

FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DANCE TEAM CODE
GRADES 10 - 12
(Revised 2017 - 2018)

Dance team participation is considered a privilege. Dance team members are subject to the rules and regulations specified in the Fort Bend ISD Extracurricular Handbook. Additionally, guidelines specific to a given campus may also be utilized. It is imperative that students and parents understand the following code and the rules therein.

A. General Rules and Regulations

All students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. This includes verbiage and visual representations on social media, online sites, blogs and digital communications. Display of temper, profanity, indecency, flagrant violation of rules, etc. will not be tolerated. Any behavior which is not conducive to good citizenship will subject the student to "Due Process" that may result in dismissal from the dance team. "Due Process" shall be defined as the student's right to discuss with the instructor(s) and representatives of administration any decision regarding action that would result in the student's loss of grade, suspension from activities, or expulsion from the organization.

Dance team members are required to attend all activities and rehearsals. Those who must miss a practice, activity, or performance must request approval in advance of the function. Failure to attend a practice, activity, or performance without prior permission or good cause may result in consequences noted in specific team policies, suspension from future activities or performances and/or grade deductions.

Students will be required to attend and participate in all rehearsals prior to and throughout the school year. This may include weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Students **MUST** attend all performances of the group in which they are a member.

An unexcused absence is one that the Director has no prior knowledge of and/or is based on a reason that is unacceptable to the Director.

An excused absence is one that the Director has prior knowledge of and/or is based on an acceptable reason.

A dance team member must abide by all school rules and policies at all times. The student must give respectful attention to all classroom activities and should always

be respectful to peers and faculty members. Poor behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from the organization if not corrected.

It should be understood by both parent/guardian and student that the dance team will be involved in out-of-district traveling, and that students who participate in the organization must also participate in the travel. This includes football games, parades, competitions, and a limited number of overnight trips.

All dance team members are ambassadors for the school and community and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the following regulations when traveling in or out of the district.

Be on time for all trips

Dress as directed

Be mannerly in restaurants

Avoid excessive noise on the buses

Return on the same bus

Return materials to the proper storage place upon returning to the school

If a student must leave from an event or activity, the parent/guardian of the student must provide the director written notification that has been approved by the principal, prior to the student leaving. The student may leave **ONLY** with the parent/guardian named in the written notification. **STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE WITH ANYONE EXCEPT A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.** A telephone call confirming the written notification is also desired.

B. Academic Eligibility Rules

A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the three week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class other than an identified honors or advanced class. This suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student's grade in each class, other than an identified honors or advanced class, is seventy or greater. A student may continue to practice or rehearse with other students for an extra-curricular activity, but may not participate in such an activity until the suspension is lifted. A suspended student may regain eligibility seven days after the six week grading period ends or seven days after a three week evaluation period.

A student must meet the following requirements in order to participate in extra-curricular activities during the first six weeks of the fall semester.

TENTH GRADE - earned at least five (5) state approved credits toward graduation

ELEVENTH GRADE - earned at least ten (10) state approved credits toward graduation, or during the preceding twelve months he/she must have earned five (5) state approved credits

TWELFTH GRADE - earned at least fifteen (15) state approved credits toward graduation, or during the preceding twelve months she/he must have earned five (5) state approved credits

C. Rules Relating to U.I.L. Competition

1. No student may take part in any University Interscholastic League Competition, who at the time of the contest, has not been a bona fide regular attendant of the school for fifteen (15) calendar days, or since the sixth day of the current school year.
2. No student shall take part in any U.I.L. contest after the end of the fourth consecutive year following enrollment in the ninth grade, and/or third consecutive year following enrollment in the tenth grade.
3. No one shall take part in U.I.L. competition who, on the first day of September preceding the contest, has reached his/her nineteenth birthday.
4. No school may issue and no student may receive an award for participation in an intra- school competition in excess of \$50.00 (or the equivalent in value) during his/her high school enrollment in the same high school. Additional symbolic awards not to exceed \$8.00 each may be presented for each additional intra- school activity each year.
5. Students must abide by all other rules as set forth by the University Interscholastic League in Austin, Texas.

D. Grading

Learning objectives in dance team are based on performance skills, responsibility, and participation. Therefore, students are expected to fulfill individual as well as group responsibilities.

Because dance is performance based and a team activity, it is imperative that members participate in all rehearsals and performances to meet the essential elements of the course. Therefore, students may lose points from their grade for the following:

Unexcused absence from co-curricular rehearsal –double daily grade

Co-curricular rehearsal would be an extension of classroom studies required for grading and curriculum directed.

Unexcused absence from co-curricular performance –double major grade
A co-curricular performance is one that is an extension of classroom activities such as dance recitals that do not meet the definition of extra-curricular.

Any deviation must have the approval of administration.

E. School-Owned Materials

The dance team member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out for personal use. Equipment is to be used, not abused. No charge will be made to the student if the materials/equipment becomes damaged due to normal wear and tear. However, damages caused by fire, theft, or abuse will be charged to the student.

All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

F. Individual Equipment

Students will be required to purchase some materials for their uniform and practice wear such as shoes, undergarments, shirts, etc.

Fort Bend Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually owned equipment.

G. Selection of Members

- Selection of members will be based on a dance workshop. The district encourages that the panel of judges be comprised of dance educators or clinicians that are not employed by the campus. The district encourages the campus dance teachers to recuse themselves from the selection process.
- As part of the selection process a program may include an evaluation of the candidate's grades and discipline record and/or teacher recommendations as part of the tryout score.
- Tryouts will be closed to the public.
- No score sheets will be distributed and all tallies will be kept on file in the school for at least one year.
- Results will be announced or posted. The final number selected may vary.

- Each student is allowed one and only one audition each year. (Any exceptions must have the approval of the principal AND the Director of Fine Arts.)
- Students new to the school with dance team experience may receive an audition at the time of their enrollment at the discretion of the director and the principal.

H. Selection of Officers

A student must be a current performing member who meets eligibility criteria as determined by the policies of the specific program.

Candidates must be in good standing with the dance team and school policies.

Social “leaders” will be selected based on set a criteria determined by the policies of the specific program.

Selection criteria is designed by the dance teacher for the specific program and utilizes audition standards as suggested by the Texas Dance Educators Association.

I. Awards

Awards will be presented to varsity dance team students based on a point system for completion of participation and service throughout tenure on the varsity dance team. The following events are eligible events for which points may be earned.

Required Performance (as specified by campus)	1 point
Solo Contest (Division I) (one per year)	1 point
Small Ensemble Competition (Division I) (one per year)	1 point
Team Competition (Division I) (one per contest)	1 point
Winning of Individual Title, i.e. "Miss Dance Drill Team Texas"	15 points
Senior	10 points*

*These points count only for students who have not received an award by their senior year. They may not be used to receive a second award letter.

25 points = Awards Jacket/Blanket/Sweater

A student will be awarded a second letter for accumulating an additional 25 points. A student may receive only one major award for combined activities during the student’s four years in high school. A student may not receive two letter awards in the same year for participation in dance team.