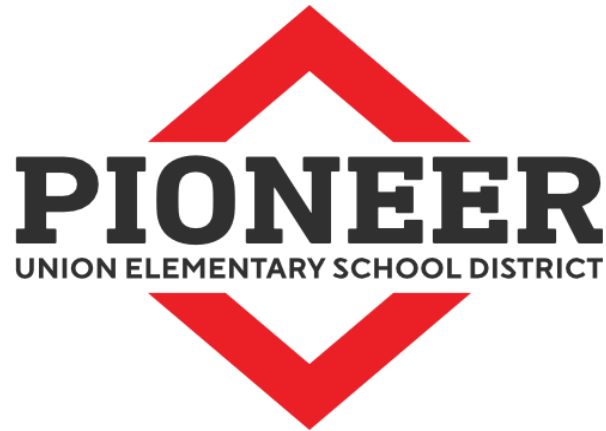




Annual Notice to Parents

2026-2027 School Year

This document is also available online at:
www.pioneerunion.org/parents/annualnotice

Printed copies are also available free of charge at the District Office:

Pioneer Union Elementary School District
1888 N. Mustang Drive
Hanford, California 93230.



Annual Notice to Parents 2026-2027

Foreword

Pioneer Union Elementary School District Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. It is a privilege to continue serving the Pioneer community, and I am looking forward to the opportunities ahead for our students, staff, and families.

This year, our work continues to center on building strong foundations for every student academically, socially, and emotionally. We are committed to providing engaging instruction, meaningful support, and school environments where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to learn.

One of the most important factors in a student's success is consistent attendance. Each school day matters, and even a few missed days can impact learning over time. We ask for your partnership in making attendance a priority by ensuring your child is at school, on time, and ready to learn.

In addition to attendance, strong behavior habits help students be successful at school. Families can support this by reinforcing expectations at home, such as respect, responsibility, and readiness to learn. Establishing consistent routines, encouraging positive decision-making, and talking with your child about how they treat others at school all contribute to a positive learning environment for everyone.

We know that student success does not happen in isolation. It is the result of a strong partnership between home and school. When families and schools work together, students are better supported and more prepared to reach their full potential.

There are several simple but powerful ways you can support your child's success this year:

- Stay engaged with your child's learning by checking in regularly and attending school events and conferences
- Encourage consistent routines at home that support organization, responsibility, and study habits
- Communicate with teachers and school staff so we can work together to support your child
- Take part in opportunities to contribute to our schools through volunteering or participation in activities

Thank you for being an important part of the Pioneer community. Your support, involvement, and trust make a difference in the success of our students and schools. I look forward to a great year working together.

Warm regards,

John Raven
Superintendent



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1888 N. Mustang Drive
Hanford, California 93230



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Attendance

As a parent, it's important to know that California law requires children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school full-time (unless they qualify for specific exemptions, such as private school or home instruction by a credentialed tutor). **Under California Education Code Section 48200, you as the parent or guardian are legally responsible for making sure your child goes to school every day and on time.**

If your child has repeated unexcused absences or tardies, they can be considered truant, and you may receive notices from the school. In serious cases of ongoing truancy, parents can face fines, referrals to a School Attendance Review Board (SARB), or even legal consequences like misdemeanor charges.

Absence for Religious Purposes

(E.C. section 46014) With your written permission, your child may be excused to attend religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction away from school. However, your child will be required to complete a certain number of minutes for that day. Such absences are limited to four days per month.

Excused Absences

(E.C. section 48205) Subject to any applicable limitation, condition, or other requirement specified in law, a student's absence shall be excused for any of the following reason:

1. Personal illness
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer
3. Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointment
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the student's immediate family. Such absence shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state
5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law
6. Illness of medical appointment of child to whom the student is the custodial parent
7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to:
 - a. Appearance in court
 - b. Attendance at a funeral service
 - c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony
 - d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester
 - e. Attendance at an employment conference



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- f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative and judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization
8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Election Code 12302
9. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Ed. Code 49701, and is being deployed or is on leave from a returned deployment
10. Attendance at a naturalization ceremony to become a US citizen
11. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school
12. Work in the entertainment or allied industry
13. Participation with nonprofit performing art organization in a performance for a public school audience
14. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, brother, sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household.

Method of Verification

(Administrative Regulation 5113)

Student absences to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note.

For other absences the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student, or the student if age 18 or older.

Verification of an excused absence must be submitted within three (3) school days of the student's return. If verification is not received within that timeframe, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

A doctor's note is required to verify illness-related absences when requested by the school. Notes must correspond to the specific date(s) of the absence. General or open-ended notes intended to cover multiple days or an extended period of time will not be accepted unless they clearly specify the dates of absence or are part of a documented medical plan approved by the school.

Intradistrict Attendance Option

(E.C. section 35160.5)

By law, the District must have a policy for residents of the District to attend schools within the District other than the one assigned by the District, unless the District only has one school or schools that do not serve any of the same grade levels.



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Under the District's policy, the District will determine the number of available spaces at each of its schools for students wishing to transfer to another school. Students who currently reside in the attendance area of a school cannot be displaced by students wishing to transfer from within the District, but outside the school's attendance area. Further, the District retains the authority to maintain appropriate racial and ethnic balances among its respective schools and may therefore deny a transfer request if necessary to maintain these balances. The selection process to determine which, if any, students will be allowed to transfer is random and unbiased. A student's academic or athletic performance cannot be a basis to accept or deny a transfer request. The District is not required to provide transportation assistance to a student who transfers to another school in the District under these provisions.

Interdistrict Attendance Option

(E.C. sections 46600-46603, 48204(b), 48204(d), and 48300-48361)

Pioneer Union Elementary School District's Interdistrict Policy is available at the District Office – 1888 N. Mustang Dr., Hanford, CA 93230.

Attendance Where Parents are Employed (E.C. section 48204(b))

Your child may have the option of attending school in the district where you or your spouse are employed. If interested, call the District Office at 585-2400 x4100 for information.

Attendance Where Caregiver Resides (E.C. section 48204(d))

If your child lives in the home of a care giving adult, as defined by law, your child may attend school in the district in which that residence is located. Execution of an affidavit under penalty of perjury pursuant to the Family Code by the care giving adult is required to determine that your child lives in the caregiver's home.

Individualized Instruction (Temporary Disabilities)

(E.C. sections 48206.3 and 48980(b))

If your child has a temporary disability that makes attendance in the regular day classes, or alternative education program in which the pupil is enrolled, impossible or inadvisable, your student shall receive either individual instruction at home provided by the school district in which the pupil is deemed to reside, or individual instruction in a hospital or other residential health facility, excluding state hospitals, provided by the school district in which the hospital or other residential health facility is located.

Minimum Days or Pupil Free Staff Development Days

(E.C. section 48980(c))

Please refer to the Pioneer Union Elementary School District Calendar (later in this document), or online at <https://www.pioneerunion.org/parents/schoolcalendar/>

No Grade Reduction or Loss of Academic Credit

(E.C. section 48205)



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Your child shall not have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence(s) if missed assignments and tests can be reasonably provided and are satisfactorily completed in a reasonable time.

Students in Hospitals Outside of School District

(E.C. sections 48206.3, 48207, and 48208)

If, due to a temporary disability, your child is in a hospital or other residential health facility which is located outside your school district, he/she may be eligible to attend the school district in which the hospital is located. If this situation should arise, you should notify both the district where you reside and the district where the hospital is located so that individualized instruction, if possible, can be provided.



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Discipline

Dress Code

(Board Policy and Administrative Regulations Number 5132)

The mission of the Pioneer Union Elementary School District includes not only academic education, but also education in manners, dress, and grooming as elements of good citizenship. The Pioneer District charter is based on “students will rise to meet our expectations”, which includes high expectations for student responsibility in their academics, socially and in their behavior. Additionally, research demonstrates that student dress and appearance affect student attitudes and conduct. The purpose of the Dress and Grooming Policy is to emphasize that school is the student’s place of work and that respect for self and others places some restrictions on dress and grooming. A consistent dress and grooming policy is necessary and the Board authorizes school regulations regarding dress and grooming practices that prevent disruption of the classroom atmosphere, enhance classroom decorum and discipline, eliminate disturbances, and protect the health and welfare of the District’s students.

Regulations regarding the dress code will be reviewed periodically by faculty and administration. Any annual revisions will be submitted to the Board for approval and implementation the following school year. The Board reserves the right to approve and implement revisions during a current school year if circumstances warrant such action.

Student violations of these regulations will be addressed through appropriate disciplinary action. The principal or designee may implement progressive interventions and consequences, including but not limited to parent/guardian contact, restorative practices, and other school-based responses. Repeated or more serious violations may result in additional disciplinary action in accordance with Education Code and district policy.

Involuntary Student Transfer

A student may be involuntarily transferred if the student is convicted of a violent felony, as defined in Penal Code 667.5(c), or a misdemeanor listed in Penal Code 29805 and is enrolled at the same school as the victim of the crime for which the student was convicted. (BP 5116.2)

Library Media Use

The use of the PUESD Library is a privilege extended to students who agree to read books, obey library rules, take good care of all library materials and return them promptly. Students who do not follow library procedures may have their privileges revoked. By signing the Annual Parent Notification acknowledgement, I (parent) accept full responsibility for any excessive wear, loss and/or stolen materials that are checked out to my child from the PUESD Library as per Board Policy Number 6161.2



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Parent Responsibility for Student-Caused Damages

(E.C. sections 48904 and 48900.1; Civil Code section 1714.1)

Parents are liable for all the damages caused by the willful misconduct of their minor children which result in death or injury to other students, school personnel, or school property. Parents are also liable for any school property loaned to the student and willfully not returned. If your child loses or damages school property including, but not limited to computers, Chromebooks, text books, library books etc., as the parent/guardian you are liable for the cost of replacement or the cost to repair the damaged item.

Administrative Regulation 5125.2 permits the school district to withhold grades, diplomas, or transcripts of the student who has not returned, lost or damaged school property. Additionally, your child's next school will be notified of the failure to make reparations for school property that has not been returned, has been damaged or lost. Your child's next school is required by law (E.C. 48904.3) to withhold grades, diplomas, or transcripts until reparations to Pioneer Union Elementary School District is made.

Additionally, your child may be prohibited from participating in non-academic, extracurricular activities until the reparation is made for missing, lost, or damaged school property.

If your child commits an obscene act, engages in habitual profanity or vulgarity, or disrupts school activities, the behavior will be addressed through appropriate school-based interventions and disciplinary action in accordance with Education Code and district policy.

Release of Student to Peace Officer

(E.C. section 48906)

If a school official releases your child from school to a peace officer for the purpose of removing him/her from the school premises, the school official shall take immediate steps to notify you, or a responsible relative of your child, except when a student has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse. In those cases, the peace officer will notify the parent, or responsible relative, that the child is in custody and the place where the child is being held, unless the child would be endangered by disclosure of the place.

Student Discipline Rules and Right to Review Same

(E.C. section 35291)

The district maintains a student discipline code with policies and procedures. Copies are available at each school office. You have a right to review the school rules regarding student discipline. If you wish to do so, please contact the school office.

Mobile Communication and Personal Electronic Devices

Students may bring mobile communication devices to school; however, the use of such devices during the school day is limited in accordance with Board Policy 5131.8 and Administrative Regulation 5131.8.



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For purposes of this handbook, mobile communication devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches with communication capability, earbuds or headphones connected to personal devices, tablets, and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting, receiving, storing, or accessing electronic communications.

During the school day, mobile communication devices must be turned off or placed in silent mode and stored in accordance with school procedures. Students may not use mobile communication devices during the school day unless specifically authorized by a teacher or administrator or otherwise permitted by Board Policy 5131.8 or Administrative Regulation 5131.8.

Students may not use mobile communication devices to:

- Make or receive phone calls.
- Send or receive text messages.
- Access social media or other non-instructional applications.
- Take photographs, record audio, or record video.
- Use earbuds, headphones, or other personal listening devices connected to a mobile communication device.
- Engage in any activity that disrupts instruction or infringes upon the privacy rights of others.

Students may use their mobile communication devices after they have exited the school campus at the conclusion of the school day unless participating in a school-sponsored activity where different expectations have been established.

The District is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged mobile communication devices brought to school or school-sponsored activities.

Students are expected to comply with all staff directions regarding the possession, storage, and use of mobile communication devices. Failure to comply may result in confiscation of the device and disciplinary action in accordance with Board Policy 5131.8, Administrative Regulation 5131.8, and the Student Code of Conduct.

Progressive Consequences

Students who violate the District's Mobile Communication Device Policy may be subject to the following progressive consequences:

First Offense

- Parent/guardian will be notified.
- The policy will be reviewed with the student.
- Documentation will be entered into the student information system.
- The student may retrieve the device from the school office after dismissal.



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Second Offense

- Parent/guardian will be notified.
- The policy will be reviewed with the student.
- Documentation will be entered into the student information system.
- A disciplinary referral may be issued.
- The student may retrieve the device from the school office after dismissal.

Third Offense

- Parent/guardian will be required to retrieve the device.
- Conference with the student and administration.
- Disciplinary referral issued.
- Break detention or other appropriate corrective action.

Fourth and Subsequent Offenses

- Parent/guardian will be required to retrieve the device.
- Conference with the student and administration.
- Disciplinary referral issued.
- Other appropriate disciplinary consequences consistent with District policy.

Student Search

(U.S. Supreme Court Case: New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325)

The school principal or designee may search the person of a student (including backpack, purse, bag, etc.) or the student's locker if there is a reasonable suspicion to believe the student may have a concealed weapon, narcotics, stolen property, or contraband.

Evidence gathered from video surveillance tape systems in posted areas is specifically admissible in discipline hearings, as no one has a reasonable expectation of privacy in those circumstances.

Student Sexual Harassment

(E.C. section 231.5; 5 CCR section 4917)

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits at school, or at school-sponsored or school-related activities, sexual harassment targeted at any student by anyone. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who files a complaint, testifies, or otherwise participates in district complaint



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processes. A copy of the policy is available at the District Office – 1888 N. Mustang Drive, Hanford – 559-585-2400 x 4100

Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 106.8 requires the district to issue the following notification to employees, job applicants, and employee organization:

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates. The prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex is required by federal law (20 USC 1681-1688; 34CFR Part 106) and extends to employment. The district also prohibits retaliation against any employee for filing a complaint or exercising any right granted under Title IX.

Title IX requires a school district to take immediate and appropriate action to address any potential Title IX violations that are brought to its attention. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX, this notice, and who is protected by Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee as the district's Title IX Coordinator, to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking:

Superintendent
Pioneer Union Elementary School District
1888 Mustang Drive Hanford, CA 93230
559-585-2400
title9coordinator@puesd.net

Any individual may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator or any other school employee at any time, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon receiving an allegation of sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the parties, in writing, of the applicable district complaint procedure.

To view an electronic copy of the district's policies and administrative regulations on sexual harassment, including the grievance process that complies with 34 CFR 106.45, please see BP/AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11/5145.7 – Sexual Harassment and AR 4119.12/4209/12/4319/12/5145.71-Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure, please visit: www.pioneerunion.org/importantnotices/title-ix/.

To inspect or obtain a copy of the district's sexual harassment policies and administrative regulations, please contact Pioneer District Office at 559-585-2400.

Materials used to train the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process are also publicly available on the district's web site or at the district office upon request.



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Student Services

Lunch & Breakfast Programs

Under California's Universal Meals Program, **all enrolled students are eligible to receive one healthy breakfast and one healthy lunch every school day at no cost**, regardless of household income or eligibility status.

- **Breakfast:** Served as a Grab-N-Go meal every morning before school at all school sites. Daily items, fresh fruit, 100% fruit juice, and milk choices are listed above each day's lunch menu on both the monthly menu and weekly bulletin.
- **Lunch:** A hot lunch program including milk is available at all sites. Pioneer Union Elementary School District uses the "offer versus serve" system. Students may choose from available items but must select a minimum of three out of five meal components, one of which must be a ½ cup of fruit and/or a vegetable.

Meal Tracking & Extra Purchases

Each student is issued a personal cafeteria code number. While the first daily breakfast and lunch are completely free, students must enter their code at the register so the district can track participation and claim state/federal reimbursements.

If a student wishes to purchase a second entree, a second full meal, or individual a la carte items (such as an extra carton of milk), they may, but it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep the account current if a child makes extra purchases.

Payments to student meal accounts may be made online through **MyPaymentsPlus** (where balances can also be checked for free). Alternatively, cash or check payments can be turned in via a labeled envelope to the classroom teacher first thing in the morning or directly to the Cafeteria Clerk.

Meal Charge and Remaining Balance Funds Policy

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are integral to ensuring students have access to nutritious meals. A nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch shall be made available at no cost to any student who requests a meal, including students enrolled in an independent study program scheduled for in-person educational activities of two or more hours. After a student has been provided a school meal at no cost, the district may sell the student an additional entree or meal from the same meal service (Education Code 49431).

To comply with state and federal tracking regulations, the district maintains three distinct categories of student cafeteria accounts based on annual confidential income applications: **Full-Pay Status, Free Status, and Reduced-Pay Status**. Prepaid funds deposited by families for extra cafeteria purchases are managed and refunded at the end of the school year or upon district exit according to these categories:



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A. Full-Pay Student Accounts

- **Refunds & Transfers:** Parents/guardians may request a refund, transfer funds to a sibling's account, or donate the remaining balance to the cafeteria at any time.
- **Exiting/Graduating Students:** The Cafeteria Clerk will process monthly refunds for active full-pay students exiting the district or graduating at the end of the year.
- **Balances Under \$5.00:** For exiting students, the clerk will attempt to contact the parent/guardian twice. Should the parent not respond within five business days of the final phone call, the balance shall be transferred to the cafeteria fund as a donation.
- **Year-End Roll-Over:** For returning active students, balances of \$5.00 or less will automatically roll over to the next school year unless a refund is requested.

B. Free Student Accounts

- **Refunds & Transfers:** Parents/guardians of a student with free status may request a refund of self-deposited prepaid funds at any time.
- **Exiting/Graduating Students:** Any student exiting or graduating from the district will have their remaining balance automatically refunded monthly, regardless of the amount.
- **Active Status Reports:** At the end of each month, the clerk will run a report for active Free-status accounts and automatically refund any balance greater than \$5.00.
- **Year-End Roll-Over:** For returning active students, balances of \$5.00 or less will roll over to the next school year unless a refund is requested.

C. Reduced Student Accounts

- **Refunds & Transfers:** Parents/guardians of reduced-pay students may request a refund or transfer to a sibling's account at any time.
- **Exiting/Graduating Students:** Any student exiting or graduating from the district will have their balance automatically refunded monthly, regardless of the amount.
- **Active Status Reports:** At the end of each month, the clerk will run a report for active Reduced-status accounts and automatically refund any balance greater than \$5.00.
- **Year-End Roll-Over:** For returning active students, balances of \$5.00 or less will roll over to the next school year unless a refund is requested.

Refund Delivery & Unclaimed Funds

Refund checks for Free and Reduced-pay accounts will be mailed to the last known forwarding address. If a refund is returned as undeliverable, the district will attempt to call the parent/guardian twice on separate business days. Parents may choose to donate the balance over the phone. If no response is received within 5 business days of the final call, the balance will be transferred to the cafeteria fund.



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Pupil Nutrition / Benefit and Funding Application

(E.C. sections 49510-49520; 42 U.S.C. 1758 and 1773)

While all students receive school meals at no cost under the Universal Meals Program, **it is still vital that families submit a school meal/income application.** Completing this application determines your school's eligibility to receive state and federal funding (such as LCFF). It may also qualify your household for other important benefits, including discounted home internet service, waived academic testing fees (SAT/ACT/AP), and discounted utilities. The application form and related information will be distributed to all parents at the beginning of each school year and is available in the school office at all times.

Assistance to Households

Households with questions or needing assistance may contact the school office where their student attends to be properly directed.

Pioneer Elementary School – (559) 584-8831

Frontier Elementary School – (559) 585-2430

Pioneer Middle School – (559) 584-0112

Pupil Nutrition/Notice of Free and Reduced Meal Prices

(E.C. sections 49510-49520; 42 U.S.C. 1758 and 1773))

Your child may be eligible for free and reduced meal prices. The application form and related information will be distributed to all parents at the beginning of each school year and is available to students at all times during the school day.

Earned Income Tax Credit Information Act

Based on your annual earnings, you may be eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit from the Federal Government (Federal EITC). The Federal EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. For information regarding your eligibility to receive the Federal EITC, contact the IRS by calling 800-829-3676 or through its website at www.irs.gov.

You may also be eligible to receive the California Earned Income Tax Credit (California EITC). The California EITC is a refundable state income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. For information on the availability of the credit eligibility requirements contact the Franchise Tax Board at 800-852-5711 or through its website at www.ftb.ca.gov.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, office, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance



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program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, [AD- 3027\(PDF\)](#), found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Office of the Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

FAX: 202-690-7442

Email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

Services to Disabled Pupils

(E.C. sections 56020 et seq. and 56301)

If you have reason to believe that your child (ages 0 through 21 years) has a disability which requires special services or accommodations, notify your school principal. You may request an assessment for eligibility for special education instruction or services through the school principal after other interventions are utilized. Your child will be evaluated to determine whether he/she is eligible for special instruction or services.

Student Record Transfers

(E. C. sections 49068)

The pupil's permanent record shall be transferred by the former district or private school upon a request from the district or private school where the pupil intends to enroll.

Health & Safety

Assistance with Medication

(E.C. sections 49423 and 49480)



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At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of the options available to students who need to take prescribed medication during the school day and the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians regarding those options. (Education Code 49480)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parents/guardians of any student on a continuing medication regimen for a non-episodic condition of the following: (Education Code 49480)

1. The parent/guardian is required to inform the school nurse or other designated employee of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician.
2. With the parent/guardian's consent, the school nurse or other designated employee may communicate with the student's physician regarding the medication and its effects and may counsel school personnel regarding the possible effects of the medication on the student's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission, or overdose.

At least once per school year, the Superintendent or designee shall distribute to all employees a notice requesting volunteers to be trained to administer epinephrine, and/or stock albuterol inhalers for emergency aid to individuals exhibiting signs of anaphylaxis reaction or respiratory distress. Such notice shall also describe the training that the volunteers will receive. (Education Code 49414, 49414.7)

Confidential Medical Services Without Parental Consent

(E.C. section 46010.1)

According to the law, school authorities may excuse any student in grades 7 through 12 from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parents.

Control of Communicable Disease

(E.C. section 49403)

This district cooperates with the local health office in the control and prevention of communicable disease in school-age children. If you consent in writing, the district may permit any person licensed as a physician and surgeon, or any person licensed as a registered nurse to administer an immunizing agent to your child. You will be advised in writing before any immunization program is instituted.

Divorced or Separated Parents

The Pioneer Union Elementary School District shall not give preference to either parent when the family is involved in a legal action, such as divorce or separation, unless otherwise directed by a court order. It is the sole responsibility of the parent(s) to notify the District and provide a copy of any such order.

1. Court Orders – At the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment of a student in the district, custodial parents shall provide "Emergency Card" information, including whether any court order governing a divorce, separation, or delineation of parental rights is in effect. When a court order is in effect, the custodial parent shall provide a copy of the court order to the school



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principal. The school principal shall inform the student's classroom teachers when a court order restricts a noncustodial parent's access to the student or to information about the student. If a school receives conflicting court orders, the most recent order shall govern.

2. **Student's Release from School** – A student enrolled in the district may be released from school to either the custodial or noncustodial parent, unless the custodial parent has presented a court or other legally binding document that prohibits release to a noncustodial parent.
3. **Participation of Noncustodial Parent** – The noncustodial parent of any student enrolled in one of the District's schools may be provided all report cards, notices of school activities, disciplinary reports, conference information and/or summaries, or other student records that are provided to the principal. Both parents may request additional records in conformance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, unless a court order specifies otherwise. The school generally will conduct only one parent-teacher conference per term, in which both parents will be permitted to participate.
4. **Residence of Student** – The parent or guardian who enrolls a student shall be considered the custodial parent, and the parent's residence shall be considered the student's residence for school purposes, unless a court order specifies otherwise. The student's parents are solely responsible for informing the school of names and mailing addresses of the custodial and noncustodial parents.
5. **Custody or Court Documents** – The District and schools will follow all custody orders on file with the school office. Therefore, prior to filing papers with the school office parents shall be notified that as long as papers are on file at the school, the school will have to follow them as written.
6. **Written Recommendations from PUESD schools or employees** – Written documentation can only be given if staff has written data, which is kept on all students. Parents can expect to receive information such as report cards, attendance, discipline tickets, promotion/retention information, state or District testing information and if appropriate special education documents. Therefore, staff will not write personal letters.

Emergency School Dismissal – Instructions to Parents

When an emergency situation arises and there is a need to dismiss school before the end of the school day, the following procedure will be followed:

1. When the type of emergency has been identified, the decision to dismiss early will be made by the district Superintendent or designee.
2. Depending on the type of emergency, if there is sufficient time to permit the students to walk or ride the bus home, school will be dismissed, allowing the children who normally walk home to leave and having the children who ride the bus wait for an available bus.
3. If it is a type of emergency that will not allow enough time for the children to walk home safely or to be transported by bus, the teachers will keep the children in the classroom or other safe location on the school campus until someone comes for them or until the emergency situation has cleared and they can be dismissed.



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The main thing to remember is not to panic. You should speak to your children about this and decide on a plan of what they are to do and where they are to go in case of emergency and early dismissal. It is our hope that we will never have to deal with an emergency situation; but it is always wise to be prepared. School and District Office Personnel will remain on duty until the emergency situation has passed and the children have been dismissed.

We ask for your cooperation in alerting your children of the need to keep calm, listen carefully to instructions being given, and get home safely in the quickest manner possible when there is an emergency and they have been dismissed.

Epinephrine Medication

(E.C. sections 49423 and 49423.1)

State law now allows students with doctor authorization to carry and self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication if the school district receives a written statement of instructions from the physician detailing the method, amount, and time schedules by which such medication is to be taken.

Firearm Owner – Storage Responsibilities

(E.C. sections 48986)

You may be guilty of a misdemeanor or felony if you keep a loaded firearm within any premises that are under your custody or control and a child under 18 years of age obtains and uses it, resulting in injury or death, or carries it to a public place, unless you stored the firearm in a locked container or locked the firearm with a locking device to temporarily keep it from functioning.

There is no such thing as being too careful with children and guns. Child safety precautions still apply even if you have no children or your children have grown to adulthood and left home. A nephew, niece, neighbor's child or a grandchild may come to visit. Practice gun safety at all times.

To prevent injury or death caused by improper storage of guns in a home where children are likely to be present, you should store all guns unloaded, lock them with a firearms safety device and store them in a locked container. Ammunition should be stored in a location separate from the gun.

Information for Use in Emergencies

(E.C. section 49408)

For the protection of your child's health and welfare, we ask that you fill out and return the enclosed Emergency Information Card

Immunizations

(E.C. sections 49403 and 48216; Health and Safety Code sections 120335, 120365, and 120370)



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Students Admitted at TK/K–12 Need Records of:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap, or Td) — 5 doses
- (4 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday. 3 doses OK if one was given on or after 7th birthday.)
- For 7th–12th graders, at least 1 dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after 7th birthday.
- Polio (OPV or IPV) — 4 doses
- (3 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday)
- Hepatitis B — 3 doses
- (Required at admission to any grade except 7th grade)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) — 2 doses
- (Both given on or after 1st birthday)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) — 2 doses

The TK/K–12 immunization requirements apply to new admissions and transfers for all grades, including 7th grade, and students whose exemptions are no longer valid.

- Students Advancing to 7th Grade Need Records of:
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) —1 dose
- (Whooping cough booster usually given at 11 years and up)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) — 2 doses
- (Usually given at ages 12 months and 4-6 years)

California schools are required to check immunization records for all new student admissions at transitional kindergarten (TK)/Kindergarten through 12th grade and all students advancing to 7th grade before entry. Parents must show their child's Immunization Record as proof of immunization.

Please visit the California Department of Public Health for more information:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/resources-parents.aspx>

Kindergarten and First Grade Physical Examination

(Health and Safety Code sections 323.5, 324.2, and 324.3; E.C. sections 49450 and 49452.8)

Good health, including good oral health, is important to your child's learning and successful academic career. State law requires that for each child enrolling in the first grade the parent must present a certificate, signed by a physician, verifying that the child has received a physical examination within the last 18 months. Likewise, state law requires that by May 31st of your child's first school year in a public school, proof of an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist on your child must be presented. You may file with the school district a written objection or waiver stating the reasons if you are unable to obtain such services. You must understand that your child may be sent home if you fail to provide the certificate or waiver, or if your child is suspected to be suffering from a contagious disease. You may find it convenient to have your child immunized at the same time that the physical examination is conducted. These services may be available to you at no cost through the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program ("CHDP"). For information, you may contact CHDP at 584-1401, 330 Campus Dr.



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Management Plan for Asbestos-Containing Material

(40 C.F.R. 763.84 and 40 C.F.R. 763.93)

A complete, updated management plan for asbestos-containing material in school buildings is available at each school office.

Medical and Hospital Services

Hospital Instruction

PUESD provides home and hospital instruction to maintain instructional continuity during a student's temporary disability.

Existing law requires each person subject to compulsory education to attend full-time school or continuation school. The Home and Hospital Instruction Program (Ca. Ed. Code Section 48206.3) serves students who incur a temporary disability, which makes attendance in the regular day classes or alternative education program impossible or inadvisable. A temporary disability is defined as a physical, mental or emotional disability incurred while a student is enrolled in regular day classes or an alternative education program, and after which the student can reasonably be expected to return to regular day classes or the alternative education program without special intervention. A temporary disability does not include a disability for which a student is identified as an individual with exceptional needs pursuant to California Education Code Section 56026.

Students are expected to return to their regular day class or alternative education program at their former level of performance once the temporary disability is no longer in effect.

For more information on the Home and Hospital Instructional Program, please contact the Director of Student Support Services at 559-585-2400.

Pesticide Warnings

(E.C. sections 17612 and 48980.3)

The district has implemented an integrated pest management program designed to effectively control pests using a combination of techniques. Pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment may be used according to established regulations and treatment thresholds.

Pursuant to the Healthy Schools Act of 2000, the district is required to notify staff and parents of the name of all pesticide products expected to be applied at the school facility during the upcoming year. These products are as follows:

Product Name	Pest Treated
1. Bayer Advanced Insect Killer	Insects
2. Hot Shot Fogger	Insects
3. Hornet/Wasp Spray	Hornet/Wasp



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4. Maxide Insect Killer	Insects
5. Ground Squirrel Bait	Squirrels
6. Carpenter Ants Killer	Carpenter Ants
7. Round Up	Weeds
8. Ranger Pro	Weeds
9. Speed Zone	Weeds

If you wish to receive notification of individual pesticide applications at the school facility, please complete the registration form available at the District Office (1888 N. Mustang Dr. Hanford). You will receive notification at least 72 hours prior to the application.

Information regarding pesticide information may be obtained at the website for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation at www.cdpr.ca.gov. District IPM Plan can be viewed at www.puesd.net or in the school office.

Physical Examinations

(E.C. section 49451)

If you want your child to be exempt from physical examinations at school, you must file a written statement signed by you with the school refusing such an exam. However, when there is a good reason to believe that your child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, he/she may be sent home and shall not be permitted to return to school until the contagious or infectious disease does not exist and the child is cleared to return by the physician.

School Safety Plans

(E.C. sections 32280 et seq.)

Each school site has established a Safety Plan. The plan is available to the public through the district office on request, and copies are provided to local law enforcement.

School Buses and Passenger Safety

(E.C. section 39831.5)

See attached Transportation Safety Plan and review the rules with your child for both field trip and school to home transportation.

Scoliosis Screening

(E.C. section 49452.5)

If your child is enrolled in grades 7 through 12, and is suspected of having curvature of the spine, please notify the school office. If your child is identified at school as having this condition, you will be notified.



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Sex Offender Information: “Megan’s Law”

(Penal Code section 290.4)

The Sex Offender Identification Line is a telephone service for use by the public and organizations to identify serious sex offenders. This District does not disseminate this information; however, anyone at least 18 years of age may call (900) 448-3000, or visit www.meganslaw.ca.gov. You will need the following information on the person you are checking on: Name and ONE of the following: address, birthdate, driver’s license number or Social Security number. You will be charged a flat rate of \$10 for information on up to two individuals. You may also receive information from your local law enforcement agency or view the Attorney General’s Home Page at oag.ca.gov.

Sight and Hearing Test

(E.C. sections 49452)

The district is required to provide for the testing of the sight and hearing of each student enrolled in school unless you submit a written denial of consent.

Synthetic Drug Safety

Assembly Bill 889 added Section 48985.5 to the California Education Code. This new law requires public schools to share information annually about the dangers of fentanyl.

The misuse and abuse of opioids and other drugs, including prescription medication, is already cause for concern; however, there has been a rise in the prevalence of fentanyl use across the United States.

“Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered,” said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. “Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day.”

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than morphine and is now causing more deaths across the country. We are highly concerned about our young people as many drugs including marijuana may contain deadly levels of fentanyl which cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled. The District is working to raise awareness and combat this issue impacting our students and community. Please see the following resources for more information:

- [United States Drug Enforcement Administration – Facts about Fentanyl](#)
- [CDC – Stop Overdose/ Fentanyl Facts](#)
- [DEA – One Pill can kill: Information for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- [DEA warns about brightly colored Fentanyl](#)
- [CDPH – Facts Fight Fentanyl](#)



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Tobacco-Free Schools/No Smoking Policy

(Health and Safety Code section 104420)

The Governing Board recognizes that the health hazards associated with smoking and the use of tobacco products, including the breathing of second-hand smoke, are inconsistent with the goal to provide a healthy environment for students and staff. The law requires that all recipients of any state and/or federal grant or contract maintain tobacco-free school sites.

Please be advised that use of tobacco products at any time by students, staff, parents, or visitors, is strictly prohibited in district-owned or leased buildings, on district property, and in district vehicles. This prohibition applies to all employees, students, and visitors at any school-sponsored instructional program, activity, or athletic event held on or off district property. Prohibited products include any product containing tobacco or nicotine, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew, clove cigarettes, betel, and nicotine delivery devices such as electronic cigarettes.

Exceptions may be made for the use or possession of prescription nicotine products.

Any employee or student who violates the district's tobacco-free schools policy shall be asked to refrain from smoking and shall be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate. Any other person who violates the district's policy on tobacco-free schools shall be informed of the district's policy and asked to refrain from smoking. If the person fails to comply with this request, the Superintendent or designee may direct the person to leave school property, request local law enforcement assistance in removing the person from school premises, and/or prohibit him/her from entering district property for a specified period of time.

Type 2 Diabetes

(E.C. section 49452.7)

All 7th grade students and parents shall provide information regarding Type 2 Diabetes. Information will be given with the first day information packet. Pursuant to the requirements of E.C. section 49452.7, the information sheet has been developed by the California Department of Education and can be located at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp>.

Use of Sunscreen Permitted

(E.C. section 35183.5)

Students may carry and use sunscreen without a doctor's note or prescription, and may also wear sun-protective clothing and hats outside of the classroom, cafeteria, and multipurpose rooms.

Vision Appraisal

(E.C. section 49455)

The district is required to appraise each student's vision upon initial enrollment and every third year thereafter until the student completes the 8th grade. The appraisal will include tests for visual acuity and



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color vision; however, color vision will be appraised once and only on male students. The evaluation may be waived upon presentation of a certificate from a physician or surgeon, physician's assistant, or optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the student's vision, including visual acuity and color vision.

Wellness

Pioneer Union Elementary School District believes our student's health and wellness are an essential part of their education. Physical Education and Nutrition are two things we value as a district. We have a Wellness Committee in place to regularly review what we are doing as a district. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Wellness Committee, please contact the office.

Wellness and Mental Health Services

In accordance with AB 2022, the district wants to ensure that parents, guardians, and students are informed about resources available for anyone who believes they are in a mental health crisis. We encourage parents/guardians and students to talk with any adult in the school district if they are concerned about a student and possible mental health needs.

A school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker may provide individualized personal, mental health, or family counseling to students in accordance with the specialization authorized by his/her credential.

Mental Health Community Services

- KIND Center 1222 W Lacey Blvd., Hanford CA 93230 (559) 235-9239
- Kings View – Adult Service Provider 1393 Bailey Drive, Hanford CA 93230 (559) 582-4481
- Kings County Crisis Line Kings View (559) 582-4484 or 1-877-306-2413
- Peer-To-Peer Non-Crisis Warmline 1-800-655-2553
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Call or Text 988



Specific Education Issues

Excused from Instruction Due to Religious Belief

(E.C. section 51240)

If any part of the instruction in health or family life education conflicts with your religious training and beliefs or personal moral conviction, or those of your child, your child shall be excused from such instruction upon your written request.

Homeless Youth Education

(42 U.S. 11432)

The District will ensure parents of homeless students are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. Notification may address: (1) Liaison contact information; (2) Circumstances for eligibility (e.g., living in a shelter, a motel, hotel, etc.); (3) Right to immediate enrollment in school of origin or school where currently residing without proof of residency, immunization records or tuberculosis skin-test results, school records, or legal guardianship papers; and (4) Right to education and other services.

Immigration Enforcement

(See Administrative Regulation 1445)

(E.C. 234.7)

The District is committed to the success of all students and believes that every school site should be a safe and welcoming place for all students and their families irrespective of their citizenship or immigration status.

District staff shall not solicit or collect information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of students or their family members or provide assistance with immigration enforcement at district schools, except as may be required by state and federal law.

No student shall be denied equal rights and opportunities nor be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the district's programs and activities on the basis of his/her immigration status.

Residency Retention for Migratory Children

AB 1319 is intended to minimize academic and social disruptions for migratory students. The bill added Ed. Code section 48204.7, which provides that "currently migratory children," who are enrolled in a school district due to a parent's or immediate family member's temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, as defined, must be allowed to continue in their schools or origin, regardless



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of any change of residence during that school year, for the duration of their status of migratory children. Also, when a student's status as a migratory child changes during the school year, school districts must: Allow K-8th grade students to continue enrollment in their schools of origin for the remainder of the school year. Migratory students' parents/guardians must be informed of the impact that remaining in their schools of origin will have on their eligibility to receive migrant education services, such as instructional, health and welfare service and transportation.

AB-495 Supplemental Information

AB 495, also known as the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025, is a California law designed to help families prepare for unexpected separations. These could include situations like immigration enforcement, incarceration, illness, military service, or other emergencies where a parent or guardian may become temporarily unavailable to care for their child.

The law strengthens tools for parents to designate trusted caregivers, ensures schools and childcare providers follow consistent policies, and promotes family safety plans to minimize trauma for children, especially young ones in K-8 grades.

For more information, please visit www.pioneerunion.org/importantnotices/ab495/

Instruction in Comprehensive Sexual Health Education/HIV/AIDS Prevention

(E.C. sections 51934-51939), AR 6142.8

A parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. A school district shall not require active parental consent ("opt-in") for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.

At the beginning of each school year, or, for a pupil who enrolls in a school after the beginning of the school year, at the time of that pupil's enrollment, each school district shall notify the parent or guardian of each pupil about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education and research on pupil health behaviors and risks planned for the coming year. The notice shall do all of the following:

1. Advise the parent or guardian that written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education are available for inspection.
2. Advise the parent or guardian whether the comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education will be taught by school district personnel or by outside consultants. A school district may provide comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education, to be taught by outside consultants, and may hold an assembly to deliver comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education by guest speakers, but if it elects to provide comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education in either of these manners, the notice shall include the date of the instruction, the name of the organization or affiliation of



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each guest speaker, and information stating the right of the parent or guardian to request a copy of this section, Section 51933, and Section 51934. If arrangements for this instruction are made after the beginning of the school year, notice shall be made by mail or another commonly used method of notification, no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is delivered.

3. Include information explaining the parent's or guardian's right to request a copy of this chapter.
4. Advise the parent or guardian that the parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education and that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to the school district.

Right to Refrain from Harmful Use of Animals

(E.C. sections 32255-32255.6)

Your child may participate in a course during this year that utilizes live or dead animals or animal parts to help your child obtain knowledge, information, or experience required in the course. If your child chooses not to participate in the dissection of animals, and if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible, then the teacher may work with him/her to develop and agree upon an alternative education project for the purpose of providing your child an alternate avenue for obtaining the information required by the course. The school will need a signed note from you indicating your child's objection.

Tests on Personal Beliefs

(E.C. sections 51513 and 60614)

Unless you give written permission, your child will not be given any test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about your child's, or your personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, or religion.

CAASPP Program

C.C.R., Title 5, Sec. 850-870; E.C. 60600-60652; B.P. 6162.51; A.R. 6162.51

This year, students will again participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system by taking a series of computer-based tests developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium that will provide an academic checkup for students by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. These assessments offer types of questions and performance tasks that require students to apply a variety of skills to complete complex tasks that will prepare them for college and the workplace. Students in grades 3-8 will be assessed in English Language Arts/Literacy and mathematics. Recently-Arrived English Learners (EL) who have: (1) been enrolled in United States schools for less than 12 months are not required to take the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment but will take the mathematics assessment.

Students With Exceptional Needs 5 C.C.R. 853, 853.5 Individualized Education Plans (IEP)



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Students in Special Education programs with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) are allowed accommodations such as, Braille, extended time, or the use of a reader, scribe, or calculator. The IEP must state the specific accommodation. Also, students with current plans under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 specifying such accommodations will be tested with the prescribed accommodations. No other students are allowed testing accommodations. Students with significant cognitive disabilities take the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA).

A parent/guardian may submit to the school a written and signed request to excuse his/her child from any or all parts of the CAASPP tests. The District and its employees may discuss the CAASPP program with parents/guardians and may inform them of the availability of exemptions. However, the District and its employees shall not solicit or encourage any written exemption request on behalf of any student or group of students.

ELPAC (English Learner Proficiency Assessment for California)

The program of English Learners is assessed by Pioneer Union Elementary School District as required by state and federal law, consistent with the district's Master Plan for English Learners. The progress of English Learners in acquiring English is measured annually through the ELPAC Summative assessment.

School Records & Achievement

Pupil Records/Notice of Privacy Rights of Parents and Students

(E.C. sections 49063, 49068, 49060, 49069, and 49070; 20 U.S.C. 1232g, h; 34 C.F.R. 99.7)

You have a right to inspect and review your child's school records, to challenge their contents, to have an administrator assist you in interpreting the records, request amendment to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of your child's privacy rights, to seek expungement of those records, to have a district-level hearing to appeal the decision not to change records, and to file a complaint with the state and/or United States Department of Education if the district fails to comply with state and federal law with regard to your child's records. Except for certain exceptions, pupil records are confidential and will not be disclosed without your consent. You also have the right to inspect all instructional materials which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any applicable program.

Please be aware, however, that when your child enrolls or intends to enroll in another district, we will send his or her records to that district. Your child's records may be shared with school officials and employees, and other persons connected with the school who have a legitimate educational interest and who may need them to perform his or her tasks. Persons outside the District who may be considered school officials include a contractor, consultant, volunteer, insurance carrier, claims adjuster, accountant, or other party to whom the District has outsourced institutional services or functions. For example, pupil records may be used to identify and verify eligibility for certain services under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. For further information or assistance contact Tina Brooks at 585-2400 x 4104 or the Family Policy Compliance Office, U. S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.



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Pursuant to Education Code section 49064, a log or record must be maintained for your child's record which lists all persons, agencies, or organizations requesting or receiving information from the record and legitimate interests therefore. This log can be inspected at your child's school.

Release of Pupil Directory Information

(E.C. sections 49061(c)), 49070, 51938; 20 U.S.C. 1232h)

The law allows schools to release "directory information" to certain persons or organizations. Sometimes activities involve the collection, disclosure, or use of personal or directory information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information (e.g., purchase and sale of school yearbooks, school photography, and graduation attire). District staff may administer or distribute to students a survey instrument that is designed for the purpose of collecting personal information for marketing or sale, provided that the instrument is administered in accordance with law. Directory information may include a student's name, address, telephone information, electronic mail address, photograph, student ID number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous public or private school attended by the student. If you wish that the district withhold any of this information, contact the school principal.

You have the right to inspect a survey or other instrument to be administered or distributed to your child that either collects personal information for marketing or sale or requests information about beliefs and practices and any instructional material to be used as part of your child's educational curriculum. Please contact your child's school if you wish to inspect such a survey or other instrument.

School Accountability Report Card

(E.C. section 35256)

The School Accountability Report Card (SARC) can be accessed at the following internet site: <https://www.pioneerunion.org/importantnotices/sarc/>. A hard copy of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is available upon request. This contains information about the district regarding the quality of the district's programs and its progress toward achieving stated goals.

Student Record Transfers

(E.C. section 49068)

The pupil's permanent record shall be transferred by the former district or private school upon a request from the district or private school where the pupil intends to enroll.



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Student Review Board

If any pupil in the Pioneer Union Elementary School District is a habitual truant, irregular in attendance at school, habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school, the pupil may be referred to a "Student Review Committee" (SRC) and/or Student Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Withholding of grade, diploma or transcripts

If a student does not complete checkout procedures, to include but not limited to, returning all school property, paying fees, and signing appropriate forms Pioneer Union Elementary School District may withhold grades, diplomas, and transcripts until student has cleared his/her account. (E.C. 48904.3) Board Policy and Administrative Regulations number 6161.2.

Due Process Protection & Complaints

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in district programs and activities. District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from unlawful discrimination, including discrimination against an individual or group based on race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

- Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities – BP 0410
- Bullying – BP 5131.2, AR 5131.2
- Nondiscrimination/Harassment – BP 5145.3, AR 5145.3

District Officer for nondiscrimination, education equity compliance, Title IX Coordinator

Superintendent

Pioneer Union Elementary School District

1888 N. Mustang Drive

Hanford CA 93230

559-585-2400

Title9coordinator@puesd.net

504 Coordinator

Intervention & Special Education Services Director

Pioneer Union Elementary School District

1888 N. Mustang Drive

Hanford CA 93230

Pioneer Union Elementary School District

1888 N. Mustang Drive, Hanford, California 93230 | (559) 585-2400 | www.pioneerunion.org



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559-585-2400

504coordinator@puesd.net

Uniform Complaint Procedure

(E.C. sections 35160.5 and 56502(a), 5 CCR 4610, 4622)

Pioneer Union Elementary School District Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) Annual Notice

For students, employees, parents/guardians, school and district advisory committee members, private school officials, and other interested parties

The Pioneer Union Elementary School District annually notifies its students, employees, parents or guardians of its students, the district advisory committee, school advisory committees, appropriate private school officials, and other interested parties of the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) process.

The Pioneer Union Elementary School District is primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, including those related to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying against any protected group, and all programs and activities that are subject to the UCP in:

- Education of Pupils in Foster Care, Pupils who are Homeless, and former Juvenile Court Pupils now enrolled in a school district
- Every Student Succeeds Act/No Child Left Behind (Titles I-VII)
- California Peer Assistance and Review Programs for Teachers
- Physical Education Instructional Minutes (for grades one through six)
- Child Nutrition
- Consolidated Categorical Aid
- English Learner Programs
- Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP)
- Migrant Education
- Pupil fees
- School Safety Plans
- Special Education

A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

1. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
2. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
3. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

A pupil fees complaint may be filed with the principal of a school or our superintendent or his or her designee. A pupil fee and/or an LCAP complaint may be filed anonymously, however, the complainant must provide evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint.



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A pupil enrolled in a school in our district shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.

A pupil fee complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

We shall post a standardized notice of the educational rights of pupils in foster care, pupils who are homeless, and former juvenile court pupils now enrolled in a school district as specified in EC Sections 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, and 51225.2. This notice shall include complaint process information, as applicable.

The staff member, position, or unit responsible to receive UCP complaints in our agency is:

Superintendent
Pioneer Union Elementary School District
1888 North Mustang Drive
Hanford, California 93230
559-585-2400
ucpcomplaints@puesd.net

Complaints will be investigated and a written report with a Decision will be sent to the complainant within sixty (60) days from the receipt of the complaint. This time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant. The person responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with our UCP policies and procedures.

The complainant has a right to appeal our Decision of complaints regarding specific programs and activities subject to the UCP, pupil fees and the LCAP to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving our Decision. The appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the originally-filed complaint and a copy of our Decision.

We advise any complainant of civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying laws, if applicable.

Copies of our Uniform Complaint Procedures process shall be available free of charge.

- [Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

Complaints Regarding Employees

(E.C. section 35160(a)(3))

A copy of the complaint policy is available at the District Office at 1888 N. Mustang Dr. – 559-585-2400

Complaints Regarding Discrimination and the Education of Disabled Students

(E.C. sections 56501 and 260 et seq.)



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Our school district is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. Our district programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, lack of English skills, ethnic group, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or any other unlawful consideration. The district shall promote programs which ensure that these discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities.

You have certain rights under the law, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The California Department of Education and the Office for Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Education have authority to enforce these laws and all programs and activities that receive Federal funds. Complaints or inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the District Section 504 Coordinator, Tina Brooks at 585-2400 x 4104 or to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Complaints of unlawful discrimination are investigated through the Uniform Complaint Process. For a complaint form or additional information, please contact the District's Intervention & Special Education Services Director by phone at 559-585-2400 x 4112, or via email at 504coordinator@puesd.net.

Miscellaneous

Other Parental Rights

The rights of parents of district pupils include the rights identified below. These rights include your right:

- A. To observe in your child's classroom (upon reasonable notice).
- B. To meet with your child's teacher and the school principal (upon reasonable notice).
- C. To volunteer your time and resources at the school.
- D. To be notified on a timely basis if your child is absent from school without permission.
- E. To be notified concerning your child's classroom and standardized test performance.
- F. To request a specific school and teacher and to receive a response from the school district. (This does not obligate the school district to grant the request.)
- G. To have a safe learning environment for your child.
- H. To examine curriculum materials of your child's class.
- I. To be informed of your child's progress and appropriate school personnel to contact in the event of problems.
- J. To access student records for your child.
- K. To receive information concerning expectations for student learning.
- L. To be informed in advance about school rules, policies, dress codes, and procedures for visiting the school.
- M. To receive information about any psychological testing of your child and to deny permission for such testing.
- N. To participate as a member of any school site councils or parental advisory councils at the school, in accordance with governing membership.



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- O. To question, and receive an answer regarding, items in your child's record that appear inaccurate, misleading, or that invades privacy.

Parental Rights: Education Empowerment Act of 1998

The Education Empowerment Act of 1998 establishes various rights for parents, in addition to other rights identified in this Annual Notice. Your rights, as a parent, include the following:

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

Observation of School Activities: You have the right to observe instruction and other school activities that involve your child in accordance with procedures determined by the governing board of the school district to ensure the safety of pupils and school personnel and to prevent undue interference with instruction or harassment of school personnel. Reasonable accommodation of parents shall be considered by the governing board of this school district. Upon written request by you, school officials shall arrange for your observation of the requested class or classes or activities in a reasonable time frame and in accordance with procedures determined by the governing board of this school district.

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

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

Health Component of Any Program or Class: Parents may exempt students from the health component of any course or class if that instruction conflicts with a parent's religious training or beliefs.

The Professional Qualifications of Your Student's Teacher(s)

Federal law requires that the District tell you about your right to request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s). The same right extends to information about any paraprofessional assigned to work with your student.

Your child is attending a school receiving Title I funds through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). At the beginning of each school year, local educational agencies receiving Title I funds are required to notify parents whose student(s) attend a Title I school that they may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum:

Weather the student's teacher:

- Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;



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- Is teaching under emergency or other provisional authorization status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
- Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher

Whether the child is provided services by a paraprofessional, and if so, their qualifications.

To submit a request for information about the qualifications of your student's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s), please contact the Personnel Department at the District Office.

Professional Standards

(E.C. section 44050, Code of Conduct)

The district maintains a policy of professional standards for all employees who interact with students and other members of the school community. Copies are available at district office and on the district website.

Use of the Internet and/or On-Line Sites

(E.C. section 48980(h))

The school district provides pupils with access to the Internet and has adopted policies and notices included in the first day packet regarding access by pupils to these services that contain and make references to harmful or obscene matter as defined by Penal Code section 313(a). The policies guard the identity and pictures of individual students, prohibit the use of student e-mail or website addresses, prohibit commercial transactions, etc.

Further Information is Available

(E.C. section 48209.13, FERPA, 34 C.F.R. 99.7(b))

Further information regarding our district schools, programs, policies, and procedures is available to any interested person upon request to our District Office (1888 N Mustang Dr. Hanford).

Parental Involvement

(E.C. section 47605(n))

The Pioneer Union Elementary School District strongly believes that the academic and social success of a child in school is predicated upon a strong relationship between the home and school. To further this relationship, the District strongly encourages parent's participation in parent clubs, school site council, the district parent advisory, English Language Advisory Council, booster clubs and other involvement opportunities through the district or school connected organizations. However, involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at any of the schools within Pioneer Union Elementary School District.



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Parent/Student Compact

The purpose of this compact is to strengthen the relationship between Pioneer Elementary School, parents and students. It will clarify and define the expectations of all participants and define the responsibilities of each:

Pioneer School Staff:

1. Acknowledges the right of parents to participate in all decisions affecting their children and agrees to:
 - a. Provide periodic reports on student progress.
 - b. Consult with parents concerning any marked changes in student performance or behavior.
 - c. Respond promptly to parent phone calls and requests for conferences.
2. Affirms its obligation to provide a quality educational opportunity for each child:
 - a. Consider and respond to individual needs of children and their families.
 - b. Provide a strong curriculum, preparing children for the future.
 - c. Provide competent personnel who demonstrate a caring attitude toward children.
 - d. Maintain a safe and secure school facility and an atmosphere conducive to quality education.
3. Agrees to welcome parents as full partners in the educational process by:
 - a. Providing opportunities for parents to assist in making important decisions regarding school policy.
 - b. Encouraging parent visitation and participation in school activities.
 - c. Providing numerous and varied opportunities for parents to fulfill their volunteer and educational obligations.

Pioneer Parents agree to the following:

1. That supervision of a child is the joint responsibility of the school and the parents.
 - a. Supervise and assist in the completion of homework, providing a suitable place and schedule for its completion.
 - b. Support and reinforce the school's conduct code with their children.
 - c. Investigate issues fully before taking sides.
2. To communicate promptly with the school:
 - a. Regarding concerns about student performance, instruction, or other issues.
 - b. Informing the school of matters that may affect the student's performance or behavior at school.
3. To participate in the school community by:



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- a. Attending school events such as Back-to-School-Night, parent/teacher conference, Parent Teacher Club meetings, and school programs.
- b. Consider volunteer service to the school each year.

Pioneer Students will:

1. Recognize that they and only they have the ultimate responsibility for their learning, and they will:
 - a. Diligently pursue their studies at school and at home.
 - b. Complete all work to the best of their ability.
2. Model the six pillars of Character by:
 - a. Demonstrating a high level of respect toward school employees, other adults on campus and fellow students.
 - b. Demonstrating respect for school property and the property of others.
 - c. Following school rules and the dress code.
 - d. Demonstrating respect for their parents and their community.
 - e. Not participating in any activity that would be defined or depict physical, social or emotional bullying.
3. Make a positive contribution to the school and community by:
 - a. Setting a model for others to follow as outlined in the conduct code.
 - b. Contributing hours of service to the school or mutually agreed public service each month as needed.

Surveillance Systems

Prior to the operation of the surveillance systems, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that signs are posted at conspicuous and targeted locations around school buildings, facilities, vehicles and grounds owned by the District. These signs shall state that the facility uses video surveillance equipment for security purposes and that the equipment may or may not be actively monitored at any time. The Superintendent or designee shall also provide prior written notice to students and parents/guardians about the district's surveillance system, including the locations where surveillance may occur and that the recording may be used in disciplinary proceedings, and/or referred to local law enforcement, as appropriate.

Water Report

The District's Consumer Confidence Reports are available here:

<https://www.pioneerunion.org/departments/mot/water/>.

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

As posted from the EPA:



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Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Pioneer School is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. **[OPTIONAL:** If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.] If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Transportation Safety Plan

The District's Transportation Safety Plan is available here:

<https://www.pioneerunion.org/departments/mot/transportation/safety-plan/>.