

SEP 01 2026

**GEARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Middle School / High School

Student & Parent Handbook

2026-2027

School Leadership	Contact
Mrs. Lynette Turner, Principal	300 S. Blaine, Geary, OK 73040
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Mr. Sean Buchanan, Superintendent	Fax: (405) 884-5487

Board-approved district policy controls if a conflict exists between this handbook and board policy, state law, or federal law.

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1. Welcome and Handbook Authority

Welcome to Geary Middle School and Geary High School. This handbook is designed to help students and families understand school rules, available supports, academic requirements, and student rights. Students are expected to follow these rules while on school property, using district transportation, participating in school-sponsored activities, and when off-campus conduct has a direct and substantial effect on school safety or operations.

This handbook summarizes board policy and law. It is not intended to replace district board policies. The district may revise procedures during the school year when required by law, board action, safety needs, or operational changes. Families will receive notice of material changes.

School and District Contacts

Office / Role	Contact Information
Geary MS/HS Principal - Lynette Turner	lturner@gearyschools.org (405) 884-5602
Counselor -- Brenda Louthan	blouthan@gearyschools.org (405) 884-5613
Title IX Coordinator-Chandria Parris	cparris@gearyschools.org (405) 884-5609
Superintendent - Sean Buchanan	sbuchanan@gearyschools.org (405) 884-5601
District website	www.gearyschools.org

Nondiscrimination and Equal Access

Geary Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions), disability, age, religion, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law in its education programs, activities, admission, or employment. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Questions or complaints may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator listed above or to the Superintendent. Disability-related questions may be directed to the Superintendent or the district's Section 504 coordinator.

A student or parent may report discrimination, harassment, or retaliation verbally or in writing. Reports will be addressed promptly under the applicable board policy and federal grievance procedures. Retaliation against a person who reports a concern or participates in a process is prohibited.

Translation and Accessibility

The district will provide this handbook or important notices in an accessible format or another language when needed. Contact the principal or counselor for assistance.

2. Enrollment, Residency, and Student Services

Admission and Residency

Students who reside within district boundaries may enroll consistent with Oklahoma law. The district may request reasonable proof of residency, such as current utility records, a lease, or other documentation. Lack of typical documents will not delay or prevent enrollment when federal or state law requires immediate enrollment, including for students experiencing homelessness or students in foster care.

A student enrolling from home education may be reviewed through records, interviews, course work, and appropriate assessments to determine grade and course placement. The student will be enrolled promptly; testing may be used for placement but will not be used to create an unnecessary enrollment delay.

Student Transfers

Transfer applications are submitted through the Oklahoma State Department of Education's Student Transfer Application process. Decisions will be made under Oklahoma's Student Transfer Act, district capacity limits, and board policy. The district will provide required notice and appeal information when an application is denied. A sending-district superintendent's signature is not required for the statewide application process.

Students Experiencing Homelessness and Students in Foster Care

Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify for protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including immediate enrollment, school-of-origin consideration, transportation support, and access to comparable services. Contact Brenda Louthan, Homeless Liaison, at blouthan@gearyschools.org or (405) 884-5607. Students in foster care receive enrollment, records-transfer, transportation, and school-stability protections required by law.

Immunizations

Students must provide evidence of immunization or a lawful exemption as required by the Oklahoma State Department of Health. A student may be admitted conditionally when permitted by law and when the student is in the process of completing required doses. Current immunization schedules and exemption forms are available from the school office and the district website. During an outbreak, public-health authorities may exclude an unvaccinated student as allowed by law.

Head Lice

Geary Public Schools has adopted a NO-NIT POLICY. The no-nit policy is suggested by the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Head lice checks will be done regularly at Geary Schools. Any student found with nits or live lice will have parents contacted immediately, be asked to leave school premises, and re-admitted when all nits and live lice have been removed. When returning to school, the student's head will be rechecked. Treating head lice takes cooperation from all parties. Parents will need to treat the child's hair at home. Information is available at the school about products and procedures used to treat head lice.

If your child has nits or live lice, the following steps will be taken:

- Phone calls will be made to parents. All numbers on the school card will be called, including emergency contacts.
- You will be expected to come and get your child from school. Students with nits or live lice will not be allowed to stay in school.
- If we cannot contact you by phone, staff may attempt to come to your house to let you know that you need to come to the school and pick up your child.
- If the school cannot reach anyone by phone or at your house, your child will be removed from the regular classroom until someone picks him/her up.
- A note will then be sent with your child that evening in regards to the head lice. We ask that their heads be cleared of all nits and live lice before they can return to school the next day.
- When your child returns to school the next day, we ask that you come inside with your child while his/her head is checked by the office staff.
- If your child's head is clear of all nits and live lice, he/she will be allowed to stay. If nits or live lice are still on the child's head, he/she will have to return home until all nits or live lice are gone.

Child Find, Special Education, and Section 504

The district identifies, locates, and evaluates children who may have disabilities and need special education or related services. A parent, guardian, teacher, or student may request an evaluation. Written parental consent is required before an initial special education evaluation. Section 504 protects qualified

students with disabilities from discrimination and may require accommodations and related aids or services. Contact the counselor or superintendent for assistance.

Alternative Education

Geary Public Schools provides or participates in an alternative education program for eligible at-risk students. Placement is based on an intake process, student needs, the district alternative education plan, and available space. An individual graduation plan will be maintained. Alternative education students may participate in courses, activities, and athletics when eligible under district and OSSAA rules unless a suspension or another lawful restriction applies.

3. Student Records and Privacy

Annual FERPA Notice

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and eligible students (students who are 18 or who attend a postsecondary institution) the right to inspect and review education records, request amendment of records believed to be inaccurate or misleading, consent to most disclosures of personally identifiable information, and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged FERPA violations.

A written request to inspect records should identify the records requested and be submitted to the principal or records custodian. The district will arrange access within 45 days. If an amendment request is denied, the parent or eligible student may request a hearing and may place a statement in the record if the decision remains unchanged.

FERPA permits disclosure without consent in specified circumstances, including to school officials with legitimate educational interests and to another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. A school official may include a district employee, board member, contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party performing an institutional service under the district's direct control and subject to FERPA's use and redisclosure requirements.

Complaints may be filed with the Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

Directory Information

The district may designate limited information as directory information, such as a student's name, grade level, photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, honors and awards, dates of attendance, and height and weight of athletic team members. A parent or eligible student may opt out of disclosure by submitting written notice to the principal within 10 school days after receiving this handbook or enrollment notice. The district will honor the opt-out until it is withdrawn in writing.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Parents and eligible students have rights regarding certain surveys, physical examinations, and the collection or use of student information for marketing. The district will provide notice and an opportunity to inspect or opt out when required by PPRA and board policy.

Technology, Images, and Recordings

Students may be photographed or recorded for legitimate educational, safety, athletic, activity, or communications purposes consistent with FERPA and district policy. Students may not create or distribute recordings in private areas, record another person in violation of law or school rules, or use recordings to harass, threaten, or substantially disrupt school.

4. Academics and Graduation

Graduation Requirements

A student must earn at least 23 units and meet all state and local requirements applicable to the student's graduation cohort. Requirements include the state-required curriculum, assessments, Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP), financial literacy instruction, CPR instruction, and any other requirement established by law or board policy. The counselor will maintain a graduation plan for each student and will review progress annually.

Area	Minimum Units / Requirement
English	4 units
Mathematics	3 units, including Algebra I and as otherwise required by cohort law
Laboratory Science	3 units, including Biology I and as otherwise required by cohort law
History and Citizenship Skills	3 units, including U.S. History and Oklahoma/U.S. Government requirements
World Language or Computer Technology	2 units under the applicable college-preparatory/work-ready pathway, or the lawful core-curriculum alternative
Additional Core	1 unit selected from English, math, science, history, computer technology, or world language
Fine Arts / Competency	1 unit or demonstrated competency as permitted
Electives	Units needed to reach at least 23 total

Because graduation law changes by cohort, the counselor's current graduation checklist and board-approved course catalog control if they differ from this summary. Students and families should review the student's transcript and ICAP each year.

FAFSA Graduation Requirement

Each senior must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) unless the student qualifies for and submits an authorized waiver or opt-out under Oklahoma law. The counselor will provide the current form, deadlines, and assistance. FAFSA information is confidential and will be handled accordingly.

Assessment and ICAP

Students will participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program and other assessments required by law. Each student will complete and annually update an ICAP beginning in the required grade. The ICAP includes career and college goals, coursework, work-based learning, service or extracurricular experiences, and postsecondary planning.

Course Credit, Grading, and Reports

Semester grades and course credit are based on demonstrated learning, completed work, assessments, and lawful attendance/credit requirements. Teachers will communicate grading expectations. The standard grading scale is A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, and F = below 60, unless a board-approved course policy states otherwise. Progress information is available through the online gradebook, and formal reports are issued at district reporting periods.

Schedule Changes, Incomplete Work, and Failed Courses

Schedule changes require counselor or administrative approval and ordinarily must occur within the published change window. Students must complete prerequisite courses before advancing. An incomplete

grade will include a written completion deadline. Credit recovery, summer school, virtual coursework, and proficiency-based promotion are available when approved and consistent with state law and board policy.

Concurrent Enrollment and College Days

Eligible students may enroll in approved college courses under current Oklahoma State Regents and district requirements. College grades used for high school credit will appear on the high school transcript. Seniors may request up to two excused college-visit days with prior counselor approval and verification of attendance.

Honor Roll, Academic Honors, and Class Rank

Honor roll, Oklahoma Honor Society, Beta Club, valedictorian, salutatorian, class rank, and weighted-course recognition will follow board-approved criteria published before the affected grading period. Calculation methods will be applied consistently and will include eligible transfer, concurrent, career-technology, and alternative education coursework as required by law and board policy. A student's instructional placement alone will not disqualify the student from academic recognition.

Semester Tests and Graduation Exercises

Semester tests will be administered on the published schedule. Early testing requires administrative approval for exceptional circumstances. Participation in commencement is a privilege separate from receiving a diploma. Students must meet published participation deadlines and conduct expectations. Dress requirements will be applied neutrally, with reasonable accommodations for disability, religion, pregnancy, and cultural practices. Students may wear tribal regalia as permitted by Oklahoma law.

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

AI may support learning only when the teacher authorizes its use and defines the conditions. Students must disclose AI assistance when directed, verify accuracy, protect confidential information, and remain responsible for the final work. Prohibited uses include submitting AI-generated work as one's own, fabricating sources or data, bypassing an assessment's purpose, impersonating another person, generating harmful or sexual content, or placing student information into an unapproved tool.

Consistent with the Oklahoma Responsible Technology in Schools Act, classroom AI must remain educator-directed with a human in the loop. AI will not be the primary basis for grading, discipline, placement, promotion, retention, or another high-stakes decision. The district will provide the annual disclosure required by law, and a parent may opt a student out of student-facing AI tools without academic penalty or loss of core content. Academic-integrity responses will focus first on demonstrating learning and may include redoing work, an alternate assessment, reduced or no credit under the teacher's published grading rules, parent contact, and progressive discipline for repeated or deliberate misconduct.

5. Attendance and Tardies

Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is essential. Parents or guardians should notify the office as soon as possible when a student will be absent. Students are responsible for requesting and completing missed work within the time allowed by the teacher. Absences will be coded according to board policy and law, including illness, medical care, religious observance, family emergency, legal obligations, school activities, and other approved reasons.

Truancy and Required Reporting

Under 70 O.S. § 10-106, when a child is absent without valid excuse for four or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, or for ten or more days or parts of days within a semester, the attendance

officer must notify the parent or guardian and report the absences as required by law. Only absences without a valid excuse count toward these statutory thresholds. The principal or designee serves as the site attendance officer.

The district will use early intervention before a student reaches statutory thresholds whenever possible. Support(s) may include student and parent conferences, attendance plans, counseling, health referrals, transportation problem-solving, make-up time, and referrals to community or tribal resources. Absence itself will not result in out-of-school suspension. Separate misconduct—such as leaving campus without permission, falsifying a note, or refusing a lawful direction—may result in discipline.

Excessive Absence and Course Credit

A student at risk of losing course credit because of insufficient instructional time will receive notice and an opportunity to provide documentation, complete approved make-up work or instructional time, and request review by the attendance committee. Disability-related absences and absences protected by law will be addressed through the appropriate IEP, Section 504, or other process. No automatic semester-long suspension will be imposed for attendance problems.

Tardy Procedures

A student is tardy when not in the assigned location when the tardy bell rings. A student who misses a substantial portion of class may be recorded absent under district attendance procedures. Tardies are addressed progressively: teacher reminder and problem-solving; parent contact; lunch detention; an attendance plan; and, for repeated behavior, in-school detention. Students will not be denied restroom access when there is an urgent health need or an accommodation.

6. Daily Operations and Campus Expectations

Building Hours and Supervision

The designated student area opens at 7:30 a.m. Regular school activities end at 3:15 p.m. unless the published bell schedule states otherwise. Students may be in other areas before or after school only with staff supervision or administrative approval. Breakfast is served in the designated location from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.

Closed and Open Campus

Students must remain on campus during the school day unless checked out through the office or participating in an authorized activity. Grades 9-12 may leave campus during lunch only under the current board-approved open-campus procedure. Students may not transport or ride with another student during lunch without documented parent/guardian permission and administrative approval. Grades 7-8 have a closed campus and may leave only through the checkout process. The principal may close campus temporarily or for the remainder of the year for safety or operational reasons.

Checking Students Out

A parent, guardian, or authorized adult must check a student out through the office. The school may verify identity and authorization. Phone or written permission may be accepted under office procedures; the school may require in-person checkout when safety or custody concerns exist. Students who are checked out must leave campus unless the office approves otherwise.

Hallways, Transitions, and Passes

Students will move promptly and safely between classes, use sidewalks and designated routes between buildings, remain away from roadways, and follow staff directions. A pass or teacher permission is

required to leave class. Students should use respectful forms of address and behavior with all staff and visitors.

Bell-to-Bell Personal Electronic Device Policy

From the first instructional bell through the dismissal bell, students may not use cell phones or personal electronic devices on campus unless an exception is approved. Devices include personal smartwatches, smart headphones, laptops, tablets, smart glasses, and devices capable of connecting to a phone, the Internet, Wi-Fi, a cellular network, or another similar device. School-issued or school-approved instructional devices are excluded. Devices must be turned off and stored out of sight.

Exceptions may be approved for an emergency, an IEP or Section 504 plan, a health-monitoring need, or another use authorized by the principal. Parents should contact the office for urgent messages. A student's refusal to surrender a device after a lawful direction is a separate act of insubordination.

Violation	Typical Response
First	Device secured until the end of the school day; student conference; violation documented.
Second	Parent/guardian must retrieve the device; lunch detention or another minor consequence.
Third	Parent conference; device check-in plan or temporary loss of permission to bring the device; in-school detention may be assigned.
Repeated / serious misuse	Individual device contract, extended check-in requirement, additional progressive discipline, and consequences for any separate misconduct.

Searches, Lockers, and Vehicles

School officials may search a student or the student's property when reasonable suspicion exists that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances. Strip searches are prohibited. When practicable, a personal search will be conducted by an employee of the same sex and witnessed by another authorized person. Lockers, desks, and other district property remain under district control and may be inspected without individualized suspicion. Vehicles on school property may be searched when reasonable suspicion exists. Contraband may be seized and transferred to law enforcement when appropriate.

Dress and Appearance

Clothing and appearance must support safety, sanitation, and an orderly learning environment. Rules will be applied consistently and without sex-based stereotypes. Students may not wear items that expose private areas or undergarments; depict or promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, pornography, threats, hate, or unlawful conduct; create a substantial disruption; conceal identity when identification is reasonably required; or present a specific safety hazard. Shoes are required. Hats, hoods, and head coverings may be restricted indoors except for religious, cultural, medical, instructional, or school-approved reasons.

Staff will address dress concerns privately and respectfully. Students will ordinarily be offered a reasonable way to correct the issue at school. Missing class will be minimized, and a dress-code violation alone will not be converted into an unexcused absence. Repeated refusal to make a reasonable correction may be addressed as noncompliance.

Food, Drinks and Meals

Food and drinks are permitted only in designated areas or with staff approval.

Driving and Parking

Student driving and parking are privileges. Drivers must hold a valid license and required insurance, park in designated areas, follow traffic rules, and avoid loitering in vehicles or parking lots. Vehicles may not be moved during the school day without permission. Unsafe driving, unauthorized passengers, or leaving campus without permission may result in loss of parking privileges and discipline.

Visitors, Textbooks, and Facilities

All visitors must report to the office. Students from other schools may attend classes or activities only with administrative approval. Students are responsible for reasonable care of textbooks, devices, lockers, athletic equipment, and facilities. The district may seek restitution for intentional or negligent damage, but financial responsibility and discipline are separate decisions.

7. Health, Safety, and Emergency Procedures

Student Medication

Prescription and over-the-counter medication will be administered according to Oklahoma law and board policy. Medication should be delivered to the office in the original, properly labeled container with written parent/guardian authorization and any required health-care-provider instructions. Administration will be documented. Students may not share medication.

A student may possess and self-administer medication when authorized by law and district procedure, including inhaled asthma medication, anaphylaxis medication, diabetes medication and supplies, replacement pancreatic enzymes for cystic fibrosis, and other medication addressed by an individualized health plan. Required parent and provider documentation must be renewed as applicable. Authorized emergency medication must remain immediately accessible. Medication that has not been cleared through the office will be evaluated based on the circumstances and will not automatically be labeled an illegal drug.

Communicable Illness and Return to School

Students should remain home when they have symptoms that meet current public-health or district exclusion guidance. The school may request health documentation when permitted by law and will provide reasonable accommodations for disabilities and chronic conditions. Families should keep emergency contact information current.

Tobacco, Nicotine, Vaping, Alcohol, and Controlled Substances

The district maintains a 24-hour tobacco- and vape-free campus. Students may not possess, use, distribute, sell, or be under the influence of tobacco or nicotine products, vapor products, alcohol, cannabis, controlled dangerous substances, drug paraphernalia, inhalants, or other intoxicating substances at school, on district transportation, or at school activities. Misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medication is also prohibited. The district will not describe every tobacco or vape violation as a felony; law-enforcement referral will occur when required or appropriate under the actual facts and law.

Responses may include confiscation, parent contact, substance-use education or counseling, in-school detention, suspension when authorized, and referral to law enforcement. The response will distinguish possession, use, distribution, impairment, and a good-faith request for help. A student who seeks emergency assistance for another person will receive an appropriate safety-focused response.

Weapons and Dangerous Items

Students may not possess, use, transfer, or threaten to use a firearm, dangerous weapon, replica, or other object used or intended to cause harm on school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity. A

student who finds or realizes that an item may violate this rule should not display it and should immediately notify an adult.

Possession of a firearm triggers an out-of-school suspension of not less than one year as required by 70 O.S. § 24-101.3, subject to case-by-case modification by the superintendent. Other dangerous-item violations will be addressed based on intent, age, circumstances, risk, and applicable law. Authorized curricular or activity use requires advance administrative approval.

Threats, Safety Reporting, and Emergency Response

Students must immediately report weapons, threats, suspected abuse, suicidal statements, planned violence, or other urgent safety concerns to a staff member or emergency responder. Reports may be made to the principal, counselor, any trusted employee, or the district's reporting system. The district may conduct a threat assessment and may involve parents, mental-health providers, tribal or community resources, and law enforcement. A threat assessment is separate from discipline and focuses on safety and support.

Emergency drills may include fire, severe weather, lockdown, evacuation, and other required exercises. Students must follow directions promptly and may not create false alarms, interfere with safety equipment, or record and publish security-sensitive procedures.

Student Identification Cards and Crisis Resources

Student identification cards issued to students in grades 7-12 will include the current telephone numbers for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line as required by Oklahoma law. Students may also contact the counselor or any trusted adult for help.

8. Student Conduct and Progressive Discipline

Purpose and Principles

The purpose of discipline is to maintain safety, protect learning, teach responsibility, repair harm, and help students make better choices. Discipline will be prompt, fair, developmentally appropriate, and as consistent as reasonably possible. Similar conduct should receive similar responses, while lawful individual factors are considered.

- The seriousness of the conduct and actual or potential harm.
- The student's age, developmental level, intent, and understanding.
- Prior interventions and the frequency or pattern of behavior.
- Whether the student accepted responsibility, repaired harm, or sought help.
- The student's IEP, Section 504 plan, health plan, or other legal protections.
- Safety needs, victim impact, and aggravating or mitigating circumstances.

The discipline guide is not an automatic ladder or a promise of a particular consequence. Administrators may move to a higher or lower response when the circumstances justify it and will document the reason for a substantial departure from the usual range.

Available Interventions and Consequences

- Reminder, redirection, reteaching, restorative conversation, or student conference.
- Parent/guardian contact or conference.
- Seat, schedule, or supervised-setting change.
- Counseling, check-in/check-out, mentoring, behavior plan, or referral to support services.
- Restitution, repair, or school/community service that is appropriate, supervised, and not humiliating.
- Loss of a specific privilege connected to the behavior.
- Lunch detention or in-school detention.

- Emergency removal, out-of-school suspension, or activity exclusion when authorized by law and policy.
- Law-enforcement or agency referral when required or appropriate; school discipline and criminal processes are separate.

Detention Procedures

Lunch Detention

Lunch detention is a supervised intervention generally used for tardiness, repeated minor disruption, incomplete corrective work, minor noncompliance, or a first/repeated low-level rule violation. The student will receive the regular opportunity to obtain and eat lunch, use the restroom, and complete a reflection, academic work, or restorative task. Lunch detention ordinarily lasts one to three lunch periods. It will not be used to deny food, publicly shame a student, or isolate a student without supervision.

In-School Detention (ISD)

ISD is a supervised, non-suspension placement within the school setting. The student will receive assignments and a reasonable opportunity to complete work for credit, needed special education and related services, meals, restroom access, and counseling or behavior supports when appropriate. ISD may be assigned for part of a day or up to five days for most incidents. Longer assignments require periodic administrative review and parent notification. Students in ISD may be restricted from optional activities during the assigned period.

Discipline Response Guide

Level	Examples	Usual Response Range
Level 1 - Minor	Tardy; minor disruption; dress issue; littering; profanity not directed at a person; first device violation; unprepared for class.	Reteach/redirection; student conference; parent contact; restitution; 1-3 lunch detentions; loss of a related privilege.
Level 2 - Repeated / Moderate	Repeated Level 1 conduct; disrespect; noncompliance; unauthorized area; leaving class; academic dishonesty; technology misuse; isolated insulting language; minor property damage.	Parent conference; behavior plan; 1-5 lunch detentions; 1-3 days ISD; restitution; counseling or restorative response.
Level 3 - Serious	Fighting; bullying pattern; credible threat; harassment; theft; significant vandalism; leaving campus; tobacco/vape possession or use; repeated defiance; reckless conduct.	Immediate safety response; parent conference; 1-5 days ISD; activity restriction; threat assessment; short-term OSS when alternatives are insufficient; agency/law-enforcement referral when appropriate.
Level 4 - Severe / Mandatory	Firearm or dangerous weapon; drug distribution; serious assault; sexual assault; arson; bomb threat; conduct causing or creating a high risk of serious injury.	Emergency action; investigation; parent notification; law-enforcement referral as required; OSS and board process; mandatory consequences required by law; safety and reentry plan.

Specific Conduct Expectations

Prohibited conduct includes assault, fighting, threats, bullying, harassment, hate-based intimidation, sexual misconduct, hazing, theft, vandalism, extortion, dangerous driving, profanity or abusive language directed at others, disruption, insubordination, dishonesty, truancy-related misconduct, unauthorized departure, false alarms, tampering with safety or technology systems, possession or distribution of obscene or nonconsensual intimate images, and conduct that substantially interferes with school safety or the rights of others.

Corporal Punishment and Physical Intervention

This handbook does not authorize corporal punishment. Physical restraint or intervention may be used only as permitted by law and board policy to protect a person from imminent harm or for another lawful safety purpose, and never as punishment. Students with disabilities receive all protections required by state and federal law.

9. Bullying, Harassment, and Title IX

Bullying Prevention

Bullying is prohibited. Consistent with the Oklahoma School Bullying Prevention Act, bullying includes a pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results and is communicated in a way that disrupts or interferes with the school's educational mission or a student's education. Cyberbullying connected to school may be addressed when the legal standard for school action is met.

Any student, parent, employee, or community member may report bullying verbally or in writing to the principal, counselor, teacher, or other employee. Anonymous reports will be reviewed, but discipline will not be based solely on an uncorroborated anonymous report. Employees who witness or receive a report will act promptly and forward it to the administrator. The administrator will document and investigate the concern, provide appropriate notice, take interim safety measures when needed, and communicate outcomes to the extent allowed by privacy law.

Responses will be based on the facts, not a rigid first-through-fourth-incident sequence. A severe first incident may require immediate administrative action. Supports may be provided to the targeted student, the reporting student, witnesses, and the student who engaged in bullying. Retaliation and knowingly false reports are prohibited. The board's bullying policy is reviewed annually, and the site Safe School Committee will perform its statutory duties.

Hate-Based Harassment and Protected Expression

Slurs, symbols, images, gestures, or conduct that target a person or group based on a protected characteristic may violate rules against harassment, threats, bullying, or disruption. Discipline will be based on the context, severity, repetition, effect on safety and access to education, and applicable student free-expression rights—not merely on the viewpoint expressed. Good-faith academic discussion of history, religion, politics, culture, or current events is not automatically misconduct.

Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

Sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation are prohibited. Reports may be made to Title IX Coordinator Brenda Louthan at blouthan@gearyschools.org or (405) 884-5618, or to any school employee. The district will offer supportive measures and follow the Title IX grievance procedures required by the 2020 federal regulations currently in effect. Emergency removal, supportive measures, and non-Title IX discipline will be handled only as permitted by law and board policy. Pregnancy and related conditions are protected under Title IX.

10. Suspension, Due Process, and Reentry

Alternatives First

Before imposing out-of-school suspension, the administrator will consider and apply appropriate in-school alternatives, including reassignment, alternative education, or ISD, as required by 70 O.S. § 24-101.3. Safety, statutory mandates, and the seriousness of the conduct may make an alternative inappropriate.

Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension

Before a suspension of ten school days or fewer, the student will ordinarily receive oral or written notice of the allegations, an explanation of the evidence, and an opportunity to give the student's account. Notice may follow an emergency removal when immediate action is needed. The parent/guardian will receive notice of the reason, length, conditions, educational responsibilities, and appeal right under board policy.

Long-Term Out-of-School Suspension

A suspension longer than ten days requires the additional notice, review, and board-level appeal rights provided by Oklahoma law and board policy. Except for legally authorized exceptions, a suspension may not extend beyond the current semester and the succeeding semester. Firearm possession and specified assaults on school employees are subject to mandatory statutory provisions.

Students with Disabilities

Discipline of a student with an IEP or Section 504 plan will comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504, and state law, including manifestation determinations, services during removals, behavior assessments and plans when required, and protections for students not yet identified when the district had knowledge of a possible disability. No handbook provision overrides those rights.

Educational Access and Reentry

Students in ISD receive their regular assignments. Students suspended out of school will receive educational services, assignments, or an education plan when required by law or board policy. A reentry conference and safety/support plan may be required. Completion of counseling may be encouraged or included in a support plan but will not be used as an indefinite, unlawful condition that extends suspension beyond authorized limits.

11. Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Eligibility and Participation

Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege governed by OSSAA rules, board policy, team/activity rules, and this handbook. Students must meet academic eligibility, attendance, physical examination, consent, insurance, conduct, and safety requirements. Coaches and sponsors will publish any activity-specific expectations before they are enforced.

A student may not be removed from an activity solely because of a protected status or lawful accommodation. Team dismissal requires notice of the concern, an opportunity for the student to respond, and an appeal to the athletic director or principal. A further appeal may be made to the superintendent and, when provided by policy, the board.

Athletic and Extracurricular Drug Testing

Students in covered competitive extracurricular activities must comply with the board-adopted random drug-testing policy and signed consent procedure. Testing will use a neutral random-selection method, professional collection and laboratory safeguards, medical review of nonnegative results, confidentiality protections, confirmation and appeal procedures, and activity-only consequences unless separate evidence establishes a handbook violation. Refusal or an unexcused failure to test will be handled as stated in the board policy. The current board policy and consent form—not a conflicting handbook summary—control.

Result / Event	Activity Response Summary
First confirmed positive	Parent conference, education/counseling requirement, and follow-up testing; continued participation only as allowed by the current board policy.

Result / Event	Activity Response Summary
Second in the same school year	Temporary activity ineligibility and documented substance-use education/counseling under board policy.
Third in the same school year	Extended activity ineligibility and additional counseling under board policy.
Self-referral	Supportive response available only under the timing and one-time conditions stated in board policy.

The school will provide the full current policy and consent form before participation. The current form will identify Geary Public Schools, state the approved specimen method consistently, and describe the appeal process accurately.

Activity Conduct and Travel

Students represent Geary Public Schools during practices, performances, competitions, trips, and school-sponsored events. Students must follow staff directions, transportation rules, sportsmanship expectations, eligibility rules, and lawful conduct standards. Attendance on activity days will be governed by the published activity-attendance procedure and reasonable exceptions approved by the principal.

Athletic Safety

A student may not practice or compete until required physical examination, consent, and eligibility documents are complete. Injuries must be reported immediately. Concussion, heat, emergency action, return-to-play, and return-to-learn procedures will follow current Oklahoma law, OSSAA requirements, and medical direction. Only an authorized health-care professional may provide required medical clearance.

Grooming and Uniform Standards

Activity appearance standards must be related to safety, uniform requirements, performance needs, or a legitimate program purpose and must be applied consistently. Religious, cultural, medical, and disability accommodations will be provided as required. Facial-hair or gender-based rules may not be enforced merely as community preference without a legitimate, consistently applied program reason.

12. Transportation

District transportation is governed by Oklahoma law, State Board of Education rules, and board policy.

Bus Rider Expectations

- Be at the assigned stop on time and wait in a safe location away from traffic.
- Follow the driver's directions promptly and respectfully.
- Remain seated and keep aisles, doors, and emergency exits clear.
- Keep hands, objects, and body parts inside the bus; do not throw objects.
- Use a quiet voice; do not fight, threaten, harass, vape, use tobacco, damage property, or create a distraction.
- Transport only approved items; dangerous items and animals are prohibited unless lawfully required as an accommodation.
- Cross only as directed by the driver and never walk behind the bus.

Misconduct may result in assigned seating, parent conference, restorative action, bus detention, temporary loss of bus privileges, or other discipline. Before a substantial loss of transportation, the student and parent will receive notice and an opportunity to respond, consistent with board policy. Transportation for a student with a disability will not be changed in violation of the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

13. Student Activities and Organizations

Band, Student Council, and Clubs

Band includes eligible students in grades 7-12 and may require rehearsals and performances outside the school day. Attendance and grading expectations will be published in the course syllabus and will include reasonable procedures for excused absences and make-up work. Student Council and school clubs operate under approved constitutions, sponsor supervision, eligibility rules, and nondiscrimination requirements.

Class Officers

Class and organization election procedures will provide a reasonable filing period, clear qualifications, equal campaigning rules, secret ballots, and a documented count. Removal from office requires notice of the reasons, an opportunity to respond, and a fair review. Academic and conduct eligibility criteria must be published before the election and applied consistently.

Junior/Senior Prom

Prom plans, budget, calendar, guests, and supervision require administrative approval. Guests must be at least high-school age and ordinarily no older than 20, unless the principal approves an exception. Non-Geary guests must submit the required form and be in good standing. Administration may deny attendance when specific safety or disruption concerns exist. Prom court and recognition procedures will use inclusive, clearly published criteria consistent with law and board policy.

Lettering and Awards

Coaches and sponsors will publish objective lettering criteria before the season or activity. Criteria may address completion, participation, eligibility, attendance, sportsmanship, service, and return of equipment. Injury decisions will be made fairly and with consideration of documented circumstances. The applicable criteria for football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, band/color guard, cheer, and other sanctioned activities will be maintained by the athletic/activity office.

Fundraising and Student Funds

Fundraising requires advance approval and compliance with activity-fund procedures. Students and families will receive clear instructions for handling money and merchandise. Financial disputes will be addressed individually and will not result in public embarrassment.

14. Annual Notices and Incorporated Policies

The following district policies and notices are incorporated by reference and are available from the district office or website. If a policy is revised after publication, the current board-approved version controls.

- Student discipline and out-of-school suspension/appeal policy.
- Bullying prevention policy and reporting form.
- Title IX nondiscrimination notice and grievance procedures.
- Section 504/ADA notice and grievance procedures.
- FERPA directory-information notice and PPRA notice.
- Acceptable use, Internet safety, student data privacy, and AI/technology policies.
- Student medication, diabetes, anaphylaxis, asthma, seizure, and emergency health policies.
- Dangerous weapons, tobacco/vaping, drug/alcohol, and extracurricular drug-testing policies.
- McKinney-Vento homeless education and foster-care plans.
- Child Find, special education, and Section 504 procedural safeguards.
- Transportation, activity, athletic, concussion, heat, and emergency action policies.

Primary Legal and Guidance References

This revision was prepared using authorities current through August 21, 2026, including: 70 O.S. §§ 1-116.3, 1-126, 10-105, 10-106, 11-103.6, 11-120, 24-100.3 through 24-100.5, 24-100.7, 24-101.3, and related provisions; the Oklahoma School Bullying Prevention Act; HB 1276 (2026); SB 1734 (2026); FERPA, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and 34 C.F.R. Part 99; PPRA, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h; Title IX and the 2020 regulations in 34 C.F.R. Part 106; Section 504; the ADA; IDEA; McKinney-Vento; the Gun-Free Schools Act; current OSDE guidance; and current public-health guidance.

Student / Parent Acknowledgment

My signature confirms that I have received or been given electronic access to the 2026-2027 Geary Middle School / High School Student & Parent Handbook. I understand that the handbook summarizes school rules and board policies; that current board policy, state law, and federal law control if a conflict exists; and that questions may be directed to the principal or counselor.

I understand the attendance, academic-integrity, bell-to-bell device, safety, discipline, bullying/harassment, technology, transportation, and activity expectations. I understand that signing this form acknowledges receipt and does not waive any legal right.

Student name (print): _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian name (print): _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Grade: _____

Optional directory-information choice (submit within 10 school days):

- I permit disclosure of directory information as described in the handbook.
- I opt out of disclosure of directory information. I understand this may limit inclusion in publications, programs, honors lists, media releases, and similar communications, subject to FERPA exceptions.

Parent/eligible-student initials: _____