



KIPP Delta Public Schools Student & Family Handbook 2025-2026 School Year

Updated August 2025

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Board Resolution & Approval

The KIPP Delta Board of Directors (Board), by Resolution at its August 12, 2025, meeting, has adopted the following policies as its official policies for the 2025-26 school year.

The Board shall review these policies annually and revise them as required by law or the School's operation. The Board shall be attached to these policies and any subsequently adopted Resolutions authorizing subsequent policy changes.

Disclosures

This Student Handbook is intended to provide general information about KIPP Delta's policies, procedures, and expectations for students and families. It may be updated periodically to reflect changes in KIPP Delta policy or applicable laws. Accordingly, KIPP Delta reserves the right to interpret, revise, amend, suspend, or discontinue any part of this handbook at any time, with or without prior notice. When updates occur, KIPP Delta will make every effort to communicate changes promptly and clearly.

This version supersedes all previous versions and any prior written or oral statements inconsistent with its contents. No oral statements or representations can modify the provisions of this handbook. Any exception or alteration to the policies described herein must be in writing and approved by KIPP Delta's Executive Director or their authorized designee.

Violation of any of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion, or referral to law enforcement, as applicable. Students and families are responsible for reading, understanding, and following each policy. If you have questions or need clarification, please contact your school's main office.

For full policies, please refer to the **KIPP Delta Policy Manual SY 2025-26**, available at kipdelta.org under the section titled State Required Information.

Anti-Discrimination Statement

The School, along with its Board of Directors and staff, shall provide all qualified students and employees equal opportunity in education and employment. The school shall not discriminate or permit discriminatory behavior toward students or personnel. The school is an equal opportunity employer and, as such, will not discriminate in employment, advertisements for employment, pay, termination, or other benefits or conditions of employment with the school based on any of the categories listed within this policy.

In employment, the school will not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, sex, marital status, genetic information, military status, or any other reason prohibited by Federal or State law regarding non-discrimination in its interactions with employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, agencies, and other organizations engaged in business with the school.

The school is committed to the success of every student. It will not discriminate in the provision of equal educational opportunities based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, HIV/AIDS status, sex, parental or marital status, or military status in its interactions with students. In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds for all students interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. The school will comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations that apply to the operation of the school, including but not limited to the following:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin by educational programs receiving federal funds.
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, or sex.
- Title IX of the Education Amendments prohibits discrimination based on sex against students.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (Title I and Title V of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended) protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on disability in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship.
- The Equal Pay Act, in addition to sex discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, prohibits sex discrimination in the payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work, in jobs that require equal skill, effort, and responsibility, under similar working conditions, in the same establishment.
- The Age Discrimination in Employment Act prohibits discrimination in employment opportunities based on age for covered persons over 40.
- The Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against “otherwise qualified” students and employees with disabilities.
- Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 protects applicants and employees from discrimination based on genetic information in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. GINA also restricts employers’ acquisition of genetic information and strictly limits disclosure of genetic information. Genetic information includes genetic tests of applicants, employees, or their family members; the manifestation of diseases or disorders in family members (family medical history); and requests for or receipt of genetic services by applicants, employees, or their family members.

Anti-Retaliation Statement

These Federal laws prohibit covered entities from retaliating against a person who files a charge of discrimination, participates in a discrimination proceeding, or otherwise opposes an unlawful employment practice. The school will not retaliate in violation of any Federal or State law.

The Executive Director shall implement and enforce this policy and consult legal counsel when appropriate.

The Executive Director or their designee is the responsible federal designee for responding to questions and comments under this policy and each of its enumerated federal Acts. Any complaint under this policy must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director or their designee. Employees, students, and parents receiving reports of policy violations are encouraged to bring these issues immediately to the attention of the Executive Director or their designee. The school shall immediately investigate any complaint filed under this policy and act appropriately based on the findings of the investigation.

Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of the school board's services, programs, and activities must notify the administrator at the school or center where the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodation. The lack of English language skills will not hinder any opportunity or event associated with the school.

Equity Coordinator:

Virginia Smith

District Teacher, Multi-Tiered Supports

virginia.smith@kipdelta.org

Alternate Coordinator:

Danyell Rattler

District Manager, Special Education

danyell.rattler@kipdelta.org

Resources:

[OCR Complaint Form](#)

[Students with Disabilities Guide](#)

Definitions

“Administrator” as used in this policy manual, refers to those persons operating as supervisors charged with making executive decisions for the school. “Administrator” includes the principal, executive director, assistant principal, assistant director, or assistant Executive Director, and/ or any other individuals designated as an “administrator” by the school.

“Authorized person” or **“Authorized individual”** is a parent, guardian, or individual listed in the school system or on the School Authorization Form.

“Documentation” refers to all signed notes and authorization forms included in the student’s file.

“Emergency” means an active fire, severe weather, active shooter, evacuation, or medical emergency requiring immediate attention.

“Employee” refers to any person employed full-time by KIPP Delta Public Schools.

“Immediate family” means a student’s father, mother, brother, sister, grandparents, guardian, and/or other members of the family living in the same household of the student.

“Personal Electronic Device” or **“PED”** means a cell phone, smart watch, tablet/laptop, Bluetooth-enabled device, game console, digital camera, or any device capable of text, voice, or data transmission not issued by KDPS.

“School day” refers to the period from the time students are required to be on campus until the time of dismissal.

“School property” means lockers, desks, and school parking lots belonging to the school.

“Student belongings” include backpacks, pockets, or other personal items belonging to the student.

“Weapons” is a firearm, a knife meeting the definition of a weapon under Arkansas law, or a club.

“Written Note” is a signed note from a verified parent or guardian.

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Welcome

Whether you are joining KIPP Delta for the first time or returning for another year, we are thrilled to welcome you to a new school year. At KIPP Delta, we are deeply committed to creating a joyful, academically excellent experience for every student—and to supporting you and your family as valued members of our Team and Family.

This handbook is designed to serve as a helpful reference throughout your time at KIPP Delta. It outlines shared expectations, answers common questions, and provides an overview of key policies, practices, and procedures that guide our school community. These tools are intended to foster a safe, supportive, and consistent experience for all students and families.

The policies outlined here reflect our school's values and goals, including our commitment to equity, legal compliance, and the communities we serve. **Note that this handbook includes summaries and is not exhaustive; for a full list of current policies and procedures, please refer to the KIPP Delta Policy Manual SY 2025-26, available at kipdelta.org under the State Required Information section.**

We are sincerely grateful for your partnership and commitment to learning. Together, we look forward to an impactful and rewarding school year.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Smith
Executive Director
KIPP Delta Public Schools



About KIPP Delta

Who We Are

KIPP Delta is part of the national Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), a network of free, college-preparatory public charter schools. Serving nearly 1,200 students across four campuses in Helena and Blytheville, Arkansas, we offer families in the Delta region an exceptional choice for their children's public education. In partnership with our families and communities, we create joyful, academically rigorous schools that equip students with the skills and confidence to succeed in college, careers, and beyond. Together, we are committed to building a more equitable and just world.

Our History

Since opening our doors in 2002 with 65 fifth graders in the historic Helena Depot building, KIPP Delta has grown significantly, driven by a vision to transform educational opportunities in the Delta. From our first campus, we expanded to serve students across all grades in Helena and Blytheville, revitalizing previously shuttered school buildings and reinvesting in our communities. Our growth includes the opening of KIPP Delta Collegiate High School in 2006, KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy in 2009, KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School in 2010, and KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High School in 2014.

Today, we serve students from pre-K through 12th grade and proudly support our alumni as they continue their journeys toward college and fulfilling careers across Arkansas and the nation. Our unwavering commitment is to prepare every student for success beyond our walls—this promise unites our staff, families, and community partners in the shared mission of student success.

Central Office

The Central Office team ensures the quality, sustainability, and growth of our schools across the Arkansas Delta. By providing centralized support services—including regional academic planning, compliance management, facility operations, finance and accounting, fundraising, human resources, talent recruitment, marketing, operational support, and technology—we allow our schools to focus directly on teaching and learning.

Additionally, through the KIPP Forward program, our Central Office supports alumni beyond graduation, guiding them toward college, careers, and lifelong success.

Mission & Vision

Our mission and vision are the foundational elements that define our organization. Our purpose is the core reason we exist—the essence of who we are and why we do our work. Our values clearly articulate what we believe in and serve as guiding principles for every decision we make and action we take.

Our **vision** is to foster an environment of learning and create the expectation that all students will become effective, transformative citizens in the Delta region and beyond.

Our **mission** is to be accountable to our families and community members by developing exceptional skills, confidence, and character in our students through instruction and exposure to opportunities beyond the classroom.

Our Beliefs

- We believe every student who walks through our doors bears gifts of talent, drive, perspective, and inspiration.
- We believe in creating paths for each unique student to live a fulfilling life with empathy and understanding.
- We believe in creating a loving, joyful, and harmonious community where students, families, and staff are welcomed and valued.
- We believe in continuously investing in academic excellence and a transformative education that enables them to think critically, reason intentionally, and engage actively within various communities.
- We believe in championing a vision of the world we wish to see by building a multifaceted and collective organization.

Commitment to Excellence

Parent & Guardian Commitment

As a parent/guardian, I commit to supporting my child's success at KIPP Delta by:

- Ensuring my child arrives at school every day by 8:00 a.m. or boards the bus at their scheduled pick-up time.
- Making arrangements for my child to remain at school until their scheduled dismissal time.
- Supporting my child's learning by checking homework, progress reports, and other required documents nightly, and reading with them whenever possible.
- Communicating openly with the school and making myself available for any questions, concerns, or needs related to my child's education.
- Notifying the school promptly if my child will be absent and reading all school communications sent home.
- Ensuring my child follows all procedures and policies outlined in this Student & Family Handbook.
- Understanding that my child must follow KIPP Delta rules to protect the safety, interests, and rights of everyone in the school community, and accepting responsibility for my child's actions.

Student Commitment

As a student at KIPP Delta, I commit to:

- Arriving at school every day by 8:00 a.m. or boarding the bus at my assigned time.
- Remaining at school until my scheduled dismissal time.
- Working, thinking, and behaving in the best way I know how, and doing whatever it takes for myself and my classmates to learn.
- Completing all homework every night and asking questions in class when I do not understand something.
- Telling the truth, accepting responsibility for my actions, and learning from my mistakes.
- Acting in ways that protect the safety, interests, and rights of others, listening respectfully, and treating everyone with kindness.
- Showing respect for myself, my teachers, my classmates, and my school, demonstrating true KIPP Delta pride.
- Follow all procedures and policies in this Student & Family Handbook.
- Taking responsibility for my own behavior and following the directions of my teachers.

Section II:

Safety & Facilities

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Prohibited Items on School Property

In our commitment to maintain a safe, drug-free, tobacco-free, and weapon-free environment for all students, staff, and visitors, the following acts are strictly prohibited on school property, including vehicles and school-sponsored activities:

- Possession, use, distribution, or manufacture of illegal drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, and tobacco products, including vaporizers and e-cigarettes. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or criminal prosecution.
 - Possession of firearms. Any student bringing a gun to school will be recommended for expulsion for one (1) year, subject to modification by the Executive Director.
 - Possession of weapons of any kind, as defined by Arkansas law. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination, expulsion, or criminal prosecution, unless specifically authorized and licensed under applicable law for security-related duties.
-

Backpacks

To support safety and security on campus, all backpacks must be clear or transparent.

- Backpacks must be made of clear plastic or mesh that allows the contents to be fully visible without opening the bag.
- Solid-colored pouches or cases inside the backpack must be small enough to not obstruct the view of the contents.
- Backpacks should be clean, organized, and appropriately sized for school use.

The school administration reserves the right to inspect backpacks at any time to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. This helps ensure that the school remains a safe and secure place for all students and students bring only what is necessary for the school day.

Personal Electronic Devices

Except as noted under approved exemptions, students may not possess, power on, display, or use a personal electronic device (PED) during the school day. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to your School Principal.

KIPP Delta Public Schools (KDPS) may grant written exemptions only when documentation supports one of the following:

Exemption	Required Documentation
Medical or Health Need	Physician Statement or individualized health plan.
IEP or 504 Plan Requirement	Plan must specify the device and purpose.
Emergency Circumstances	Staff will direct or allow limited use as safety dictates.
KDPS-Issued Device for Instruction	Device must remain in “education-only” mode and comply with teacher directions.
After-School Extracurricular Use	Begins only after dismissal bell.
Special Event (per DESE rule)	Principal-approved event with notice to families 24 hours in advance.

Teachers may direct students to use school-issued Chromebooks or tablets for curriculum purposes. Personal devices remain prohibited for instructional use unless covered by an exemption above.

If a student is found in violation of this policy, the following procedure applies:

- Staff will confiscate the PED to be stored in a safe location at the school’s front office.
- Staff will log their name, the student’s name, and the date, time, and type of device confiscated with the front office.
- Staff or Admin inform the parent/guardian of the violation and log the communication in the student’s record.

Disciplinary responses will be consistent with A.C.A. § 6-18-507. Alternative discipline will be considered for students with disabilities.

Offense	Device Returned to:	Disciplinary Response	Parent/Guardian Contact
First	Student at 4:10 pm on the same day	Detention (45 min)	Teacher/Staff Email
Second	Parent/Guardian on the same day	1-Day ISS/OSS	Admin Call + Email
Third	Parent/Guardian after 5 school days	2-Day ISS/OSS	Admin Conference
Fourth+	Parent/Guardian after 10 school days	3-Day ISS/OSS + Success Plan	Admin Conference

- Confiscations are documented in eSchool within twenty-four (24) hours.
- Parents may appeal consequences to the Principal within three (3) school days.
- The Academic Leadership Team will review annual aggregate data.

School Closures

The Executive Director has the sole authority to delay the start of the school day, release students early, or cancel school entirely in response to emergency or weather-related conditions.

In the event of a school closure, delayed start, or early dismissal due to inclement weather or other emergencies, KIPP Delta will notify parents/guardians through multiple channels to ensure timely and consistent communication:

- Automated phone calls, texts, and emails will be sent to the parents/guardians on file for each student.
- Updates will be posted on the KIPP Delta website and official Facebook page as soon as a decision is made.
- Local news outlets may also be notified and share the closure or delay publicly.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to check multiple sources for updates and ensure that their contact information is current with their school's front office to receive automated alerts without delay.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

KIPP Delta opens its doors at 7:45 am daily—no earlier. Students may not enter the building before 7:45 am unless they are attending a pre-arranged appointment with a staff member or eating breakfast.

Breakfast service ends promptly and students are considered tardy after 8:30 am.

Dismissal

Dismissal times are staggered to ensure a smooth and safe end-of-day transition per the schedule below. Parents and guardians who arrive before dismissal must wait outside the building until students are released. Any school-related business with teachers should take place after dismissal when staff are available.

Students	Dismissal Begins
Pre-K	3:40 pm
Bus Riders	3:50 pm
Car Riders	3:55 pm
Elementary	4:00 pm
High School	4:10 pm

ID Requirements

Only individuals authorized by a parent or legal guardian may pick up or receive a student. Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that authorized individuals are on file with the school's front office prior to pick up. Anyone picking up a student must present a valid photo ID that matches an individual listed on the student's authorized pick-up form. **No exceptions will be made.**

Car Drop-Off & Pick-Up

To ensure a safe and efficient process, all families must follow the procedures below:

- Due to limited space and safety concerns, parking and walking up to drop or retrieve students is not allowed.
 - Parents/guardians or designated pick-up persons must use the car arrival/dismissal line. A dismissal tag must be displayed in your dashboard window, or you must park and wait until car rider dismissal concludes (approximately 4:30 p.m.), at which time your child will be escorted to the front office for pick-up.
 - Parents should not go to classrooms to pick up students before the regular dismissal time. Students leaving early must be picked **by 2:45 p.m.**
 - Families driving students to school must adhere to this procedure. A staff member will greet each car and escort students into the building safely.
-

Early Dismissal & Late Arrivals

- Early dismissals are permitted only in pre-planned or extenuating circumstances. Parents should notify the school in advance and provide a signed note explaining the reason. Even in these cases, **early dismissals are not permitted after 2:45 p.m.** due to end-of-day routines.
- Anyone picking up a student early must be on the student's authorized list and present a valid photo ID. Students must be signed out at the front office before leaving.
- Please submit early dismissal requests at least 24 hours in advance. Doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled outside school hours whenever possible. Teachers must be notified in writing so they can prepare the student without disrupting class time.
- If a student is present for less than 3.5 hours, the day will be marked as an absence. Students may not enter school **after 12:00 p.m.**, as attendance cannot be counted for the day.

Transportation

Buses

KIPP Delta provides daily bus transportation to and from school for eligible students during the regular school year. Bus routes are determined based on student addresses and community needs; however, door-to-door service is not guaranteed.

- Bus stops will be assigned at central, accessible locations.
- Families will receive route and stop information prior to the start of the school year. A copy of the bus routes can be found in each school's front office.
- For student behavior expectations, refer to the [Bus Conduct](#) policy.

Note: Families are responsible for ensuring students arrive at the bus stop on time and for coordinating transportation if a student misses the bus.

Car Riders & Walkers

Parents or guardians may choose to drop off or pick up their child from school. Students may also walk to or from school with written permission from a parent or guardian.

If a student is being picked up by a different adult or walking home on a specific day, please send a written note or message to the front office that morning.

Early pick-ups are not permitted after 2:45 p.m. to ensure student safety during dismissal procedures.

Student Drivers

Eligible students may drive to school under the following conditions:

- Must present a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to designated school personnel.
- Must park in the designated student parking area.
- Students may not loiter in the parking lot or return to their vehicles during the school day without staff permission.

No Expectation of Privacy: Vehicles parked on school property are subject to search. Students will be held responsible for any prohibited items or substances found in their vehicles in violation of KIPP Delta policies or Arkansas law.

Visitors

KIPP Delta is committed to ensuring the safety, security, and academic focus of all campuses. All parents/guardians and students are responsible for abiding by the following visitor procedures.

Visitor Classifications

A “**visitor**” is any person who is not a KIPP Delta employee or student; this includes, without limitation, parents, guardians, relatives, volunteers, vendors, salespersons.

A “**permanent visitor**” is a recurring visitor with prior authorization, such as an approved volunteer or a regular vendor.

A “**flagged visitor**” is a person identified as a potential security risk by the visitor management system or school leadership, such as registered sex offenders, individuals with court orders, or non-custodial parents.

General Visitor Procedures (During School Hours)

1. **Check-In at Front Office.** All visitors must report to the front office upon arrival. Visitors must be registered in Raptor and issued a visible visitor badge for the day. The badge must be visible at all times and subject to verification by any KIPP Delta employee.
2. **Escorting Visitors.** Visitors must be escorted to their destination; they may not move unaccompanied on campus.
3. **Check-Out Process.** Before leaving, visitors must return their badge and be checked out in Raptor by Front Office staff.

Unless accompanied by an employee, visitors are not permitted on KIPP Delta property after hours.

Visitor Access Hours

- **Standard Visiting Hours** - Visitors are permitted on campus **between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday, on regular school days. All visits must be scheduled in advance with school administration or the front office.
 - **Restricted Times**
 - **No visitors are allowed during arrival (before 9:00 a.m.) or dismissal (after 2:00 p.m.)** due to student safety and traffic procedures.
 - Visits during **lunch periods, testing windows, assemblies, or emergency drills** are not permitted unless specifically authorized and approved by school administration.
 - **After-School Activities** - Visitors are not permitted to access classrooms, offices, or other instructional areas after school unless approved by the school administration.
-

Classroom Visits

- Visitors who wish to observe or meet with a teacher **must schedule the time directly with the teacher in advance** and notify the front office of the approved visit.
 - Teachers are not required to accommodate unscheduled drop-ins.
 - Classroom visits are intended to be **non-disruptive** and may be limited in frequency or duration by the teacher and/or school administration.
-

Flagged Visitor Procedures

Any visitor flagged by the Raptor system or identified by school leadership as a potential concern will be required to meet with an administrator. If necessary, the visitor may be asked to leave school property.

If a visitor becomes confrontational or refuses to leave when directed, law enforcement will be contacted immediately.

Note: Parents/guardians who are registered sex offenders may be granted limited access consistent with Arkansas law and board policy. Escort procedures must be applied consistently, and all staff are expected to maintain strict confidentiality regarding any flagged status.

Visitor Conduct Expectations

All visitors are expected to model respectful and appropriate behavior while on campus or attending school events. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Verbal abuse or threats
- Physical aggression
- Disruptive behavior
- Possession of weapons or contraband

Individuals engaging in such conduct will be subject to immediate removal, possible campus bans, and/or criminal charges in accordance with Arkansas Code.

Suspended or Expelled Students

Students who are currently suspended or expelled are not permitted to visit any KIPP Delta school campus or attend any school-sponsored event or extracurricular activity (on or off campus). Violations of this policy may result in extended disciplinary action or legal consequences.

Accountability

All KIPP Delta staff, students and families are expected to uphold these visitor and security procedures at all times. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Campus safety is a shared responsibility. Thank you for helping protect our schools safe.

Child Nutrition

School Meal Program

KIPP Delta Public Schools proudly participates in the Federal USDA School Nutrition Programs, offering three nutritious, well-balanced meals daily: breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack.

- **Breakfast is served from bus drop-off until 8:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria.** To receive a breakfast tray, students must arrive on campus by 8:30 a.m.
 - **Lunch is served daily according to each school's class schedule.** Students may bring lunch from home (see *Packed Lunches* section below), but parents/guardians may not deliver lunch to students or check them out during lunch periods.
 - **A healthy snack is provided each afternoon.** Students are not permitted to bring snacks from home.
-

Meal Eligibility & Payment

For the 2025-26 school year, all KIPP Delta students attending schools will continue to receive meals at no cost, through the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This provision ensures access to free breakfast, lunch, and snacks for all students, regardless of income status.

The free meal program does not extend to adults. All visitors, staff, and administrators must pay full price:

- Breakfast: \$2.85
 - Lunch: \$4.85
-

Outside Food

In alignment with federal nutrition program guidelines and KIPP Delta's wellness policy, **outside food is not allowed on any campus between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**, including (but not limited to):

- Birthday treats (cakes, cupcakes, etc.)
- Fast food deliveries
- Candy bags
- Party snacks or beverages

Per Commissioner's Memo FIN-15-108, special events such as field days, holidays, school celebrations, or festivals may be scheduled and will serve as the only exceptions to the outside food policy. KIPP Delta allows up to **nine (9) designated Special Event Days** per campus during the school year. These dates will be publicly posted on the district website.

Packed Lunches

Students are permitted to bring lunch from home. Families are encouraged to follow USDA nutritional guidelines when preparing student meals. Suggested packed lunch example:

- Turkey sandwich
- Baked chips
- Pickles
- Fruit (e.g., pear halves)
- Water or 100% juice

Important guidelines for packed lunches:

- No soft drinks or sodas
- No candy or gum
- No items requiring refrigeration
- No food deliveries to students during the day
- No student checkouts for off-campus lunch

Prohibited items such as candy, gum, or sugary beverages will be confiscated and discarded. Students found in violation of the nutrition policy may face consequences, including but not limited to campus clean-up duty, loss of privileges, or school-wide detention.

Food Allergy Awareness & Restrictions

Due to the serious health risks associated with food allergies, all seafood, shellfish, and shrimp are strictly prohibited in school meals and packed lunches. These allergens can trigger severe reactions, even in trace amounts, and must be avoided to protect students with life-threatening allergies.

To further ensure student safety, we ask that students do not share food, snacks, or beverages at any time. What may be safe for one student can pose a serious danger to another. Please remind your child of the importance of this rule, especially during mealtimes, classroom celebrations, and snack periods.

Families should notify the school nurse and Child Nutrition Department of any known food allergies or dietary restrictions. Medical documentation is required to ensure appropriate accommodations are made in compliance with USDA guidelines.

Health & Immunization

KIPP Delta Public Schools is committed to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of all students. The following health services and requirements are in place to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment, in compliance with Arkansas law and guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health and Department of Education.

All students must meet state health requirements to attend school. This includes up-to-date immunizations, emergency contact information, and compliance with all medication and health screening procedures outlined in this policy.

School Health Services

KIPP Delta employs a licensed school nurse who is regularly present on campuses, remains on call during all school hours for emergencies, and provides immediate attention to school-related injuries and sudden illness during the school day.

Students must demonstrate reasonable need and receive permission from a teacher to visit the nurse during instructional time. **In emergencies, students should notify the nearest staff member.**

The school nurse is not a substitute for a family physician. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's healthcare provider for all non-emergency medical questions.

Parent Notification & Emergency Contacts

Parents/guardians will be contacted promptly if a student becomes ill or injured at school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up students who are not well enough to remain on campus. **Parents/guardians are responsible for updating emergency contact information to ensure timely and accurate communication in the event of illness or injury.**

Medications at School

No medication will be administered to a student under age 18 without written parental consent that authorizes the administration and releasing KIPP Delta and its employees from civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from proper administration.

- Students may not carry medication unless authorized by a physician in writing (e.g., asthma inhalers or EpiPens).
- All medications must be brought to the school nurse by a parent/guardian, or by the student with written authorization.
- Medications must be:
 - In the original container
 - Labeled with the student's name, provider's name, dosage, frequency, instructions, and any storage needs
 - Accompanied by documentation stating the purpose and possible side effects
- Nonprescription medication may be administered at the discretion of the nurse with:
 - Written authorization from the parent/guardian
 - Original container properly labeled with administration instruction

KIPP Delta will not retain medications that are outdated or left after the school year. Parents will be notified ten (10) days in advance of disposal. Any unclaimed medication will be destroyed in the presence of a witness.

Immunization Requirements

Per Arkansas State Board of Health rules, students must be immunized against the following to attend school:

- Poliomyelitis
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP/Tdap)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)

A certificate of immunization must be provided from a licensed physician or public health department. **“Up-to-date” or check marks are not sufficient—actual dates of administration are required.**

Grade	Requirements
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 DTaP/DTP/DT (pediatric) • 3 Polio • 2 MMR • 3 Hepatitis B • 2 Varicella (no history of disease accepted)
Grades 1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/Tdap • 3 Polio • 2 MMR • Complete Hepatitis B series • 1-2 Varicella (parental history accepted for Grade 7+) <p><i>Exception: 2 measles, 1 mumps, and 1 rubella dose prior to Jan. 1, 2010 may satisfy MMR requirements.</i></p>

Student Illness & Accidents

If a student is too ill to remain in class or may be contagious, they will be removed from the classroom and supervised in the school’s health room until a parent/guardian or authorized individual arrives.

If a student requires urgent medical care and a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the school will arrange transportation to a medical facility without delay. **KIPP Delta does not assume responsibility for the cost of medical treatment.**

Concussion Management

This policy applies to all students participating in youth athletic activities—defined as any organized athletic event involving students under 19—including school-sponsored practices, games, and competitions.

Prior to participation, each student-athlete and their parent or guardian must receive, review, and sign a concussion information sheet.

Any student suspected of sustaining a concussion must be immediately removed from play or practice. A student may not return to play until evaluated by and given written clearance from a licensed healthcare provider trained in concussion management (e.g., MD, DO, APRN, PA, certified athletic trainer, physical therapist, chiropractor, or neuropsychologist).

Physical Examinations & Screenings

KIPP Delta may periodically conduct physical screenings to identify contagious/infectious conditions, vision or hearing impairments, or other health issues affecting learning.

Parents will be informed annually and in advance of any non-emergency, invasive physical exams that are required for school attendance, scheduled and administered by the school, and are not required to protect the immediate health and safety of students. Parents may opt out of non-emergency screenings by declining consent or providing a recent physician's exam report.

A physical examination may be required before participation in extracurricular athletics. **Students who decline will not be permitted to participate.**

Insurance & Liability Notice

KIPP Delta does not provide or assume liability for accidental injuries that occur during school hours or school-sponsored events. Under Arkansas Code Ann. § 21-9-301, public schools and their employees are immune from liability for damages resulting from their official duties, except as otherwise provided by law.

Section III: Academics

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Approach & Philosophy

KIPP Delta's grading policies are designed to meet the requirements of ADE DESE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation, promote mastery of state standards, and ensure that students receive the instruction, feedback, and support needed to succeed in school, college, and beyond.

Consistency. In accordance with ADE DESE's emphasis on standardized grading frameworks, KIPP Delta implements a region-wide grading policy. This ensures consistent expectations for academic performance across all campuses, prevents inequities in grading practices, and provides a unified system for reporting student progress. Local policies do not override this regionally adopted system.

Mastery of Standards. Grades must reflect student proficiency in Arkansas Academic Standards, as outlined by ADE DESE. This means that each grade is based on clear, measurable learning objectives aligned with state-approved curriculum frameworks. Grades must reflect what students have demonstrated they know and can do—not solely completion or behavior.

- Teachers are required to provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery, consistent with ADE's promotion of standards-based instruction and grading.
- Feedback must be timely and instructional, supporting continuous learning and growth.

Equitable & Reasonable Grading Practices. In compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1602, which outlines equitable grading and reporting procedures, KIPP Delta ensures that grading practices:

- Are rigorous but reasonable.
- Include supports to prevent systemic failure (e.g., intervention before assigning failing grades).
- Reflect the quality of instruction, ensuring that a high failure rate prompts instructional review, not punitive consequences for students.
- Grading must not be used as a disciplinary tool and should focus on encouraging student success rather than penalizing academic struggle.

Efforts & Growth. While mastery is central, KIPP Delta recognizes the importance of student effort, perseverance, and self-management, consistent with ADE DESE's guidelines for student support and whole-child development. Our grading policy includes safeguards—such as grade minimums and late work recovery opportunities—to encourage students to stay engaged and improve over time.

Transparency & Fairness. Per ADE DESE accreditation standards, schools must maintain clear grading criteria and ensure that families and students understand how grades are earned. To that end:

- Teachers must use balanced and transparent gradebooks that align with district-wide guidelines.
- Assignment calendars are required to provide students and families with clear expectations.
- Grades are regularly updated in PowerSchool, and families are notified of academic concerns in a timely manner.

Annual Targets

KIPP Delta aligns our performance benchmarks with the expectations set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (ADE DESE). These targets support informed instructional practices, equitable academic outcomes, and meaningful postsecondary readiness.

Academic Progress & Grade Distribution Benchmarks

While KIPP Delta aims to maintain a high level of academic achievement, we understand the importance of maintaining grading integrity and avoiding grade inflation or deflation. To that end, we reference benchmark grade distribution ranges to monitor student progress without compromising fidelity to Arkansas Academic Standards or grading equity.

These GPA bands serve as internal monitoring benchmarks, not prescriptive grading quotas, and are aligned with **Arkansas's Vision for Student Success**—ensuring that all students graduate ready for college, career, and community engagement.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Student Metric	Target	Sliced by	Purpose
On track to graduate	90%	Grade Level	Aligns with ADE graduation accountability indicators
(1) credit off-track	≤ 5%	Grade Level	Early warning for potential dropout risk
(2) credits off-track	≤ 3%	Grade Level	Indicates critical intervention need
(3) credits off-track	≤ 2%	Grade Level	High-risk identification for academic recovery planning
3.5+ cumulative GPA	≥ 35%	Grade Level	Indicates advanced coursework readiness expectations
3.0+ cumulative GPA	≥ 65%	Grade Level	Indicates strong academic readiness
2.5+ cumulative GPA	≥ 85%	Grade Level	Reflects proficiency aligned with State Academic Standards
Assignments completed weekly (on average)	≥ 95%	Grade Level	Promotes academic engagement and instructional pacing

Classroom Metric	Target	Sliced by	Purpose
Classrooms meeting gradebook category requirements	≥ 90%	Teacher	Ensures compliance with ADE's grading transparency and consistency standards
Classrooms with fewer than (10) students failing per course	≥ 90%	Teacher	Triggers instructional review and student support plans

Implementation & Oversight

All grading practices and performance indicators must align with ADE DESE accreditation standards, including proper documentation in student information systems.

Each school's leadership team will regularly review KPI data to identify trends, support interventions, and ensure compliance with ADE guidance around Response to Intervention (RTI), student growth, and school improvement planning.

Registration & Enrollment

In compliance with A.C.A. § 6-18-201, **all students between the ages of five and seventeen (5-17) years old as of August 1 must be enrolled in and attend a public, private, parochial, or home school.** Students must be 5 years old on or before August 1 to enroll in public school, and are eligible for enrollment through age 21, per Arkansas law.

As an open-enrollment charter school, KIPP Delta welcomes all students who reside in Arkansas, subject to space availability and compliance with state laws. With that, enrollment at KIPP Delta is voluntary—meaning families must choose to enroll instead of attending their zoned traditional public school. All enrolled families are expected to sign the [KIPP Delta Commitment to Excellence](#), outlining shared responsibilities regarding attendance, academics, behavior, and engagement.

KIPP Delta does not discriminate in admission on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, special education status, academic proficiency, English language learner status, income level, athletic ability, or any other protected class. No student will be denied admission due to past academic performance, disciplinary history, or the school they previously attended.

Application Process

Applications for enrollment are accepted year-round. To be considered for available seats in the upcoming school year, families must submit applications by the annual lottery deadline, typically in early April.

Applications received after the deadline will be added to the official waitlist in the order received. If the number of applications received is less than or equal to the number of available seats, all applicants will be admitted and registration will continue until all seats are filled.

Lottery Process

If applications exceed available seats for any grade, KIPP Delta will conduct a randomized public lottery in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-23-306(6) and KIPP Delta's charter. Lottery priorities include siblings of currently enrolled KIPP Delta students and children of full-time KIPP Delta employees.

Applicants not selected during the lottery will be placed on a waitlist in the order drawn and will be offered admission as space becomes available.

Post-Lottery Admission & Registration Requirements

Families selected in the lottery will be notified and must complete the registration process, which includes providing:

- Proof of Arkansas Residency
- Proof of age using birth certificate, passport, military ID, baptismal certificate, county registrar/recorder statement, affidavit by parent/guardian, or prior school records.
- Social Security Number (voluntary) or Request for a 9-digit Alternate ID from DESE.
- Current immunization record or exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health.
- Most recent report card (to assist with grade placement).
- Disclosure of prior expulsion or pending expulsion from another school district. **Following a hearing before the Board of Directors, KIPP Delta reserves the right to deny enrollment to any student currently under expulsion from another district until the expulsion period has ended, as permitted by A.C.A. § 6-18-510.**

Age & Grade-Level Eligibility

Grade	Requirements
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must be five (5) years old on or before August 1 of the year of enrollment. If transferring from another state, students who turn 5 after August 1 may enroll if they were enrolled in a state-accredited kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, <u>and</u> they meet Arkansas residency requirements. Parents of children not yet six (6) years old by August 1 may elect to delay enrollment by submitting a signed Kindergarten Waiver Form to KIPP Delta.
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who turn six (6) by October 1 may enroll in first grade if they completed a state-accredited kindergarten program, or If transferring from a state-accredited first grade program in another state for at least 60 days and meet residency requirements
Grades 2-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from <u>accredited</u> schools will be placed in the corresponding grade. Students from <u>non-accredited</u> schools or homeschools will be evaluated for appropriate placement by KIPP Delta staff. Students transferring from Arkansas Division of Youth Services educational programs will have grades and credits evaluated and honored as transferable.

Student Records & Privacy

KIPP Delta will not:

- Display, release, or print any part of a student's Social Security number on documents accessible to the public or the student/guardian
- Use encoded cards or magnetic strips containing Social Security numbers

These restrictions do not apply to official records transmitted to:

- Arkansas DESE
- Other public schools
- Postsecondary institutions or government agencies
- Entities as permitted by state or federal law

Contact for Enrollment Questions

For additional information or support with enrollment, application, or the lottery process, please contact our Recruitment & Enrollment Team at apply@kipdelta.org.

Attendance & Absences

An absence is excused when a student provides a written explanation from a parent/guardian within five (5) school days of returning. A student may not be penalized for an excused absence but is still expected to complete all missed work. **Parents/guardians are responsible for regularly updating student emergency contact information to ensure timely communication regarding attendance matters.**

Acceptable **excused** absences include:

- Student illness—up to six (6) days per semester; additional days require medical documentation for chronic or extended illness.
- Medical, dental, or mental health appointments.
- Serious illness or death in the immediate family.
- Observance of religious holidays.
- Court or government agency appointments.
- Military leave visits with an actively deployed parent/guardian.
- Exceptional circumstances, approved by the School Principal.
- Participation in official school-related activities (e.g., FFA, FHA, 4-H)
- Election poll work (for eligible high school students)
- Arkansas National Guard basic training (for eligible 17-year-olds)
- Mandatory exclusion due to immunization status during outbreaks
- Legislative Page duties for the General Assembly

Absences are **unexcused** when they:

- Do not meet the criteria for excused absences.
- Lack a valid note or documentation within five (5) days.
- Occur while a student is in out-of-school suspension or expelled.
- Result from early check-outs or tardies that disrupt instructional time.

Consequences of unexcused absences:

- **Five (5) unexcused absences:** Parent/guardian contact and Attendance Contract
- **Ten (10) or more unexcused absences in a semester:**
 - Loss of credit for the affected course
 - Possible denial of promotion or graduation
 - Referral to the Prosecuting Attorney and civil penalties

Exceptions:

- **Virtual Courses:** Attendance for students enrolled in online or blended learning will be measured by time logged and completion of assigned work. Students will be held accountable for failing to report to designated digital class periods.
- **IEP and 504 Accommodations:** Attendance modifications in a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan supersede this policy.

High School Attendance Requirements (Grades 9-12)

Students in grades 9-12 must be scheduled for a **minimum** of 350 minutes of instructional time daily. This requirement may be met through on-campus classes or concurrent enrollment courses.

Tardiness

Students are expected to be on campus and in class by 8:00 a.m. until their scheduled release time. **Students arriving after 8:30 a.m. or late to any class may face the following consequences:**

- Parent/guardian contact
 - Behavior contracts
 - Detention or loss of privileges
 - Impact on participation in extracurricular activities
-

Make-Up Work Policy

Students with excused absences are entitled to make up missed work:

- Teachers will provide assignments upon the student's return.
 - Students have 24 hours per day to complete makeup work.
 - Make-up tests will be scheduled within 72 hours of the student's return.
 - Work submitted late without an approved extension may receive a zero.
 - Students absent on the due date of previously assigned work must submit it the day they return.
 - Unexcused absences do not qualify for makeup credit unless part of a formal agreement.
 - Work missed during expulsion is not eligible for credit.
-

Closed Campus Policy

All KIPP Delta schools operate under a closed campus model, meaning that:

- Students may not leave campus during the school day without written permission.
 - Students must sign out through the front office if authorized to leave.
-

Truancy & Legal Enforcement

KIPP Delta is required to notify the Department of Finance and Administration if a student 14 years or older drops out of school. The student's driver's license may be suspended until re-enrollment or graduation.

Students under age 18 applying for a driver's license must provide proof of school enrollment and regular attendance and a minimum "C" average for the prior semester.

Support for Excessive Absences

Excessive absences will not result in suspension or expulsion. Students are encouraged to seek special arrangements or appeal before exceeding the 10-day limit:

- Families may request a special arrangement or intervention plan.
- If approved, a formal agreement will outline conditions for attendance and academic recovery.
- The agreement must be signed by the student, guardian, and administrator.

Graduation Requirements

All students are required to complete the Arkansas Smart Core curriculum and meet KIPP Delta's academic expectations.

Required Coursework

Subject Area	Credits	Courses
English	4	English I-IV
Mathematics	4	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 4th Math <u>or</u> CS Flex
Science	3	Biology (2) Additional Lab Sciences <u>or</u> CS Flex
Social Studies	3	Civics Economics (with Personal Finance) U.S. History World History
Oral Communications	0.5	
Physical Education	0.5	
Health & Safety	0.5	Includes CPR Instruction
Fine Arts	0.5	
Career Focus Electives	6	Student-Selected Area of Interest
Total	22	

Additional Graduation Requirements (ADE)

- 75 hours of community service (starting with Class of 2027)
- CPR certification
- Pass the Arkansas Civics Exam (60% minimum)
- Personal and Family Finance standards embedded in coursework (Grades 9-12)
- One (1) unit of Computer Science or CS-related CTE (starting with Class of 2026)

Grade Classification & Promotion

Grade Level Classification

Grade Level		Credits
Grade 9	<i>Freshman</i>	0 - 6
Grade 10	<i>Sophomore</i>	6
Grade 11	<i>Junior</i>	12
Grade 12	<i>Senior</i>	18
Graduation		22

- At least three (3) of the six (6) credits needed each year must be in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- Students who fail to meet promotion criteria may recover credit via in-school credit recovery or online coursework via Virtual Arkansas.
- Special education students are promoted based on IEP team decisions that consider academic progress and fidelity of IEP implementation.

Transcripts & Individualized Graduation Plans

Transcripts serve as the official and permanent record of a student's academic performance throughout their time at KIPP Delta and are essential for both graduation verification and postsecondary planning. To ensure consistency, accuracy, and compliance with ADE DESE standards, KIPP Delta maintains a standardized district policy for transcript generation and individualized graduation planning.

Transcript Generation

To support transparency with students and families, transcripts for students in grades 9-11 must be finalized and distributed by the Data Team no later than July 15 each year, following the posting of all final grades, including those that apply from credit recovery and Virtual Arkansas.

Senior Transcripts for Postsecondary Reporting

To meet college application and scholarship deadlines, transcripts for seniors must be updated and shared with colleges and programs on the following schedule. Close coordination between the Data Team and KIPP Forward is required to ensure accuracy and timely delivery.

Milestone	Transcript Type	Included Information
August 15	Initial Senior Transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9-11 final grades and weights • Diploma pathway • ACT composite • Grade 12 in-progress courses • Grade 11 cumulative GPA
January 15	Mid-Year Senior Transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semester 1 final grades • Semester 2 in-progress courses • Updated cumulative GPA
June 27	Final Senior Transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 9-12 final grades • Highest ACT score • Final cumulative GPA
July 15 (if needed)	Final Transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All updated grades for students completing coursework through credit recovery or Virtual Arkansas

Transcript Policies

Item	Action
Class Rank	Published annually based on year-end GPA calculations.
Credit Recovery	Marked with Z for Summer School or CR for Full-Year Credit Recovery
Concurrent Enrollment	Courses must be entered using official ADE concurrent enrollment course codes.
Mid-Year Course Change	Students should not be removed from AP/Honors courses mid-year. In rare cases, shifts may occur at quarter breaks and must be documented.

Transfer Credit Policies

Incoming students must present a transcript upon enrollment. The following procedures apply:

Transfer Challenge	Example	Solution
Matching Out-of-State Codes	<i>Student transfers from Texas.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain course title • Adjust to align with ADE course codes
International Student - Course Titles	<i>Student moves from Honduras and course titles are in Spanish.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate to English • Assign ADE course codes
International Student - Grading Scale	<i>Student moves from Honduras where grading scales vary.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research country's grading scale • Convert to KIPP Delta GPA scale
Student from Traditional Schedule	<i>Student was enrolled in a school where credit was earned over academic year.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in next semester-level course in the sequence
Student from Block Schedule	<i>Student was enrolled in a school where they earned credit at semester level.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in next full-year course in the sequence
Course in Unusual Grade Level	<i>Student took US History in grade 9.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place in next sequential course
Student from Private School	<i>Student transfers from Marvell or DeSoto Academy.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain course title • Adjust to align with ADE course codes

Grading Policy

GPA Scale

Letter Grade	Value	Points	AP Points
A	90 - 100	4.0	5.0
B	80 - 89	3.0	4.0
C	70 - 79	2.0	3.0
D	60 - 69	1.0	2.0
F	0 - 59	0.0	0.0

Incomplete ("I") grades are issued for excused extended absences with required make-up.

Grade Floors

To ensure fairness and support academic recovery, KIPP Delta uses grade floors:

- 50% is the lowest grade that can be given for any assignment a student attempts, even if the actual score is lower.
- 50% is entered for missing or incomplete assignments.

This policy helps prevent a single low or missing grade—especially on tests or quizzes—from having an outsized impact on a student’s overall average, while still encouraging students to complete all work.

AP Course Weights

To earn weighted credit for an AP course, **(i)** the course must be taught by an Arkansas-licensed teacher who is either fully trained or completing an ADE-approved licensure plan, and **(ii)** the student must take the official AP exam at the end of the course.

If a student does not take the AP exam, the weighted credit will be removed, and the grade will be calculated as a regular course.

Students who transfer into KIPP Delta will receive weighted credit for AP courses taken at previous schools, as long as they meet the same criteria.

Academic Health

Academic health is how we monitor and support student learning through consistent grading practices, early interventions, and transparent communication. Grades should reflect what students know and can do, and are a key part of high school transcripts, which impact graduation, scholarships, and college admissions.

Grades must be accurate and fair. Without consistent grading systems, schools can face:

- Students not knowing how they're doing until it's too late.
- Different teachers using different grading rules.
- Surprise failures or grade inflation at the end of a quarter.
- Confusion from families about how grades were calculated.

Grade Policy Communication

Each KIPP Delta school must communicate grading policies through the **Annual Family Information Session** (Open House) and the **Academic Handbook**.

During the school's annual Open House or orientation event, school staff will deliver a presentation that includes:

- An overview of the school's grading scale and weightings
- How GPA is calculated
- The assignment and assessment calendar
- Definitions of homework expectations by grade level and estimated time per night
- Clear expectations for academic integrity, including policies around plagiarism and cheating
- Criteria for being "on track to graduate", including promotion standards

Copies of the Academic Handbook should be readily available in each school's front office and on the school website. Families with questions or concerns about grading policies should be encouraged to contact the school principal, who will consult with the regional academic team as needed. Grading policies are reviewed and updated annually to remain aligned with state requirements and best practices.

Weekly Progress Reports

All students receive weekly progress reports that include:

- Current grades in all enrolled courses
- Missing assignments or assessments
- Any behavioral infractions or commendations

These reports are designed to increase student ownership over their academic performance and provide timely information for families to support their child's success. Reports may be distributed digitally or in print, based on school preference.

At-Risk Status & Family Notification

In accordance with ADE DESE's expectations for early and frequent parent engagement, KIPP Delta uses a structured **In-Danger-of-Failing Notification Process** to ensure families are informed and involved. Key practices include:

Action	Details
Mid-Quarter Outreach	Teachers and/or advisors contact parents/guardians when a student is failing one or more courses at the midpoint of each quarter.
Quarterly Report Card Conferences	For students at risk of retention, report cards are held at school and a required family conference is scheduled to create an academic improvement plan.
Eight Touchpoints	Parents of students off-track to graduate or at risk of retention will receive at least eight personalized updates throughout the year.
Documentation	All outreach must be logged by staff to ensure compliance with communication requirements and to monitor follow-up.
Special Populations	For students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or English Learner (EL) plans, designated support staff will convene IEP or EL meetings to review academic progress and provide additional supports as required by state and federal law.

This communication structure ensure families remain active partners in their child's educational journey and that no student's academic status comes as a surprise at the end of the year.

Academic Recovery & Supports

Make-Up Work

Students with excused absences are allowed to make up missed work under the following conditions:

- Teachers will provide missed assignments when the student returns.
- Make-up tests must be scheduled within 72 hours of the student's return.
- Students have one (1) day per day missed to complete and submit assignments.
- Late work will receive a zero unless an alternate plan is approved by the teacher and school leader.
- Students must turn in their work the day they return if it was due during their absence.
- Unexcused absences do not qualify for make-up work unless part of a written agreement.
- Suspensions do not allow for make-up credit; students will receive a zero for missed work.

Students may retake assessments to show improved mastery and earn full credit. No penalty should be applied for mastering content later. If fewer than 70% of students master an assignment, teachers should reteach and reassess or exempt that grade from calculation.

Teacher Academic Levers

There are several levers that teachers can pull to support students in improving their grades. The lever that the teacher pulls is dependent upon the nature of the gap that appears in the data.

Lever	Useful When	Action Step
Homework Packet Independent Assignment	Students have missed a significant amount of homework and there is no easy path to make up work.	→ Create a make-up work packet for up to 85% credit. Packet should require <u>more</u> work to replace missed learning time. Give student one (1) week to complete packet.
Quiz Correction Test Retake	Assessment averages are < 70%.	→ Offer quiz/test corrections to the class. Allow students to fix mistakes on quizzes. Award up to 85% credit for completed corrections.
Tutoring Support (Grades 9-12)	Student is behind in key content needed to succeed in the course, <u>and/or</u> may not have a focused environment at home to catch up effectively.	→ Pull student during study hall or after school. Provide student with opportunity to work on assignments with support. → Call the parent or guardian to communicate concerns. Inform parents that the student is behind and when you will provide supports.
Parent Meeting	Students aren't utilizing the supports offered.	→ Schedule a parent meeting to review grades. Walk parents through the student's grades. Be transparent about the risk the student faces.
Grade Calculator	Students don't realize how their daily work habits affect their overall progress.	→ Take students through a grade calculator to show them the grades they need to earn to pass. Meet with the student before or after school. Walk student through the work needed to help them pass.

Curriculum

All KIPP Delta curricula must be aligned to the Arkansas Academic Standards, including the curriculum frameworks provided by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE/DESE). Instructional planning should lead to measurable student proficiency and growth on these standards.

The following core curricula are currently implemented across content areas and grade bands. However, the district reserves the right to review, update, or replace adopted curricula to ensure they remain effective and responsive to evolving student needs and academic expectations.

In cases where published or packaged curricula are misaligned with standards or insufficient for meeting the needs of all learners, educators may supplement or adapt materials using DESE-aligned open educational resources (OERs) and/or pull from a variety of vetted sources to design instructional experiences that support mastery of grade-level standards.

Any supplemental materials must be approved by school leadership and reflect both instructional rigor and alignment with KIPP Delta's academic goals.

Core Curricula

- Eureka Math (K-5)
 - Core Knowledge Language Arts (PK-5)
 - Saxon Math (6-12)
 - My Perspectives (6-12)
 - FOSS Science (K-8)
 - Science Curriculum (9-12)
-

Supplemental Curricula

- Shurley English (1-8)
- IXL (K-12)
- iReady (6-12)
- Khan Academy (6-8)
- Lexia (PK-12)

Standardized Testing

Standardized assessments are an essential tool for monitoring academic progress, informing instruction, and supporting student achievement. These assessments provide valuable data on both individual student growth and overall school performance relative to state and national expectations.

MAP Growth Assessment

All students in grades K-10 participate in the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Language. These assessments are administered three times annually—in the fall, winter, and spring.

- MAP is a norm-referenced test, which compares each student's performance to national benchmarks and to peer schools, including other KIPP regions across the country.
 - MAP provides growth data that allows teachers, families, and students to track progress throughout the year and across multiple years.
 - Results are used to personalize instruction, identify learning gaps, and set academic goals.
-

Arkansas State-Mandated Testing

In accordance with Arkansas DESE regulations, students in tested grades participate in state-mandated, criterion-referenced assessments each spring. These assessments measure mastery of the Arkansas Academic Standards in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Science (selected grades)
- Writing

Each student receives an individual score in one of four performance categories:

- In Need of Support
- Close
- Ready
- Exceeding

Note: "Ready" or "Exceeding" is considered proficient, indicating the student is on track for success at the next grade level.

State assessment results are used for evaluating student progress toward grade-level expectations, guiding school improvement planning, and meeting state and federal accountability requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Academic Improvement Plans (AIP)

To support students who are not yet meeting grade-level expectations, the district implements Academic Improvement Plans (AIPs) in accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-15-2101 and DESE guidelines.

Students who do not score “Ready” or “Exceeding” on the annual Arkansas state assessments in core subject areas (e.g., Reading, Math, Science, Writing) shall be required to participate in an AIP. Each AIP is collaboratively developed by:

- The School Principal or designee
- The Director of Student Success
- The Student’s Parent/Guardian

AIP Components:

- Targeted academic support strategies to help the student meet grade-level proficiency
- Clearly defined student and parent responsibilities
- Progress monitoring checkpoints to track growth
- Consequences for non-participation, including possible grade-level retention for students who fail to make adequate progress or engage in the plan

Participation in AIP services is mandatory. Parents will receive regular updates on student progress and opportunities for additional academic support and intervention.

High School Courses & Programs

Course Selection Process

Each spring, students—working in partnership with their advisor and parent/guardian—will complete an academic planning process to select courses for the upcoming school year. Students submit a **Course Request Form** during the spring semester, and final schedules are reviewed and approved by the school's Academic Leadership Team.

Schedule Change Policy

Students may request to add or drop a course within the first five (5) school days of the semester. After this period, schedule changes require written approval from the School Principal and will only be granted for the following reasons:

- Academic need or placement adjustment
 - Prerequisite or scheduling error
 - Other significant extenuating circumstances
-

Early College Honors Distinction

Earning the Early College High School & Honors Distinction is one of the highest academic achievements at KIPP Delta Public Schools. This honor recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance, leadership, and commitment to their communities while preparing for success in college and beyond.

To earn this distinction, students must:

- **Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in all core academic courses.**
- **Complete an Associate of Arts through PCCUA or ANC.**
- **Secure acceptance into a four-year college or university before graduation.**
- **Participate in at least one pre-college summer program.**
- **Contribute a minimum of 100 documented hours of community service.**

Graduates who achieve this distinction will be celebrated at commencement, recognized in official school publications, and honored as role models for future KDPS scholars.

Concurrent Credit Policy

High school students in grades 9-12 may earn both college and high school credit by completing approved college-level courses. Three (3) college credits are equal to one (1) high school credit, except for remedial courses, which count as ½ elective credit only.

Students are responsible for ensuring their official college transcripts are submitted within 7 school days after the semester ends. Missing transcripts may delay graduation eligibility or extracurricular participation.

Courses must be offered through approved institutions with proper oversight agreements in place. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, these courses automatically carry weighted credit for GPA purposes.

Parent Communication

We encourage families to maintain open communication with teachers and school leaders to stay informed about student progress, school events, and important announcements. Families are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns.

To support strong connections between home and school:

- Families receive the cell phone numbers and email addresses of all teachers and staff.
- Staff members will communicate with every family during the school year to discuss student progress, with more frequent updates for students who are not meeting grade-level expectations.
- Parents/guardians can access real-time grades and attendance through the Home Access Center on eSchool.

School-to-Home Communication

Throughout the year, schools use the following communication tools to keep families informed.

Tool	Frequency	Details/Follow Up
Progress Reports	Weekly	Reports must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned the next day. Parents may write comments or contact teachers with questions.
Report Cards	4x Annually	The school hosts Report Card Night after the first, second, and third quarters when families can meet with teachers. Report cards are mailed home before each conference.
Discipline Forms	Repeated or serious behavior	Forms require signatures from both a teacher and administrator, and must be returned with a parent/guardian signature the next day.
Field Lesson Letter	All field trips	Students must return signed permission slips before attending.
School Announcements	As needed	Letters and notices about upcoming events are sent home, posted on the district website, and shared on official social media channels (e.g., Facebook, Instagram).
Email	As needed	Families must provide a working email address. Schools use email for announcements, reminders, and important updates.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and can be requested by the family or the teacher at any time. Conferences:

- Are by appointment to ensure the teacher is available.
- Are typically held during designated conference nights following report card distribution.
- Can be rescheduled if a parent/guardian cannot attend at the assigned time—families should call the school to arrange an alternative meeting.

Section IV:

Beyond Academics

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School Supplies

Students are expected to arrive at school prepared for learning every day with at least two (2) sharpened pencils with erasers, one (1) pen, and paper in their notebooks or binders. Students who arrive without the necessary supplies will be required to purchase them from the campus store. Any charges incurred must be paid in full by the end of the school year or at the time of withdrawal/transfer before student records will be released.

Student Attire

Our schools have a responsibility to maintain an environment that is safe, respectful, and conducive to learning. To meet this goal, we set reasonable limitations on student dress and grooming to prevent clothing or accessories that are immodest or revealing, disruptive to the educational process, unsanitary or unsafe, likely to cause property damage, or offensive to common standards of decency.

Required Daily Attire

Item	Requirements	Acceptable:	Unacceptable:
Tops	Must be KIPP-issued class shirt <u>or</u> white polo, tucked in.	Class-colored shirts/polos Plain white polos College shirts (<i>Fridays only</i>) KIPP cardigans KIPP sweatshirts	Sheer fabrics Low-cut tops Crop tops One or low-shoulder tops Exposed undergarments
Bottoms	Must be black, navy, or khaki, knee-length or longer, with belts.		Jeans (<i>except Fridays</i>) Skirts or shorts above the knee
Shoes	Must be enclosed.	Tennis shoes Dress shoes Boots Crocs (<i>sports-mode only</i>)	Sandals Mules House shoes Slip-ons of any kind
Accessories		Modest jewelry	Headphones (<i>including wireless</i>)
Headware	May be worn for religious, cultural, medical purposes, or as approved by school admin.		Bonnets Wig bands Hats, beanies, durags Bandanas

Clothing that is overly tight, torn, stained, wrinkled, or otherwise unkempt, and anything instructional staff deems to distract from the learning environment, is considered unacceptable student attire.

Students must wear their KIPP class shirt on field lessons or as designated by school leadership.

School Activities & Athletics

Exemptions from Physical Education Activities

Students who need to be excused from physical education must submit a signed note to their PE teacher before class begins. A parent/guardian note is valid for up to three (3) consecutive school days. For absences beyond three days, a medical excuse from a licensed healthcare provider is required.

Eligibility

KIPP Delta follows the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) eligibility guidelines as the minimum standard for participation in athletics, extracurricular programs, and performance groups (e.g., choir, band, dance, drama). AAA requirements are published annually in the [AAA Handbook](#).

In addition, KIPP Delta applies the following local eligibility criteria. Supplemental Instruction Programs, as defined by AAA, may be submitted for approval to the AAA office by the School Principal in consultation with the Athletic Director.

- Pass at four academic courses
- Failed no more than one course
- Min. 2.0 weighted GPA
 - 2.75 or higher - Full participation, no restrictions
 - 2.00-2.74 - Must complete at least four hours of tutoring per week

To be eligible on the day of a game or contest, a student must:

- Attend school for the full day and arrive on time to all classes.
- Have no discipline referrals for that day.
- If missing class for a game or contest, the student must collect and complete all assignments on time.
- Failure to submit make-up work the next day will result in ineligibility for the next game or contest.

Students absent from school are not eligible to attend or participate in a school-sponsored event, practice, or performance that same day. In exceptional, excused circumstances, students may request special permission from the Administration to participate.

Any student who participates in an activity without eligibility or required permission—whether due to absence or long-term ineligibility—will face serious consequences determined jointly by the Athletic Director and School Principal.

Students may be removed from an activity for serious misconduct or repeated poor behavior, at the discretion of the Athletic Director and School Principal. Failure to submit a major assignment may result in temporary loss of eligibility, as determined by the Athletic Director and School Principal.

Before participating in any after-school athletic program, students must:

- Obtain and submit a current physical examination form signed by a licensed healthcare provider.
- Submit a signed medical release form.
- Meet all academic, attendance, and conduct requirements.

Field Lessons & Enrichment

Field lessons give students the opportunity to explore college campuses, historic landmarks, museums, state and national parks, and other educational destinations. Each trip is designed to enrich the academic curriculum, build real-world knowledge and experiences, and prepare students for success in college, careers, and future endeavors.

Students earn the privilege to participate in field lessons by demonstrating consistent academic effort, upholding the school's core values, and meeting behavioral expectations.

Parents/guardians will be notified of upcoming trips through a letter or permission slip. **Permission slips must be signed and returned by the deadline in order for the student to participate.**

Students who meet eligibility requirements throughout the year may qualify for the End-of-Year Trip, a culminating reward experience. Parents/guardians will receive advance notice and a permission slip for the trip. Due to associated costs, a student fee will be required. Families are encouraged to plan ahead by assigning chores for students to earn spending money and setting aside small amounts each week, especially for families with multiple students.

Student Organizations & Equal Access

KIPP Delta Public Schools recognizes the rights of non-curriculum-related secondary school student organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. Equal access will not be denied based on the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of speech at such meetings.

To be approved, meetings must meet all of the following requirements:

- The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated.
- The meeting is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any of their agents or employees.
- The meeting occurs only during non-instructional time.
- School employees or agents attending religious meetings are present solely in a non-participatory capacity.
- The meeting does not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of school activities.
- Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the School Principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, protect the well-being of students and staff, and ensure that student attendance at meetings is completely voluntary.

Prohibited Organizations

Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are strictly prohibited within KIPP Delta Public Schools. Membership in any approved student organization must not be determined by a vote of current members or be restricted based on race, religion, sex, national origin, or any other arbitrary criteria.

Parental Involvement

We believe that active and consistent parent engagement strengthens the learning environment and improves student outcomes. We welcome your input on our Parental Involvement Plan and encourage you to share suggestions to help us make our schools the best they can be. Thank you for your continued dedication to your child's education.

Goal	Strategy	Action
Parent Input on the Parental Involvement Plan	Provide information about the Parental Involvement Plan through the student handbook, visitation days, open houses, and parent letters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invite parents to give feedback and suggest revisions to school and district plans. ● Distribute copies of the district's Parental Involvement Plan to all families.
Support Learning at Home	Share resources with parents on how to support their child's learning at home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide developmentally appropriate activities and tips through printed materials, school events, and the district website.
School-Parent Compact	Review and approve the School-Parent Compact annually with parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compact outlines the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive environment, and the families' responsibility to support learning at home. ● The importance of ongoing parent-teacher communication. ● Provide review opportunities during visitation days, advisory council meetings, and parent workshops.
"Parents Right to Know" Requirements (Title I Schools)	Notify parents annually—through letters, the school website, and parent-school meetings—about teacher and paraprofessional qualifications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide letters to parents when a teacher or paraprofessional in their child's classroom does not meet state qualifications.
Build Parent Engagement Capacity	Offer volunteer opportunities and activities at varied times to encourage participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use multiple communication methods to reach families. ● Gather parent feedback to identify and address barriers to involvement.

Section V:

Student Discipline

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Designation of Authority

KIPP Delta personnel have the authority to maintain order and discipline as follows:

Teachers & School Staff:

- May take reasonable actions to prevent disruption while students are under their supervision.
- May assign detention.
- May remove a student from their class or activity for up to one day with notice of the reason and an opportunity for the student to respond. Longer removals require School Principal or Assistant Principal involvement and must follow suspension procedures.

School Principals:

- May take actions necessary to preserve order in their school.
- May establish additional conduct rules (reviewed by the Executive Director and legal counsel) consistent with law and district policy.
- May assign detention or suspend students in accordance with this policy.
- May recommend expulsion.

Executive Director:

- May assign detention or suspend students.
- May initiate and carry out expulsion procedures.

Progressive Student Discipline

Progressive Responses (K-2)

Young learners are still developing foundational behavioral and social-emotional skills. Responses in Grades K-2 focus on teaching expectations, partnering with families, and supporting self-regulation.

These steps may be used individually or in combination depending on the frequency and severity of the behavior.

Step	Action	Details
#1	Verbal Warning/Re-teaching	Staff member reviews the expectation and models appropriate behavior. A notification call or message to parents.
#2	Reflection Time/Cool Down	Student is given time and space to reflect with support from a teacher or counselor.
#3	Restorative Conversation	Student participates in a brief, guided conversation to repair harm and rebuild relationships.
#4	Parent Contact	A phone call or virtual conference is held to inform the parent/guardian and discuss supports.
#5	Behavior Reflection Sheet	Student completes a written or illustrated reflection (as developmentally appropriate).
#6	In-School Support/Think Space	Temporary removal from the classroom with structured reflection, followed by a reintegration plan.
#7	Behavior Plan/Family Conference	If behaviors persist, the student may be placed on a short-term behavior improvement plan, co-developed with families and staff.

Progressive Responses (K-12)

The purpose of this framework is to provide clear expectations while honoring the developmental needs of students. The discipline process at KIPP Delta prioritizes learning from mistakes and growing through reflection and support. All infractions must be reported using the school-wide tracking spreadsheet.

Infraction Action		Details
I	Immediate Parent Contact	Phone call or virtual meeting with guardian.
II	Detention & Parent Conference	Before or after-school detention followed by a parent/guardian conference (as developmentally appropriate). K-2 may receive in-school reflection time or loss of specific classroom privileges instead.
III	Restorative Discipline Practice	Student presentation to leadership (grades 3-12; details below).
IV	Suspension	In-school or out-of-school suspension for severe infractions, as determined by school leadership.

Student Presentation to Leadership (Infraction III)

Students in Grades 3-12 will engage in a structured, restorative process aimed at rebuilding trust and demonstrating a commitment to personal growth.

To encourage self-awareness, leadership, and accountability, students will be required to create a presentation to school and district leadership that includes a clear summary of the incident, reflection on impact, a plan for improvement, and a re-engagement strategy, under the following requirements:

PowerPoint Presentation	Required Content (7-12 slides): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title slide (name, date, infraction title) • Description of incident • Reflection and ownership • Who was impacted • Plan for improvement • Support needed from adults • Commitment to the school community • Timeline or milestone • Closing/Takeaways
Calendar Invite	Student schedules a presentation time with school and district leadership.
Written Reflection	Two-page, typed essay, <i>"What It Means to Have a Commitment to Excellence,"</i> reflecting on values, accountability, and personal responsibility.
Professional Attire	Students must dress appropriately to demonstrate respect for the process and audience.

Discipline Levels & Consequences

Students are responsible for their conduct on school grounds at any time, off school grounds during school-sponsored activities or events, and while traveling to and from school or school activities. Our student discipline policies are designed to promote respect for the rights of others, establish clear behavioral expectations, and ensure consistent and fair enforcement of rules. This framework promotes fair, developmentally appropriate responses to student behavior while ensuring alignment with ADE DESE requirements.

Offense Level	Details	Penalty <u>After</u> Restorative Practice
Level I: Zero-Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggravated assault causing serious injury to an employee. Firearm possession on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Sale, use, or distribution of alcohol or illegal drugs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Continuous or severe Level II offenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expulsion or suspension for 180 days. Notification to law enforcement. Any modification of this penalty can only be made by the Executive Director. Restorative practices will <u>not</u> be implemented for Level I offenses.
Level II: Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of any weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Use, possession, or distribution of alcohol or drug paraphernalia on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Use, possession, or distribution of counterfeit money on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Threatening, intimidating, or harassing behavior affiliated with gang recruitment or activity. Felony charges disrupting the school environment and education process. Continuous or severe Level III offenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expulsion or suspension for 180 days. Notification to law enforcement when appropriate. Any modification of this penalty can only be made by the Executive Director.
Level III: Threats Vandalism Property Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to staff via any type of communication, including false accusations, bomb threats, Use of tobacco or e-cigarette on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Gange activities, including initiating or planning group attacks. Destruction of or damage to school property, including electronic media, or the property of another student. Stealing or misappropriation of school or personal property of another student (regardless of intent to return). Immoral or disreputable conduct. Continuous or severe Level IV offenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-school <u>or</u> out-of-school suspension. Notification to law enforcement when appropriate.

Offense Level	Details	Penalty <u>After</u> Restorative Practice
Level IV: Disruptive or Harassing Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General defiance, disobedience, or refusal to produce objects identified by metal detectors. Vulgar, profane, or rude remarks (verbal or non-verbal) toward staff or students, including sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious harassment or discrimination. Hazing, bullying/cyberbullying, harassment Fighting (if not in self-defense) Improper or threatening use of electronic media. Possession of mace or disabling sprays. Inciting, advising, or encouraging others to engage in any Levels I-III acts, using any means of communication. Continuous or severe Level V offenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent-Administrator conference; Before/After school detention; In-school suspension; <u>or</u> Out-of-school suspension.
Level V: Minor Infractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitual or excessive tardiness or skipping class. Intentional disturbance of class, cafeteria, or school activities. Tampering with grades or report cards. Possession of lighters, matches, Dress code violations Leaving school grounds or being in an unauthorized area without permission. Violation of cell phone policy. Inciting, advising, or encouraging other to engage in any Levels IV acts, using any means of communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent-Administrator conference; Call via Google Meet; Before/After school detention; <u>or</u> Restorative practices.

Notes:

- Out-of-school suspension must not be used for attendance-related violations (e.g., tardies or unexcused absences).
- Schools must ensure due process before long-term suspension or expulsion.
- Restorative practices should be used before punitive consequences when feasible.
- All discipline data must be tracked and reviewed regularly by school leadership.

Bus Conduct

Students must follow the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school on KIPP Delta buses or other school-provided transportation. Students are expected to abide by the following rules or face the consequences below:

- Remain silent so the driver can focus on safety.
- Sit in assigned seats and face forward.
- Keep the bus clean; do not damage seats or equipment.

Offense	Details
1st	Warning
2nd	1-day bus suspension
3rd	5-day bus suspension
4th	Suspension for semester

Egregious behavior (e.g., fighting, bullying) may result in immediate semester-long suspension from all bus transportation, including athletic trips and field lessons.

Search, Seizure & Interrogation

We want KIPP Delta schools to be safe and respectful places to learn. To keep everyone safe, there are times when school staff may need to look through school property or a student's belongings.

School staff can look through school property at any time—you should not expect privacy for things kept there. Staff can also check student belongings if they have reason to believe the student possesses any prohibited, illegal, or dangerous items.

Searches must be reasonable and done in a way that respects student privacy as much as possible, and will be performed by a staff member of the same gender, with another adult of the same gender there as a witness. School officials may request law enforcement assistance to conduct searches when appropriate. Searches may include the use of specially trained dogs to detect contraband.

Items found in violation of policy or law will be confiscated and disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. Evidence of illegal activity will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

Questioning of students by non-school personnel is only allowed with a court order, parent/guardian permission or student permission if 18 or older, or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the district reports student misconduct to law enforcement or grants access to a student under a court order, the School Principal or designee will make a good faith effort to notify the student's parent/guardian, unless the investigation concerns suspected child maltreatment, and the parent/guardian is named as an alleged offender.

Suspension

Administrators will make every effort to address misconduct while keeping students in school. However, in certain situations, removal from school is necessary to protect the safety, learning, and rights of all students.

Authority, Grounds & Procedure

The School Principal or Assistant Principal may suspend students for disciplinary reasons in accordance with this policy and school-specific discipline guidelines. Suspensions may be in-school (ISS) or out-of-school (OSS) and will be proportional to the offense.

A student may be suspended for behavior that:

- Violates school policies, rules, or regulations.
- Substantially interferes with a safe and orderly educational environment.
- Is reasonably expected to cause such interference if not addressed.

Except in emergencies, the administrator will inform the student of the alleged misconduct and the evidence and allow the student to respond and explain their perspective before suspension. If immediate removal is necessary (e.g., to protect safety or prevent major disruption), the notice and hearing will occur as soon as practicable after removal.

The student will receive written notice stating the reason(s) for suspension. The parent/guardian (or the student if age 18+) will be informed of the reason for suspension, length of suspension, and any conditions for return to school. Notice will be delivered in writing, in person when possible, or mailed to the address on file.

After suspension, the student and parent/guardian must meet with the Student Advisor and School Principal/Assistant Principal to develop a Behavior Intervention Plan before returning to class.

Suspensions issued by the School Principal or Assistant Principal may be appealed to the Executive Director. Suspensions issued by the Executive Director may be appealed to the KIPP Delta Board of Directors.

Restrictions During Suspension

- OSS will be treated as an absence; students may not be on campus except for required conferences.
- ISS will be treated as attendance in school.
- Students under suspension (ISS or OSS) may not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities.
- Students will be allowed to make up missed assignments in accordance with the district's missing work policy.

Expulsion

Expulsion is the most serious disciplinary action and removes a student from all school activities for an extended period, up to one school year.

Authority, Grounds & Procedure

The School Principal may recommend expulsion of no less than one (1) year for Level I & II offenses. The Executive Director may modify the length of expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

The student and parent/guardian will be informed immediately of the alleged conduct and intent to recommend expulsion. The Executive Director or designee will send written notice by mail to the address on file. The notice will include the specific offense(s), the recommended expulsion length, and the date, time, and location of the KIPP Delta Board of Directors hearing.

- The Board hearing will be scheduled within ten (10) school days of the notice unless both parties agree in writing to another date.
- The hearing is open unless the student (or parent if under 18) requests a closed session.
- The Executive Director presents evidence and witnesses.
- The student may be represented by a parent, attorney, or other advocate, and may present evidence, witnesses, and cross-examine the school's witnesses.
- The presiding officer will rule on the relevance and appropriateness of all questions.

The Board will decide in open session and the outcome will be documented in the student's permanent record.

Parental Grievance

KIPP Delta Public Schools values parent engagement and is committed to addressing concerns promptly, respectfully, and at the most appropriate level. To ensure an orderly and effective process, parents should follow the steps outlined below.

Matters Related to Suspension or Expulsion

- Parents will be immediately notified in accordance with the student suspension and expulsion policies in this handbook.
 - If a parent wishes to discuss the matter further, the first point of contact is the School Principal.
 - If the concern remains unresolved after speaking with the School Principal, the parent may contact the Executive Director by:
 - Submitting written communication describing the matter.
 - Waiting for the Executive Director to schedule a phone call or meeting, as appropriate.
-

Matters Unrelated to Suspension or Expulsion

- For concerns about a specific class, activity, or school function, the first point of contact is the staff member directly responsible. *Example: For a concern in math class, contact the math teacher first.*
- If the issue is not resolved, the staff member may forward the concern to the School Principal. **Parents should not bypass staff and contact the School Principal directly unless the staff member fails to follow through.**
- If the matter remains unresolved after these steps, the parent may:
 - Submit written communication to the Chief Academic Officer describing the concern.
 - Participate in a phone call or meeting scheduled by the Chief Academic Officer.
- If the matter remains unresolved, the parent may repeat the previous step with the Executive Director. However, **under no circumstances should the Executive Director be contact before the previous steps are taken.**

This process ensures concerns are addressed at the most direct level first, issues are handled efficiently and respectfully, and communication remains organized and productive for parents, staff, and school leadership.

Acknowledgement

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have received, read, and understand the KIPP Delta Student & Family Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

We understand that:

- The handbook contains important information about school policies, procedures, expectations, and student conduct.
 - It is our responsibility to review the handbook in its entirety and ask school staff if we have any questions.
 - We agree to follow all school rules, policies, and procedures as outlined in the handbook.
 - We understand that the policies in this handbook may be updated, and that updates will be communicated by the school.
 - Violation of policies may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the KIPP Delta Policy Manual and applicable laws.
-

Student Commitment

I have read the Student & Family Handbook and understand what is expected of me as a KIPP Delta student. I agree to follow all school rules and do my best to uphold KIPP Delta's values and commitments.

School: ☐ KBCPS ☐ KBCHS ☐ KDELTA ☐ KDCHS

Student Name (Print First & Last): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Commitment

I have read the Student & Family Handbook and understand the school's expectations. I agree to support my child's success and to partner with the school in upholding KIPP Delta's values and commitments.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print First & Last): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

School Principal Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Appendix



2025-2026 Calendar

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
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28	29	30				

October 2025						
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November 2025						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July 1	6/30 - 7/4 Holiday
July 21	School Staff Returns
August 11	First Day of School for Students
September 1	Labor Day
October 8	End of Quarter 1/Early Release
October 9	Fall Break 10/9 - 10/10
October 17	Regional PD Day
October 23	Q1 Report Card Night
November 11	Veterans Day
November 24	Thanksgiving Break 11/24- 11/28
December 19	End of Quarter 2/Early Release
December 22	Winter Break 12/22 - 1/4
January 5	Regional PD Day
January 19	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22	Q2 Report Card Night
February 16	Presidents' Day Holiday
March 18	End of Quarter 3
March 23	Spring Break 3/23 - 3/27
April 3	Holiday
April 9	Q3 Report Card Night
April 17	Regional PD Day
May 7	Tentative DCH Graduation
May 8	Tentative KBC Graduation
May 22	End of Q4 (last day, early dismissal)
May 25	Memorial Day
May 29	School Year Staff Last Day
June 19	Juneteenth

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
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26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
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31						

June 2026						
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End of Quarter
Holidays (No School for Staff and Students)
Regional PD (No School for Students)
1:00pm Student Dismissal

Please return this completed form to your school's main office.

KIPP Delta Public Schools ("KIPP Delta") provides students with technological equipment and services to support learning and academic success. The following agreement outlines the terms and expectations for student use of KIPP Delta technology resources. This agreement must be reviewed and signed by both the student and their parent or guardian.

1. **Ownership of Equipment.** All technology equipment, software, cloud services, and associated services provided to students remain the sole property of KIPP Delta. These resources are provided exclusively for educational purposes to support student learning, academic success, and preparation for college and career readiness.
2. **Student Care.** Students are responsible for maintaining and caring for all equipment issued to them. This includes:
 - Handling devices with care and keeping them secure
 - Protecting devices from damage (drops, spills, extreme temperatures)
 - Keeping devices clean and reporting technical problems promptly
 - Not leaving devices unattended or unsecured
3. **Financial Responsibility.** If equipment is lost, stolen, or damaged due to negligence or misuse, the student and/or their parent/guardian may be held financially responsible for repair or replacement costs. **Students must report lost, stolen, or damaged equipment to school staff immediately.**
4. **Security Requirements.** Students must:
 - Keep their login credentials secure and never share passwords
 - Log out of accounts when finished using devices
 - Report suspected security issues immediately
 - Never attempt to access other students' accounts or files
5. **Acceptable Use Standards.**
 - **Educational Purpose.** Students must use technology equipment for school-related educational purposes only, including:
 - Completing assignments and coursework
 - Participating in educational activities and lessons
 - Conducting research for school projects
 - Communicating with teachers and school staff as directed
 - **Following School Policies.** All technology use must comply with:
 - School policies and procedures
 - Classroom rules and teacher instructions
 - This technology use agreement
 - Federal and state laws protecting student privacy
6. **Personal Device Policy - Arkansas Bell-to-Bell No Cell Act Compliance.** In compliance with Arkansas's Bell to Bell, No Cell Act (effective 2025-26 school year), **personal electronic devices, including cell phones, smartwatches, and other personal technology, are prohibited during school hours from bell to bell.** Personal devices must be turned off and stored as directed by school policy. Violation of this policy will result in device confiscation and disciplinary action.
 - **Personal devices may only be used:**
 - For documented medical/health reasons with proper authorization.
 - As specified in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.
 - During genuine emergencies, as defined by school policy.
 - During approved after-school extracurricular activities.

7. Prohibited Uses. Students may not use school technology or personal devices (when permitted) for:

- **Inappropriate Content**
 - Accessing, creating, sharing, or storing obscene, offensive, violent, or illegal content.
 - Viewing or distributing content that is not appropriate for the educational environment.
 - Accessing social media platforms during instructional time (unless specifically permitted for educational purposes).
- **Harmful Communication**
 - Using devices to bully, harass, threaten, or intimidate others.
 - Sharing inappropriate messages, images, or videos.
 - Engaging in cyberbullying or digital harassment.
 - Participating in or encouraging harmful online challenges or trends.
- **Security Violations**
 - Attempting to bypass security filters or access unauthorized systems.
 - Trying to hack, disable, or circumvent network security.
 - Installing unauthorized software or apps.
 - Accessing other students' accounts or files without permission.
- **System Interference**
 - Tampering with, damaging, or attempting to alter hardware or software.
 - Intentionally introducing viruses or malware.
 - Downloading unauthorized files or programs.
 - Attempting to disrupt network services or school technology systems.
- **Commercial & Personal Use**
 - Using devices for commercial purposes or personal financial gain.
 - Online shopping or purchasing during school hours.
 - Playing games during instructional time (unless specifically educational and approved).
 - Streaming entertainment content during class time.

8. Internet Safety & Digital Citizenship.

- **Safe Online Practices.** Students are expected to:
 - Use the internet safely and respectfully at all times
 - Never share personal information online (home address, phone number, personal details)
 - Protect their own and others' privacy and safety online
 - Think before posting or sharing anything online
- **Reporting Requirements.** Students must immediately report to a teacher or administrator:
 - Inappropriate content encountered online
 - Cyberbullying or online harassment
 - Suspicious communications or contact from strangers
 - Technical problems or suspected security issues
 - Any violation of this agreement by themselves or others
- **Digital Citizenship Expectations.** Students should:
 - Treat others with respect in all digital communications
 - Follow the same behavioral expectations online as in person
 - Understand that digital actions have real-world consequences
 - Practice responsible and ethical use of technology

9. Privacy & Monitoring.

- **No Expectation of Privacy.** Students should understand that there is no expectation of privacy when using school-issued devices or networks. KIPP Delta reserves the right to:
 - Monitor all technology usage and online activity.
 - Review content stored on or transmitted through school devices, files, emails, and browsing history.
 - Use monitoring software to ensure appropriate use.

- **Data Protection & FERPA Compliance.**
 - Federal student privacy laws govern school technology use.
 - Student work and data will be protected according to FERPA requirements.
 - Parents have rights regarding their child's educational records and technology use.
 - The school will maintain appropriate security measures to protect student information.

10. Transportation & Mobile Safety.

- **Device Use During Transportation.** Students may not use any electronic devices (school-issued or personal) while:
 - Walking in hallways, stairwells, or around campus
 - Riding school buses or in school vehicles
 - Crossing streets or parking areas
 - Participating in emergency drills or procedures
- **Safety First.**
 - Students must always be aware of their surroundings when using technology
 - Devices should never interfere with safe movement through school buildings
 - Students must stop using devices and pay attention during safety instructions

11. AI & Emerging Technologies.

- Students may only use AI tools that teachers have approved for specific educational purposes.
- All AI tool use must be disclosed when completing assignments.
- Students may not use AI to complete work that is meant to demonstrate their learning unless specifically permitted.
- AI tools may not be used to access or process other students' personal information.
- Students should ask permission before using new apps, websites, or technology tools for school work to ensure they meet school safety and privacy standards.

12. Consequences & Enforcement.

- Violations of this agreement may result in a verbal warning, temporary loss of technology privileges, a required parent/guardian conference, formal disciplinary action per school policy, and/or financial responsibility for damages or misuse.
- Severe violations may result in immediate use of technology privileges, suspension, involvement of law enforcement for illegal activities, and/or financial liability for damages or security incidents.
- Students may regain technology privileges by:
 - Demonstrating understanding of appropriate use policies
 - Completing additional digital citizenship education
 - Meeting with parents/guardians and school staff
 - Following any additional requirements set by the administration

13. Support & Education.

KIPP Delta will provide students with education on safe and responsible technology use, digital citizenship, online ethics, internet safety, privacy protection, and the importance of treating others with respect online.

14. Technical Support.

Students should report technical problems to teachers or IT staff rather than attempting to fix issues themselves.

15. Legal Compliance & Parent Rights.

- This policy ensured compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and the Arkansas Bell to Bell, No Cell Act.
- Parents and guardians have the right to:
 - Review their child's technology use and digital footprint at school.
 - Request information about online services and platforms used in education.
 - Opt their child out of certain technology activities when legally permissible.
 - Receive notification of any significant technology-related incidents.

16. Agreement Updates. KIPP Delta reserves the right to update this agreement to reflect changes in technology or educational practices, new laws or regulations, safety or security concerns, student needs, and feedback. Students and families will be notified of significant policy changes and may be required to acknowledge updated agreements.

17. Questions & Concerns. Students and families with questions about this policy should contact:

- Their child's teacher for classroom-specific questions.
- The school principal for policy interpretation.
- The main office for general technology questions.

18. Acknowledgement & Signatures.

Student Acknowledgement. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to follow the terms outlined in this Student Technology Use Agreement. I understand that violation of this agreement may result in loss of technology privileges and other disciplinary consequences.

Student Name (Print First & Last)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Acknowledgement. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and discussed this agreement with my child. I understand the school's technology policies and my child's responsibilities. I also understand my rights regarding my child's privacy and technology use at school.

Parent Name (Print First & Last)

Parent Signature

Date

This agreement is effective for the entire school year and any summer programs. Students and families will be notified of any significant policy updates. For questions about this agreement, please contact your school's main office.