probation fails to earn a semester term GPA of 2.0, or fails to earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 in the next semester term following their placement on Academic Probation, the student will be placed on Academic Dismissal.

Academic Integrity Violations Greg A. Garcia Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, Academic Misconduct, Cheating, Plagiarism, Fabrication and Collusion. Administrators and teachers may initiate disciplinary actions against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. **Possible disciplinary actions may include suspension, awarding a 0 grade for the assignment, or both. Repeated offenses in the area of scholastic dishonesty may result in academic dismissal from**

Greg A. Garcia , that student will be dismissed from Greg A. Garcia and must return to the Middle school of their assigned attendance zone.

Definition of Terms

Academic Misconduct - the intentional violation of Greg A. Garcia policies, such as tampering with grades, misrepresenting one's identity, or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test or assessment, or any information regarding the content of such an instrument.

Cheating - the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids; or an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent academic skills or knowledge; or unauthorized copying or collaboration.

Fabrication - intentional misrepresentation or invention of any information, such as falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

Plagiarism - the unauthorized or undocumented use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.

Collusion - assisting another to commit an act of academic dishonesty, such as paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, taking a test or doing an assignment for someone else, or allowing someone to do these things for one's own benefit.

Greg A. Garcia Grading Policies

A. Philosophy

The academic philosophy of Frank L. Madla Early College High School is the following:

- Quality over quantity
- Rigor and relevance over hard and busy work
- Critical thinking over simple rote memorization

Assignments that are multi-disciplinary may be assigned by teachers and counted as grades in multiple classes. The student will be challenged via tasks, assignments and projects that focus on **Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking** and constant **Checking for Understanding** (The 4 Cs). These tasks will be framed with **Rigor** and **Relevance** in a manner that fosters **Relationship** building within the Greg A. Garcia learning community (The 3 Rs).

B. Grading and Grade Reporting

Greg A. Garcia is on a semester grading period. Teachers will communicate with parents when students are not working to their potential. Logs of these communications will be kept by the teacher. In addition, teachers will respond to parents' concerns/inquiries within two instructional days.

C. Grading Values

<u>Greg A. Garcia</u>	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
Below 70	F

D. Testing and Projects

- No school assignments or projects will be given for students to complete during Spring break or Christmas break.
- No tests, projects, essays, performances, or lab reports will be due the weeks of STAAR/EOC testing, Grades for these designated weeks are limited to in- class assignments.

- There will be no videos without proper request and approval after testing. The teacher will plan academic activities to engage the students.

Greg A. Garcia Grading Guidelines

Greg A. Garcia Grades should reflect knowledge and mastery of a subject.

1. Teachers must have one or more grades each week (not including participation grades).
2. Grades should be entered weekly in Ascender
3. Student work will be graded and returned in a timely manner. For most assignments, this will be within two instructional days. Reports, essays, and large projects may take longer. Specific feedback to students is encouraged on scores below 75.
4. Discipline shall NOT be used to academically penalize students. Grades are recorded only for academic mastery, not for other purposes including obtaining parent signatures, bringing supplies, etc.
5. Teachers will not change posted grades unless an error has been made.

Aiding Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts and open enrollment charter schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI). The implementation of RtI has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts and charter schools to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parents may contact the individual(s) listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a Special Education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine if the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals:

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or an administrative employee of the school district or open enrollment charter school, the district or charter school must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district or charter school must give the parent a prior written notice of whether it agrees to or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards*.

If the school district or charter school agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Please note that a request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally and does not need to be in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline.

If the district or charter school decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student's initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent's written consent to evaluate the student. However, if the student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If a district or charter school receives a parent's consent for the initial

evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30th due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district or charter school must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost. Additional information regarding special education is available from the district or charter school in a companion document titled *Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process*.

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals:

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is:

Contact Person: Special Education Lead

Phone Number: -210-519-3900

Section 504 Referrals:

Each school district or charter school must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's or charter school's Section 504 program. Districts and charter schools must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals:

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is:

Contact Person: 504 Coordinator

Phone Number: 210-519-3900

Additional Information:

The following websites provide information and resources for students with disabilities and their families.

- Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process
- Partners Resource Network
- Special Education Information Center
- Texas Project First

Cómo ayudar a aquellos estudiantes que tienen dificultades de aprendizaje o precisan servicios de educación especial o de la Sección 504

Para aquellos estudiantes que tienen dificultades en el salón de clases normal, todos los distritos escolares y las escuelas autónomas de inscripción abierta deben contemplar servicios de tutoría y compensatorios, y otros servicios de apoyo académico o conductual que estén disponibles para todos los estudiantes, incluido un proceso basado en la Respuesta a la Intervención (RtI). La implementación de la RtI tiene el potencial positivo en los distritos y escuelas autónomas de satisfacer las necesidades de todos los estudiantes con problemas.

Si un estudiante está experimentando dificultades de aprendizaje, sus padres pueden comunicarse con la(s) persona(s) mencionada(s) más abajo para obtener información sobre el sistema general de remisión o control de la educación general de la escuela para los servicios de apoyo. Dicho sistema vincula a los estudiantes con una variedad de opciones de apoyo, entre las que se encuentra la remisión para que se realice una evaluación de educación especial o una evaluación de la Sección 504 con el fin de determinar si el estudiante necesita asistencia, adaptaciones o servicios específicos. Los padres pueden pedir una evaluación para los servicios de educación especial o de la Sección 504 en cualquier momento.

Remisiones de educación especial:

Si los padres solicitan, por escrito, al director de servicios de educación especial o a un empleado administrativo del distrito escolar o de la escuela autónoma de inscripción abierta que se realice una evaluación inicial para recibir servicios de educación especial, el distrito o la escuela autónoma deben responder dentro de los 15 días lectivos después de haber recibido la solicitud. En ese momento, el distrito o la escuela autónoma deben entregar a los padres notificación previa por escrito respecto de si están de acuerdo o no en evaluar al estudiante, además de enviarles una copia de la *Notificación de salvaguardas procesales*. Si el distrito escolar o la escuela autónoma están de acuerdo en evaluar al estudiante, también deben darles a los padres la oportunidad de prestar su consentimiento por escrito para la evaluación.

Por favor tenga en cuenta que una solicitud para una evaluación de educación especial puede hacerse verbalmente y no necesita hacerse por escrito. Los distritos y escuelas "chárter" deben seguir cumpliendo con todas las notificaciones previas por escrito y los requisitos sobre las salvaguardas procesales de la ley federal para identificar, localizar y evaluar a los niños que se intuya puedan ser niños con alguna discapacidad y que necesite educación especial. Sin embargo, una petición verbal no requiere que el distrito o la escuela "chárter" respondan dentro del periodo establecido de los 15 días escolares. Si el distrito o la escuela autónoma deciden evaluar al estudiante, deben completar la evaluación inicial y el informe de la evaluación dentro de los 45 días lectivos posteriores al día en que reciban el consentimiento por escrito de los padres para evaluar al estudiante. Sin embargo, si el estudiante se ausenta de la escuela por tres días lectivos o más durante el período de evaluación, dicho período se extenderá la misma cantidad de días lectivos que el estudiante haya faltado.

Existe una excepción al plazo de 45 días lectivos. Si un distrito o una escuela autónoma reciben el consentimiento de los padres para la evaluación inicial entre los 35 y 45 días lectivos previos al último día de clases del año, deben completar el informe escrito y proporcionarles una copia del mismo a los padres, a más tardar, el 30 de junio de dicho año. No obstante, si el estudiante falta a la escuela tres días o más durante el período de evaluación, no se aplica la fecha límite del 30 de junio, sino que se aplica el plazo general de 45 días lectivos más prórrogas por ausencias de tres días o más. Al completar la evaluación, el distrito o la escuela autónoma deben proporcionar a los padres una copia del informe de evaluación en forma gratuita.

Hay disponible información adicional sobre educación especial del distrito o la escuela autónoma en el documento complementario titulado *Guía para padres sobre el proceso de admisión, revisión y retiro*.

Persona de contacto para las remisiones de educación especial:

La persona designada para contactar en relación con las opciones para un estudiante que experimente dificultades de aprendizaje o en relación con una remisión a evaluación para recibir servicios de educación especial es:

Persona de contacto: Special Education Coordinator

Número de teléfono: 210-519-3900

Remisiones de la Sección 504:

Cada distrito escolar o escuela autónoma debe tener estándares y procedimientos en vigor para la evaluación y colocación de estudiantes en el programa de la Sección 504 del distrito o la escuela autónoma. Además, los distritos y las escuelas autónoma deben implementar un sistema de salvaguardas procesales que incluya una notificación, una oportunidad para que los padres o tutores examinen los registros relevantes, una audiencia imparcial en la que puedan participar los padres o tutores y en la que haya representación por parte de un abogado, y un procedimiento de revisión.

Persona de contacto para las remisiones de la Sección 504:

La persona designada para contactar en relación con las opciones para un estudiante que experimente dificultades de aprendizaje o en relación con una remisión a evaluación para recibir servicios de la Sección 504 es:

Persona de contacto: 504 Coordinator

Número de teléfono: 210-

Información adicional:

Los siguientes sitios web ofrecen información y recursos para los estudiantes con discapacidades y sus familias.

Absence/Make-up Work

It is the student's responsibility to coordinate with the teacher and get any missed work. Students must meet with the teacher the day of their return to campus; and all work must be completed and submitted in accordance with the teacher's established deadlines. After the established deadline has passed, any remaining missing work will be assigned a grade of zero.

Missing Assignments/Late Work

All work is due to the teacher by the assigned deadline. Any student with a missing assignment may be assigned after school detention or Saturday School.

The following assignments will NOT be accepted late:

- Daily Work
- Tests
- Quizzes
- Science Labs
- Theater Performances

Projects and Essays will be accepted up to TWO DAYS late, if submitted personally to the teacher with the following DEDUCTIONS on the project's/essay's final grade:

- First day late (turned in on due date at any time after the class period has ended) – 5 points
- Second day late (due at 9 AM the very next school day after the due date) – 10 points
- Third day late (two school days after the due date) – Grade recorded as a ZERO

If sufficient time is given in class to complete projects or essays, this clause does not apply. Projects cannot be redone for a higher grade.

Make-up Test Policy (Different from Retest Policy)

If absent on the day of the test, it is the student's responsibility to contact his/her teacher upon returning to school and make arrangements to complete the exam(s) missed. Tests must be made up within three school days from the day the exam was originally given. The student is solely responsible to acknowledge exam dates, which are provided by the teacher. Make-up exams will cover the same material but may be different in format from the original exam.

Grading Weights

Greg A. Garcia category percentages:

Homework	10%
Tests/Projects (Min of 2 per 9 wks.)	40%
Quiz, Daily Assignment	50%

"Reteach/Retest" Policy

Any student scoring 69% or below on a test will be permitted to retake that test after fulfilling the retest requirements established by the teacher. ***It is the student's responsibility to submit to the teacher a request for the reteach and the retest within five days of the posted grade.*** The retest will occur within five school days of the reteach. All retests will cover the same material but may be different in format from the original exam. The teacher's

specific requirements for reteach and retest will be listed in their syllabus.

The new grade will be the average of the two grades (original test and retest).

Greg A. Gracia teachers will “reteach” content to students who do not understand what is presented the first time.

This may be done in ways such as:

- Students may be permitted to rework or correct unsatisfactory tests.
- The student may be required to retake a major examination.
- The teacher may require the student to attend a tutorial program. Co-curricular or extracurricular activities shall not interfere with these academic requirements. The teacher may assign additional work on a particular unit for the student to complete.
- The teacher may work with small groups during class time while other students work independently.

Teachers shall plan for re-teaching at the same time they plan initial instruction, thereby ensuring that alternatives are immediately available when needed. The teacher will provide reteaching and retesting during class time if 20% or more students in a class fail to demonstrate 70% mastery of the TEKS on a major examination. An examination is considered major if it falls under the Tests/Projects 40% (Min of 2/9wks) category of a student’s grade. All students will be given the opportunity to reteach and retest with the average of the two grades recorded. Teachers should use professional judgment to differentiate students who clearly mastered the content the first time (90% or higher).

Homework

Missing assignments are the number one reason for low grades. Parents and students are expected to do everything possible to turn in all required work when due.

During the weeks of STAAR testing, grades are limited to in-class assignments for students participating in testing.

Extra-Credit Opportunities

All such opportunities are at the discretion of the teacher. If an extra credit assignment is offered, it must be purposeful, reasonable, and applicable to the curricular objectives, available for all students and comply with grading policy. Extra credit assignments are to be completed at home, not during the school day. Teachers may offer extra credit to students by offering an extra assignment and counted as a homework grade.

Honor Roll

After each nine-week period, an honor /awards ceremony will be scheduled to recognize students’ hard work. Teachers and staff are required to provide names and participate in each assembly.

- “A” Honor Roll ~ All “A’s” in all subjects
- “A/B” Honor Roll ~ “A’s” and “B’s” in all subjects

Enrichment

Students are provided with instructional assistance during Academic labs, in preparation for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA), State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End-of-Course (EOC) exams, and/or the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) on a daily basis - Students earn a grade for this class, which is not included on the report card, and attendance is taken. This class is subject to compulsory attendance laws, as the instructional minutes provided are included in the calculation of state-required instructional minutes per academic year.

Semester Exams

Semester exams are NOT assessments that can be retaken for grade improvement. All Greg A. Gracia students are given sufficient time to review concepts and material that will be covered on the semester exam and have access to tutorial opportunities throughout the week.

Student Expectations during Final Exam Week

- Students are to report to all classes on time for attendance.
- Students who do not have an exam during a period must report to their testing location. Students are to remain in their testing location through the duration of the exam time. At the teacher's discretion, exempt students may be given permission to report to the Commons during the final exam.
- While in The Commons, all students are to be seated, remain quiet, and are not to engage in activities (music, video footage, games, etc.) that are disruptive to students who are studying.

Final Exam Extra Credit Policy

A semester/final exam counts for 20% of the overall semester grade. The Final Exam Extra Credit policy applies to the fall and spring semester exams for core courses (e.g., Science, Social Studies, English, and Math). Attendance is cumulative, and absences reset at the end of the first semester.

- Two tardies count as one absence.
- Medical absences, with documentation from a physician, are NOT counted as a student absence when determining exemption eligibility.
- Excused school business absences are NOT counted as a student absence when determining exemption eligibility.
- Any office discipline referrals disqualify the student for exemptions
- All fines and charge balances must be paid in full prior to exam week.
- If the final exam is a group project, the student will be required to complete the exam but will be given extra credit points added to the final grade.

<u>Grade Earned</u>	<u>Absences</u>	<u>Extra Credit Points</u>
≥ 91	0 absences	5 pts
≥ 94	1 absence	10 pts
≥ 97	2 absences	15 pts

Students must meet and maintain the extra credit criteria until the exam is administered or eligibility for the course is revoked. Students exempt from any exam MUST report to the exam period for attendance. Though students may be exempt from the final exam, they must report to the exam location and remain there until testing is complete.

SECTION 2: STUDENT CONDUCT AND SAFETY

Codes of Conduct

New Frontiers Public Schools (NFPS) student discipline policies and procedures apply to Greg A. Garcia students while they are at the Intermediate school, high school, college and all New Frontiers Public School events. Any student who violates the NFPS and/or ACCD Codes of Conduct are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from NFPS.

Dress Code

Students should check their attire in the morning **before** reporting to school. Greg A. Garcia students are an **elite** group of students and need to represent FLMECHS/IDECHS appropriately. Although FLMECHS/IDECHS students will be attending college classes with college students who may not be dressed per our standards, Greg A. Garcia students are expected to adhere to the New Frontiers Public Schools District dress code at all times.

The New Frontiers Public School District has certain dress and grooming criteria that must be complied by students. These dress and grooming standards are intended to encourage good grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards and teach respect for authority. A student's appearance has much to do with the way the student feels about himself or herself. Appearance also affects the way in which other students respond to them and has a great deal to do with student success and the learning atmosphere of the school. Because of this, New Frontiers Public Schools District has established dress code requirements for students in grades 6 through 8

ADMINISTRATORS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATENESS OR ATTIRE AND GROOMING EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL SETTING, AND TO ENFORCE THE DRESS AND GROOMING STANDARDS THAT ARE ESTABLISHED FOR DISTRICT STUDENTS.

Tops:

- Any shirt with a finished neckline must be appropriately buttoned
- T-shirts that are not deemed offensive (T-shirts cannot have anything related to drugs, gangs, alcohol, sex, ammunition. Final determination of appropriateness is at the Principal's discretion.)
- Shirts do not have to be tucked in – but should be no longer than around the hips

Bottoms:

- All shorts, skirts and dresses must be-knee length or longer, to include basketball and/or athletic shorts
- Warm-ups (must fit appropriately)
- Sweats (must fit appropriately)

The following items are prohibited:

- Shoes with wheels or speakers
- House shoes (slippers), shower shoes (flip-flops), or slides (Sandals are acceptable.)
- Sagging (no visible undergarments)
- Sleeveless shirts
- Inappropriate facial piercings or tattoos
- Bandanas, flags, or gang related attire
- Halter tops, exposed midriffs, strapless and/or low cut tops that expose breasts or cleavage, exposed backs, spaghetti straps and see-through clothing are not permitted (Undergarments shall not be visible or exposed.)
- Clothing that promote violence or reflect gang activity are strictly prohibited
- Clothing that is considered offensive, inflammatory or disruptive to the learning environment are prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate advertising or statements that are offensive or inflammatory, alcoholic beverages, profanity, sex, tobacco, drugs, gangs, guns and other weapons, excessively violent or gory imagery, and the promotion of violence and death.
- Pajamas
- Revealing or excessively tight garments (tops, stretch pants, leggings, jeggings and yoga pants) are prohibited

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION. IF IN DOUBT, DO NOT WEAR IT!

Student ID Badges

FLMECHS/IDECHS student ID badges must be visible at all times while at school. **IDs will be worn around the neck (not kept in pockets, purses, backpacks) during the school day and at all school functions.** IDs are NOT to be defaced or have any items placed on the front or the back; defacing a badge may result in being charged for a replacement. Each student will be issued one plastic ID badge at no cost. A charge of \$5.00 will be made for EACH replacement card. Students

who report to school without their student ID badge will be required to secure a replacement at the beginning of the school day. Students may be asked to produce ID cards in order to purchase tickets to school events, to be admitted to a student function, and to vote in student elections. Students who violate the ID badge policy will be assigned Saturday School. **The ALAMO COLLEGES ID is not considered a substitute or replacement for a FLMECHS/IDECHS ID.**

Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

Greg A. Garcia recognizes that genuine feelings of affection may exist between two students. However, students shall refrain from all Public Displays of Affection (PDA) while on campus or while attending and/or participating in a school-related activity.

Being overly affectionate at school can be offensive and is generally in poor taste. The expression of feelings toward one another is a personal concern between the two individuals and thus should not be shared with others in the general vicinity. PDA includes any physical contact that may make others in close proximity uncomfortable or serves as a distraction for themselves as well as innocent onlookers. Some specific examples of PDA include, but are not limited to:

- Kissing
- Fondling
- Cuddling
- Inappropriate touching
- Rubbing/massaging
- Caressing/stroking/petting
- Excessive hugging

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (PDA) will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in such practices are subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- 1st Offense = Verbal warning. Parents informed of the issue.
- 2nd Offense = After School detention. Parent conference on the issue.

Food and Beverage Policy

Beverages and food items should be consumed in the Commons; however, beverages and/or food may be consumed in the classroom with the teacher's permission ONLY. All containers are subject to inspection. This is a privilege and can be revoked at any time.

Bullying

Repeated offenses involving any form of bullying may result in disciplinary consequences, dismissal from Greg A. Garcia and possible legal action involving local law enforcement.

Health Information

Nurse

New Frontiers Public Schools has the services of an on-site nurse to assist students who are ill or injured. The district Nurse may be reached at 210-418-0224.

It is important for the parent to fill out the Student Health Questionnaire completely and return it to school. In case of emergency, the parent/ guardian signature gives the school permission to have the student transported to the hospital if needed when parent/ guardian cannot be reached. Please update this information as needed.

Accidents

Students must receive a Nurse's Pass from the teacher in order to see the nurse. The School Nurse or a trained staff member will administer initial treatments for all minor injuries, whether student or adult. In the event of a student accident, the student's emergency contact will be notified by phone if the severity of the injury warrants such action. Therefore, it is crucial that the school has working phone numbers for parents and/ or alternate contacts.

An incident report will also be submitted to the school nurse for documentation purposes and a copy will be given to the parent or guardian if requested. In the event of an adult accident the adult will be seen by the nurse, if available. If any injury is severe, the school will contact emergency services.

General Health Procedures

All students must comply with Texas State Laws regarding immunizations. He/ she must submit proof of current (up-to-date) immunization records to the school nurse before the child can be accepted into the classroom, NO EXCEPTIONS. All records will be placed in your child's permanent health record.

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. Parents of a student with a communicable disease should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. These as well as other illness will warrant sending a student home:

- A temperature of 100 degrees or greater (may not return for 24 hours)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Suspicious rash
- Discoloration of eyes

A student may remain in the nurse's office for observation unless the child exhibits a contagious condition. If this is the case for your child, you will immediately be contacted to pick up and remove your child from campus for safety reasons as applicable by law, until the child is no longer contagious.

Medication and Health

Medication may be administered at school with a parent/ guardian's written permission. Medication must be in original bottles and properly labeled. The medication permission form must be completed and signed by a parent/ guardian for each medication that is to be administered at school, including over-the-counter medications.

Any medications that need to be given for more than two weeks must be accompanied by a physician request for administration of medicine or special procedure by school personnel form and the medication permission form signed by a parent/ guardian. Medication that is to be given midday may be dispensed by the nurse as long as a physician's note accompanies the medication with such instructions.

Immunity from Liability

New Frontiers Public Schools, the Board, and its employees shall be immune from liability for bodily injuries, damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication, and property damage sustained by students and visitors to our facility. If a student is injured at school or at a school-related activity, the District is not responsible for medical expenses associated with the student's injury.

Asthma and Allergy Action Plans

Students who have been diagnosed with Asthma and/ or allergies (such as food, insect, etc) must submit an action plan to the Nurse's Office. The action plan, which may be obtained in the Nurse's Office, must be completed, and signed by the child's medical provider and must be kept current.

School Screenings

All first-time school entrants, and students new to Texas schools will be screened for vision, hearing and acanthosis. A referral will be sent only if a further evaluation is needed.

Immunizations Requirements

The Texas Department of Health and the Board of Trustees for New Frontiers Public Schools requires the following immunizations for children attending our school. These immunization requirements provide students with active immunization against many communicable diseases. (For a view of the table please refer to www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize.)

A delay in school enrollment or disruption in school attendance may be necessary if the student has not started or has not continued to receive vaccine doses as they become due. All immunization records must be validated by physician's signature or health clinic stamp. The month, day, and year must be indicated on the record for each new immunization received. These records must include all doses administered, including all doses that exceed the minimum requirements.

The school nurse will notify parents of immunizations needed upon enrollment or as they come due during the school year. When the student has received the required immunization(s), the parent brings or sends the immunization record to the school nurse so that the immunization dates may be recorded on the student's health record. These records are returned to parents when they are recorded.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school nurse for assistance in locating immunization clinics or in understanding immunization requirements.

Health and Dating Education

NFPS believes that all students learn best in an environment free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that their welfare is best served when they are free from this prohibited conduct while attending school. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. NFPS employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect. The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law.

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance.

ECHS Detention Programs

After-school Detention

All student violations of New Frontiers Public Schools policies may result in the student placement into after-school detention. After-school detention will occur every week on Monday and/or Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Late arrival to after-school detention will result in further disciplinary action. Students may be required to help with the overall maintenance of the school, which includes picking up litter, helping with classroom clean-up at the end of the day, or other service tasks (chemicals are never used, and students are not asked to do anything that might endanger their health or safety). It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide transportation for the student to depart the school premises at 5:00 p.m. The school will not be responsible for the supervision of the student after 5:00 p.m.

Students will work individually on assigned Greg A. Garcia work that does not require the use of any electronic devices or peripherals. The teacher may provide missing work and/or additional work at his/her discretion. Students will not be allowed to use any electronic devices or peripherals while they are in attendance at the after school Detention session. Students will not sleep during their assigned detention session. Students are not allowed to read for leisure during their assigned detention session. Students may also be required to participate in service tasks, which include light custodial duties. Students in after school Detention will be required to complete an individual behavior reflection assignment. Violation of any of these requirements or expectations will result in further disciplinary action.

Should multiple students be in attendance at after school Detention session, all students will sit separately as designated by the detention supervisor. Talking to fellow students for any reason will result in further disciplinary action.

Students must be picked up promptly at 5:00 p.m. Parents may begin arriving as early as 4:45p.m. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide transportation for the student to depart the school premises at 5:00p.m. The school will not be responsible for the supervision of the student after 5:00 p.m.

SECTION 3: ELECTRONIC AND TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

Electronic Device Policy

- At the teacher's discretion, students may use electronic devices and peripherals during that class period only, and only while in the teacher's classroom.
- This policy refers to any disruption caused by any electronic device or peripheral, including phone call, messaging, or texting notifications.
- **Greg A. Garcia is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen electronic devices and/or peripherals.**

The Electronic Device Policy will be followed consistently and without exceptions. Regardless of who is calling/messaging/texting, or the reason, a phone going off during the school day will be confiscated as per guidelines above. **If a parent wants/needs to contact a student, he or she may do so by calling the front office at (210- Due to safety concerns, the use of any electronic device for the purposes of capturing digital images or video is strictly prohibited anywhere, and at any time, on Greg A. Garcia property. Absolutely no video recording is permitted on campus. Violation of this policy, anywhere, or at any time, will result in immediate confiscation of the device and further disciplinary action.**

Confiscated electronic devices and peripherals that are not retrieved by the student's parent/guardian will be disposed of after the notice required by law.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications, computing, or other electronic device may be searched by authorized personnel. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Chromebooks and Textbooks

Chromebooks (or similarly-issued electronic devices) and textbooks belong to New Frontiers Public Schools and are used in the classroom. They must be returned upon request, and in good condition. Failure to present or return a Chromebook and/or textbook in the condition it was originally taken, or if it is missing, will result in a fine or complete reimbursement for the device and/or textbook. Failure to pay the fine or reimburse the cost of the device and/or textbook may result in the following:

- Loss of privileges,
- Detention
- Disciplinary action
- Theft report filed with Police

SECTION 4: ATTENDANCE

School Hours and Campus Protocols

- School day is 7:55 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Staff supervision is from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Breakfast is served at 7:55 am
- Students dropped off before 7:15 am. or picked up after 4:00 p.m. will not be supervised unless they are in a class, program, or school-sponsored activity (e.g., tutoring, organizations, clubs, etc.). Students not picked up by 4:00 p.m. must report to the front office for pickup.
- Students may not be signed out after 2:45 p.m. All requests to pick up students or deliver messages to students must be in by 3:00 p.m.
- When released, the student MUST report directly to the front of the campus where they MUST remain with the teacher/sponsor until his/her parent arrives. The teacher/sponsor will only remain until 4:00 p.m., after which time the student will be asked to report to the front office for pickup.
- Students on campus outside of the regular school hours, or without a pass or supervision as part of a class, program, or school-sponsored activity, are subject to ticketing for trespassing.
- The school is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen personal items, even if the school provides a place for students to store them. This is offered solely as a convenience; and items are not monitored or secured. This includes any and all personal items brought to school for any reason. If any of these items becomes an issue, they can be banned from being brought on campus.
- Students must WALK their bikes and skateboards (or anything else similar) on campus and off campus for safety. Skateboards must be checked in with the Receptionist in the front office.
- Greg A. Garcia is a "closed" campus; and **no student may leave during lunch without a parent**. Students are not authorized to leave campus during regular school hours for any other reason, except with the permission of the Principal. **Students who leave campus in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.**

Leaving Campus

Per the New Frontiers Public Schools Student/Parent Handbook, state rules require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day. The district has put the following procedures in place in order to document parental consent:

For students in high school, if the student's parent will authorize the student to leave campus unaccompanied, a note provided by the parent must be submitted to the main office in advance of the absence no later than two hours prior to the

student's need to leave campus. Once the office has received information that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher with the necessary information. The student must sign out through the main office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day.

If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. Unless directed by the parent to release the student unaccompanied, the parent or other authorized adult must follow the sign-out procedures as listed above. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, as permitted by the student's parent, or if the student is age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released.

Attendance Requirements

Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. **Two state laws apply – one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for a student's final grade or course credit.**

Attendance Obligation and Responsibility

Parents are reminded that it is their legal obligation and responsibilities to make certain their child(ren) are in school. Violation of the Compulsory Attendance law (TEC Sec.25.085) is punishable by fines (TEC Sec.25.093 and 25.094). Below is the Texas Education Code status for your review:

Sec. 25.085. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided. Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 19th birthday shall attend school. Upon enrollment in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school.

Sec. 25.086. EXEMPTIONS

A child is exempt from the requirements of compulsory school attendance if the child: has a physical or mental condition of a temporary and remediable nature that makes the child's attendance infeasible and holds a certificate from a qualified physician specifying the temporary condition, indicating the treatment prescribed to remedy the temporary condition, and covering the anticipated period of the child's absence from school for the purpose of receiving and recuperating from that remedial treatment.

Sec. 25.087 EXCUSED ABSENCES

A person required to attend school, including a person required to attend school under Section 25.085(e), may be excused for temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal, or superintendent of the school in which the person is enrolled.

Sec. 25.093. PARENT CONTRIBUTING TO NONATTENDANCE

If a warning is issued as required by Section 25.095(a), the parent with criminal negligence fails to require the child to attend school as required by law, and the child has absences for the amount of time specified under Section 65.003(a), Family Code, the parent commits an offense. The attendance officer or other appropriate school official shall file a complaint against the

parent in a justice court of any precinct in the county in which the parent resides or in which the school is located or in a municipal court of the municipality in which the parent resides or in which the school is located. An offense under Subsection (a) is a Class C misdemeanor. Each day the child remains out of school may constitute a separate offense. Two or more offenses under Subsection (a) may be consolidated and prosecuted in a single action. TEC Sec. 25.093.

Sec. 25.094. FAILURE TO ATTEND SCHOOL

An individual commits an offense if the individual:

- 1) is 12 years of age or older and younger than 18 years of age;
- 2) is required to attend school under Section 25.085; and
- 3) fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year or on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

An offense under this section may be prosecuted in a justice court of any precinct in the county in which the school is located or in a municipal court in the municipality in which the individual resides or in which the school is located. Pursuant to an order of the county, justice, or municipal court based on an affidavit showing probable cause to believe that an individual has committed an offense under this section, a peace officer may take the individual into custody. TEC Sec. 25.094.

Sec. 25.095. WARNING NOTICES

A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall notify a student's parent in writing at the beginning of the school year that if the student is absent from school on ten (10) or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year or on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period:

- 1) the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Section 25.093; and
- 2) the student is subject to referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under Section 65.003(a), Family Code.

A school district shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school, without excuse under Section 25.087, on three (3) days or parts of days within a four-week period. The fact that a parent did not receive a notice under Subsection (a) or (b) does not create a defense to prosecution under Section 25.093 or 25.094. TEC Sec. 25.095.

Attendance/ Truancy Intervention and Prevention Measures

NFPS has developed a list of intervention and prevention measures to address those students with excessive absences or who have been classified as truant on our campus including:

- Student/ Parent Pledge Agreement found in this handbook
- Attendance Incentives
- Teacher/ Parent phone & in-person conference
- Administration/ Parent phone conference
- District/Campus Attendance Committee meeting

A student shall not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student in attendance for at least 75 percent but less than 90 percent of the days a class is offered may be given credit if the student completes a plan approved by the principal. Principal plan may include Saturday school. Saturday school shall be assigned for students' who have three (3) or more absences in a two-week period.

Absences that count towards the "90 Percent Rule"

E – Excused Absence – Exemption: Medical-based excused absences with valid documentation

U – Unexcused Absence – Truancy, non-school activities, and vacations

O – Out of School Suspension

Students are counted present if they arrive on time. Students who arrive between 1 to 20 minutes after the tardy bell rings will be counted as tardy. **Students who arrive to class more than 20 minutes late, will be counted as absent.**

SECTION 5: SCHOOL AMBASSADORSHIPS, CLUBS AND EVENTS, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND UIL-SPONSORED COMPETITIONS

ECHS Ambassadorship

Students can be a public representative of FLMECHS/IDECHS as an ambassador to other campuses and the community. FLMECHS/IDECHS students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher at both FLMECHS/IDECHS and ALAMO COLLEGES in order to participate in extracurricular activities. Class Officers and Student Council Officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary) are considered to be FLMECHS/IDECHS Ambassadors.

To be a public representative of FLMECHS/IDECHS as an ambassador, a student must maintain a minimum 3.0 overall GPA, have a good discipline record, satisfactory or higher citizenship (conduct) grades, and must gain signature approval from teachers of missed classes. Students are required to complete all course work and submit same at the next class meeting.

ECHS -sponsored Clubs and Events

Participation in Greg A. Garcia clubs and activities are an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right. A student must be an active member in good standing of the club for at least one academic year. All club sponsors must ensure that club membership rosters are finalized each academic year no later than end of month September.

Community Service

Community service is defined as services performed by the students, outside of school hours, for the good of the community. Helping teachers in classrooms and/or donations of goods for school-related events DO NOT qualify as community service.

Seniors who fail to complete their minimum required hours may have their transcripts withheld until documentation is provided verifying the completion of the required hours.

School Dance

- All proper forms need to be filled out and turned by the designated campus deadline. .
- Students who have a record of disciplinary issues will be excluded.
- The Principal has the final authority regarding who is allowed to attend school dance for the safety of our students.
- Students who fail to follow instructions while at the school dance may be asked to leave immediately.
- e. it is imperative that students are picked up at or before the published event end time.

SECTION 6: SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Visiting the Campus

We welcome parents to our campus and want them to volunteer and be involved as much as they can. Appropriate dress and demeanor are expected of all visitors. This will require passing a background check.

Parents can eat with their child at any time without an appointment. A background check is not required, but parents will

need to check in at the main office.

In addition, parents and guests are always welcomed to attend assemblies and other student functions after checking in at the main office.

On testing days, parents or visitors will NOT be allowed due to testing regulations. These dates are posted on the website. Parents who wish to accompany students on school-related functions will require passing a background check. The Volunteer Clearance includes a background check. If a person does not pass the background check, the school is only informed that she/he has failed; we do not receive any further information. You may discuss this with the Human Resources Department for possible resolution.

Visiting Greg A. Garcia Staff

Parents are welcomed and are encouraged to visit their child's classroom. In order to protect the academic environment and to make your visit more productive, an appointment with the teacher requesting a visit is required.

Visitors wishing to meet with school staff members should also make an appointment. This will enable us to give visitors the time and attention needed.

Communication

- We use an automated phone announcement system. You will receive phone announcements weekly, and text messages as needed. The District may also use the system for communicating important information. In addition, the system calls automatically when a child is absent. If you receive a call and your child was not absent, please contact the main office to reconcile the situation.
- Schoology is the web-based program that gives parents access to their child's grades.

Miscellaneous Student Fees

Print Cards	\$5.00 (good for 50 printed pages)
Replacement Student ID Badge	\$5.00
Replacement Lanyard	\$1.00
Replacement Badge Protector	\$1.00

SECTION 7: SAFETY, CHARACTER, AND INTEGRITY

Because Greg A. Garcia is a family and we have an ethical responsibility to care for our school and each other, we urge all students to report the following student behaviors:

- Leaving the campus without permission for any reason
- Being aware of a student or students who have left campus and not reporting it to administration
- Failing multiple classes
- Excessive absenteeism
- Persistent skipping of class
- Cheating, including plagiarism and collusion
- Bullying
- Persistent misbehavior
- Conversations concerning self-harm or harm to others

**New Frontiers Public Schools -
Early College Intermediate School
STUDENT HANDBOOK RECEIPT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

Read, sign and turn in to the

2023 -2024 Acknowledgement Form

My child and I are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the New Frontiers Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook.

I also understand and agree that my child will be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct section of this handbook, at school, at school-sponsored and school-related activities, including school-sponsored travel, and for any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location.

Student's Name (Please Print)

Student ID #

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent Phone Number

Technology, Textbook, and Instructional Material Policy

Texas law requires parent notification of the following:

Your student may be issued a personal computing device, textbooks, and/or instructional material(s) needed to complete his/her course of study. These are provided at no cost to the student, and the family assumes full responsibility in returning all items and materials issued to the student in good, usable condition. If any item issued becomes damaged, it is the student's responsibility to report this immediately to the person who issued the item; otherwise, it will be assumed to be in good working order. Students and family are responsible for returning all issued items to the school upon request, or pay for replacement and/or repairs. In the case of electronic devices issues, families are encourage to purchase insurance, either district or personal, to cover the cost of replacement or repairs. Failure to return any item issued to a student will result in disciplinary consequences and payment due.

I have read and agree to abide by all rules and regulations contained in the New Frontiers Public Schools Student/Parent Handbook, including the Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date



New Frontiers Public Schools

FERPA RELEASE FORM FOR PARENTS

Name of student: _____

Date of birth: _____

Name of child's school: _____

Grade level: _____

Child's mailing address: _____

Parent's mailing address (if different): _____

CONSENT TO RELEASE: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) establishes certain rights for parents regarding the privacy of their child's educational record. While family members and other individuals serving in a parent's stead as caretaker may have an interest in the child's record, access to or release of the educational record is only by written parental consent. Parents may choose to complete and submit this FERPA Release Form to allow access or release of their child's educational record. A release form must be completed for each individual to whom a parent wishes to authorize access / release of his / her child's educational records.

I _____ [name of parent/legal guardian] consent to release the information, as indicated below, to the **Utica National Insurance Group**, 180 Genesee St. New Hartford, NY 13413, US (headquarters).

The only type of information that is to be released under this consent is information that was submitted to the Texas Education Agency as required by law under Texas Education Code (TEC) §22.093 pursuant to an investigation involving a former employee and a factual summary regarding the same incident.

The information is to be released only for the purpose of submitting a claim for legal services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE: I acknowledge by my signature that I understand that, although I am not required to release my child's records, I am giving my consent to release the information. This release will remain in effect while the child is enrolled at New Frontiers Public Schools unless I revoke such consent.

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____