

**Desert Learning Academy (DLA)**  
**Grades 2-12**  
**Student/Parent Handbook**



**2248 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, CA 92264**  
**Phone: 760-778-0487 ~ Fax: (760) 778-0497**  
**Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00p.m**

**Website:**

**Colors: Blue and  
Gold**

**Mascot: Aviators**

***To Our Students & Families,***

***Welcome to Desert Learning Academy's alternative education programs! We are honored that you and your family have chosen DLA to support your academic journey. Our hybrid model offers a flexible and personalized approach to learning, designed to meet the unique needs of each student. Our dedicated and highly qualified teachers are here to guide you every step of the way toward academic growth and success.***

***At DLA, we believe in maintaining high expectations and providing a rigorous, engaging curriculum that prepares students for college, career, and beyond. We hold these expectations because we believe in your potential—and we know you can rise to the challenge.***

***Achieving great things takes teamwork. It requires strong commitment from everyone, our staff, your family, and most importantly, you, our amazing students. This year, stay focused, stay determined, and stay engaged.***

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**General Information**

Campus Map .....3  
 Mission, Vision .....5  
 Student Learning Outcomes .....5  
 DLA Contact Information.....6

**Governing Board Policies**

Parent Rights .....7  
 Student Rights and Responsibilities.....9  
 Freedom of Expression..... 11

**General School Policies and Procedures**

Synergy Gradebook ..... 12  
 Attendance ..... 12  
 Bicycles, Skateboards, and Scooters..... 12  
 Breakfast/Lunch... ..... 13  
 Cell Phones ..... 13  
 Closed Campus ..... 14  
 Complaint Procedure..... 14  
 Deliveries ..... 14  
 Emergency Drills..... 14  
 Field Trips..... 15  
 Fines and Charges ..... 16  
 Health Office..... 16  
 ID Cards .....17  
 Library ..... 17  
 Non-Discrimination Notice..... 17  
 Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs ..... 17  
 Transportation... ..... 18  
 Visitors on Campus ..... 18  
 Work Permits.....18

**Independent Study Policies**

Apportionment..... 1

Master Agreement..... 19  
 Non-Negotiables..... 20  
 Technology.....21

**Academic Code**

Academic Honesty ..... 22  
 Grading Periods..... 23  
 Grading Scale..... 24  
 Senior Grading... ..... 24  
 College Entrance Requirements .....25  
 A-G Requirements ..... 25  
 High School Graduation Requirements .....25  
 College Entrance Examinations ..... 26  
 Classes at Comprehensive High Schools.... 27  
 Concurrent Enrollment..... 27

**Middle School Recognition**

High School Readiness Awards..... 27

**High School Recognition**

Seal of Civic Engagement..... 28  
 Seal of Biliteracy..... 28

**Student Discipline Code**

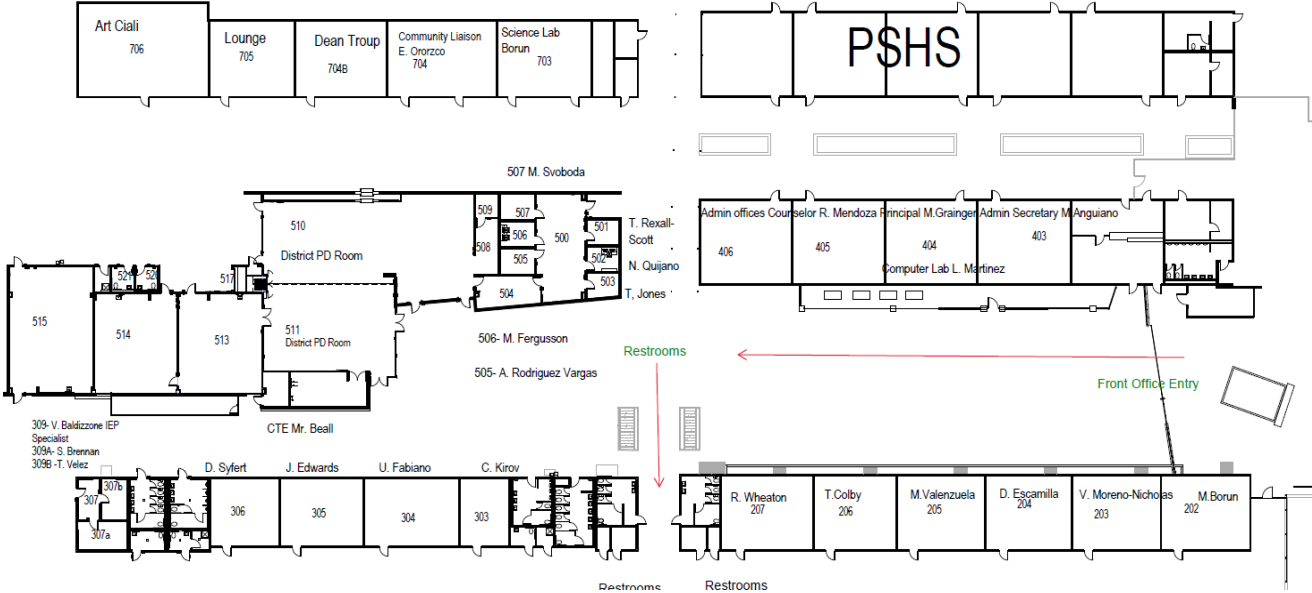
Bullying... ..... 29  
 Citizenship..... 31  
 Defiant and Disruptive Behavior..... 31  
 Dress Code Policy..... 31  
 Search and Seizure... ..... 33  
 Sexual Harassment Policy .....33  
 Suspendable Offenses and  
 Possible Expulsion... ..... 34  
 Mandatory Recommendation  
 for Expulsion... ..... 35



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Campus Map

2025-26 Desert Learning Academy Campus Map



## Desert Learning Academy Evacuation Routes



## **Desert Learning Academy Mission Statement**

*Desert Learning Academy provides a challenging, high-quality, and personalized learning experience for all students. We help students build strong academic skills, character, and readiness for college, careers, and life beyond school. Our goal is to give students the knowledge, skills, and values they need to reach their fullest potential in the digital world.*

## **Desert Learning Academy Vision Statement**

*At Desert Learning Academy, every student will use a blend of online and in-person learning to reach their full potential, becoming empowered, adaptable, and compassionate individuals ready to succeed and lead in a global community.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### **Academic Excellence and Lifelong Learning**

*Students will engage in a challenging, personalized curriculum that builds critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.*

*Students will continuously grow and master academic skills, preparing them for lifelong learning and success in different settings.*

### **Character Development and Ethical Leadership**

*Students will demonstrate values like respect, integrity, responsibility, and empathy, contributing to a positive and inclusive school community.*

*Students will show ethical leadership by practicing resilience, self-discipline, and a commitment to making positive contributions to the community.*

### **Career and College Readiness**

*Students will gain the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to succeed in college, careers, or any post-high school path they choose.*

*Students will set personal academic and career goals and work toward them with the support and resources they need to reach their dreams.*

### **Technology Skills and Digital Literacy**

*Students will build strong skills in using digital tools responsibly and effectively for learning and collaboration.*

*Students will be ready to adapt to new technologies and succeed in an ever-changing digital world.*

### **Community and Global Engagement**

*Students will understand their role in the local and global community and learn how they can make a positive impact.*

*Students will practice civic responsibility, develop empathy, and engage thoughtfully with issues that affect society.*

<b>DLA Staff Directory 2025-2026</b>	
Anguiano, Mariana: Administrative Secretary	<a href="mailto:manguiano@psusd.us">manguiano@psusd.us</a>
Beall Eric: California Technical Education (CTE)	<a href="mailto:ebeall@psusd.us">ebeall@psusd.us</a>
Borun, Melanie: High/Middle Science	<a href="mailto:mborun@psusd.us">mborun@psusd.us</a>
Bray, Ashley: Art all grades	<a href="mailto:abray@psusd.us">abray@psusd.us</a>
Brennan, Stacy: Resource all grades	<a href="mailto:sbrennan@psusd.us">sbrennan@psusd.us</a>
Camacho Lawrence: Secondary social studies	<a href="mailto:lcamacho@psusd.us">lcamacho@psusd.us</a>
Colby, Theresa: High school English	<a href="mailto:tcolby@psusd.us">tcolby@psusd.us</a>
Drake Kristi: Elementary STEAM	<a href="mailto:kdrake@psusd.us">kdrake@psusd.us</a>
Edwards, Joanna: High School mathematics	<a href="mailto:jedwards@psusd.us">jedwards@psusd.us</a>
Fabiano, Ursula: Middle school Math	<a href="mailto:ufabiano@psusd.us">ufabiano@psusd.us</a>
Ferguson, Melissa: Second and third grade	<a href="mailto:mferguson@psusd.us">mferguson@psusd.us</a>
Grainger, Michael: School Principal	<a href="mailto:mgrainger@psusd.us">mgrainger@psusd.us</a>
Jones, Tara: Resource HH	<a href="mailto:tjones@psusd.us">tjones@psusd.us</a>
Kirov, Christine: Language Arts, ELD, Social Studies, ELD, Social Studies Middle school	<a href="mailto:ckirov@psusd.us">ckirov@psusd.us</a>
Luoto, Karen: Elementary music	<a href="mailto:kluoto@psusd.us">kluoto@psusd.us</a>
Marquez Michele: Custodian	<a href="mailto:mmarquez@psusd.us">mmarquez@psusd.us</a>
Martinez, Lucero: Paraprofessional Technology	<a href="mailto:lmartinez@psusd.us">lmartinez@psusd.us</a>
Mendoza, Rosalia: School Counselor	<a href="mailto:rmendoza1@psusd.us">rmendoza1@psusd.us</a>
Orozco, Esperanza: Community Liaison	<a href="mailto:eorozco@psusd.us">eorozco@psusd.us</a>
Orozco, Marlene: IEP Specialist	<a href="mailto:morozco@psusd.us">morozco@psusd.us</a>
Quijano, Norma: Paraprofessional Elementary	<a href="mailto:nquijano@psusd.us">nquijano@psusd.us</a>
Rexall-Scott, Teddi: Literacy Coach	<a href="mailto:trexallscott@psusd.us">trexallscott@psusd.us</a>
Robles, Ioana: High School Mathematics	<a href="mailto:irobles@psusd.us">irobles@psusd.us</a>
Rodriguez Vargas, Andrea: Preprofesional Elementary	<a href="mailto:arodriguezvargas@psusd.us">arodriguezvargas@psusd.us</a>
Saeger, Eric: School Psychologist	<a href="mailto:esaeger@psusd.us">esaeger@psusd.us</a>
Schearer, Ivana: RN School Nurse	<a href="mailto:ischearer@psusd.us">ischearer@psusd.us</a>
Svoboda, Michael: 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> grade	<a href="mailto:msvoboda@psusd.us">msvoboda@psusd.us</a>
Syfert, Darci: MTSS Coach	<a href="mailto:dsyfert@psusd.us">dsyfert@psusd.us</a>
Valenzuela, Mirta-High school Spanish and ELD	<a href="mailto:mvalenzuela2@psusd.us">mvalenzuela2@psusd.us</a>
Velez, Teresa- Resource all grades	<a href="mailto:tvelez@psusd.us">tvelez@psusd.us</a>

## GOVERNING BOARD POLICIES

### Governing Board Educational Philosophy

As part of its responsibility to establish a guiding vision for the district, the Palm Springs Unified School District's Board of Education shall develop and regularly review a set of fundamental principles which describes the district's beliefs, values and vision. The Board and district staff shall incorporate this philosophy in all district programs and activities.

It is the philosophy of the district that:

1. All students can learn and succeed.
2. Every student in the district, regardless of gender, special needs, or social, ethnic, language or economic background has a right to a high-quality education that challenges the student to achieve his/her fullest potential.
3. The future of our nation and community depends on students possessing the skills to be lifelong learners and effective, contributing members of society.
4. A safe, nurturing environment is necessary for learning.
5. Parents/guardians have a right and an obligation to participate in their child's schooling.
6. The ability of children to learn is affected by social, health and economic conditions and other factors outside the classroom.
7. Early identification of student learning and behavioral difficulties contribute to student success.
8. Students and staff respond positively to high expectations and recognition for their accomplishments.
9. Continuous school improvement is necessary to meet the needs of students in a changing economy and society.
10. The diversity of the student population and staff enriches the learning experience for all students.
11. A highly skilled and dedicated staff has a direct and powerful influence on students' lives and learning.
12. A high level of communication, trust, respect and teamwork among Board members and the Superintendent contributes to effective decision making.
13. The community provides an essential resource to the educational program.
14. Effective communication with all stakeholders helps build support for the schools.
15. Accountability for the district's programs and operations is shared by the entire educational community, with the ultimate accountability resting with the Board as the basic embodiment of representative government.

### The Palm Springs Unified School District Believes

- That the acquisition of basic skills by all students is a necessity and can be achieved by establishing stringent academic standards encouraged by high expectations of all students.
- That it is important to foster an atmosphere that encourages patriotism and an understanding of the ideals of the American democratic system.
- That high standards of discipline, requiring appropriate behavior by all students, are a necessary element of the education process.
- That required homework is an integral part of education that extends the educational

process into the home supporting the home / school / community relationship.

- That personal health habits and standards are a significant part of the learning process.
- That high standards of personal character, honor, and ideals must be fostered in the schools.
- That strong support of the instructional program in each classroom is the primary function of all employees of the Palm Springs Unified School District.
- That consistent student daily attendance and participation in classroom activities is a requirement in obtaining a viable education.
- That education is a cooperative effort of the parent and the school that requires demonstrated responsibility and support of the part of the parent.

## **Parent Rights**

### **Board Policy 5020**

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/guardians of district students have certain rights as well as responsibilities related to the education of their children.

The Board believes that the education of the district's students is a shared responsibility. The Superintendent or designee shall work with parents/guardians, including parents/guardians of English learners, to determine appropriate roles and responsibilities of parents/guardians, school staff and students for continuing the intellectual, physical, emotional and social development and well-being of students at each school site, including the means by which the schools and parents/guardians can help students achieve academic and other standards of the school.

Within this framework, the school's primary responsibility shall be to provide a high-quality curriculum and instructional program in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables all students to meet the academic expectations of the school.

Parents/guardians shall have the opportunity to work with schools in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership and to help their children succeed in school. (Education Code 51100)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that district staff understand the rights of parents/guardians afforded by law and Board policy and follow acceptable practices that respect those rights.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians receive notification regarding their rights in accordance with law.

The Superintendent or designee shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all parents/guardians who speak a language other than English are properly notified in English, and in their home language of the rights and opportunities available to them pursuant to Education Code 48985. (Education Code 51101.1)



## Student Rights and Responsibilities

California Education Code outlines several key student rights within the state's public education system, encompassing areas like equal access to education, freedom from discrimination and harassment, and the right to a safe learning environment. Specifically, students have the right to attend school without discrimination based on various characteristics, including disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, and religion (California Education Code 221.8)

### Key Student Rights in California Schools:

- **Free and Equal Access:**

All students have the right to a free public education regardless of their or their parents' immigration status.

- **Safe and Supportive Environment:**

Schools must provide a safe and secure learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.

- **Non-Discrimination:**

Students are protected from discrimination based on various factors, including their sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, and disability.

- **Equal Opportunity:**

Students have the right to equal opportunity in all school programs and activities, including academics and extracurriculars.

- **Freedom from Harassment:**

Schools must actively prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and discrimination.

- **Gender Equity in Athletics:**

Students have the right to equitable treatment and opportunities in school sports, including access to equipment, facilities, and coaching.

- **Privacy:**

Students have rights related to the confidentiality of their personal information and educational records.

- **Access to Resources:**

Students have the right to access resources like gender equity coordinators, and

information about their rights.

- **Recess:**

Students are entitled to a minimum amount of recess time, which is considered an essential part of their overall development.

- **Restroom Access:**

Students have the right to access all-gender restrooms and free menstrual products in school.

- **Transfer of Records:**

When transferring schools, students have the right to have their records transferred and to receive a copy of the record and the right to challenge its content.

California Education Code outlines student responsibilities related to attendance, conduct, and academic performance. Key areas include compulsory attendance, student conduct standards, and the requirement for students to make progress towards educational goals.

**Compulsory Attendance:**

- Parents or guardians are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly.
- Failure to comply can result in penalties for parents.
- Students are expected to attend school during the hours and on the days that the school is in session.

**Student Conduct:**

- The Education Code specifies actions that can lead to suspension or expulsion.
- These include acts of violence, possession of dangerous objects, and substance abuse.
- Students are also expected to adhere to school-wide conduct rules and refrain from disruptive behavior.
- Examples of prohibited behavior include:
  - Causing physical injury or threatening others.
  - Possessing weapons or illegal substances.
  - Disrupting school activities or infringing on the rights of others.
  - Engaging in lewd or indecent behavior.
- Students are expected to be respectful of school property and maintain a positive learning environment.

### **Academic Responsibilities:**

- Students are expected to make measurable progress towards their academic goals.
- This includes completing assigned coursework and maintaining satisfactory academic progress.
- At the college level, students may be required to identify a course of study, participate in orientation and counseling, and develop an education plan.
- Students are also expected to adhere to academic standards established by the college.

### **Additional Considerations:**

- The California Education Code also addresses issues like student fees (requiring free supplies and materials), and the privacy of student records ([FERPA](#)).
- The code also outlines procedures for reporting student misconduct to law enforcement.

### **Freedom of Expression**

“Students of the public schools have the right to exercise free expression including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, and the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia, except that expression which is obscene, libelous, or slanderous according to current legal standards, or which so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, shall be prohibited. Each governing board of a school district and each county superintendent of schools shall adopt rules and regulations relating to the exercise of expression by the students upon the premises of each school within their respective jurisdictions, which shall include reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of conducting such activities.” (Education Code Section 48916)

---

## GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### **SYNERGY (ParentVue and StudentVue) GRADEBOOK**

ParentVue and StudentVue are online resources that allow you to access your child's grades and attendance in each class. If you do not know your login information, please call the school and request the verification code for your login.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is critical for academic success. It is necessary to attend and be on time for all scheduled classes (online and in-person) and teacher appointments. Study Skills, reading intervention, counseling interventions, and assigned tutoring are part of the student's required school day.

Class time with teachers is important for our program and may be limited to two days per week for students in grades 6-12. Families should avoid scheduling other activities during instructional time. This can be a challenge especially for students working from home, but class time needs to be prioritized.

Be sure to contact your supervising teacher for a missed independent study appointment to arrange for homework drop-off. Independent study assignments are still due regardless of absence. Absences should be avoided but, if necessary, please contact your teacher and the Attendance Clerk through email.

Attendance for independent study is measured by work completion within ten days of the work being assigned. Missing work and class time may need to be made up on a different day and time. Excessive class absences and missed teacher appointments have a grave effect on student learning and will incur interventions. Students not making 'satisfactory academic progress' or failing coursework will be assigned 'reengagement'. If student performance does not improve during the four week reengagement process, the student's registration at DLA will be revoked and the student will be sent back to their school of residence at the discretion of administration.

### **BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS & SCOOTERS**

Skateboards, scooters, and bicycles are to be walked on all areas of the school campus including sidewalks. Bicycles should be secured at the campus bike rack located outside room 603 behind the administration building. Skateboards and scooters are to be stored in the office throughout the day; however, theft can still occur.

**The school assumes no liability for stolen or damaged bicycles, skateboards, or scooters and will not replace or provide compensation in the event that a bicycle, skateboard, or scooter is damaged or stolen.**

Students are also expected to obey California's Helmet Law. Please make sure your child is equipped with a helmet if they are riding to school. Students who do not have the proper headwear may not be able to take their bicycle home and may be subject to law enforcement/citation.

### **BREAKFAST/LUNCH**

All students attending DLA will be provided with breakfast and lunch at **NO COST**. No meal applications are required to participate in this provision.

The breakfast meal consists of a choice of a choice of the following items each day; Grain, Meat/Meat Alternative, Fruit and/or 100% Fruit Juice, and Milk. Students must select at least three of the four items offered for breakfast and one item must be ½ cup fruit or juice.

The lunch meal consists of a choice of the following components each day: Grain, Meat/Meat Alternative, Vegetable, Fruit and/or 100% Fruit Juice, and Milk. Students must select at least three of the five components for lunch and at least one component must be ½ cup of fruit or ½ cup vegetable.

Meals must be eaten on campus and may not be taken at dismissal.

### **CELL PHONES**

Students may possess or use electronic signaling devices, provided that such devices do not disrupt the educational program or school activity. Cell phones (and other devices) shall be **turned off** during class time and kept inside backpacks or purses, and at any other time as directed by a district employee. The following is the current DLA site cell phone policy:

- Any electronic signaling device that operates through the transmission or receipt of radio waves, including but not limited to cellular phones, Air pods/ Earbuds etc. need to be placed on 'silent' for the duration of the instructional day.
- Students are not permitted to photograph or record videos on personal devices during the instructional day to include instructional setting, before or after school, acts of physical aggression or conflicts, locker rooms, bathrooms etc.
- 

If disruption occurs, the employee will confiscate the device and deliver it to the office. Repeated disruptions will require a parent to pick up the item from the school and administration will determine any appropriate disciplinary actions.

**Desert Learning Academy assumes no liability for lost, damaged, or confiscated cell phones or other items of value brought to school by students.**

## **IPODS/EARBUDS/HEADPHONES**

At Desert Learning Academy, students may listen to their iPods, earbuds, headphones, etc. on school grounds before school, during passing periods, and after school. Classroom rules will be set by individual teachers. For safety reasons, we ask that students wear only one earpiece while on campus. Students wearing both earpieces on campus will be asked to remove them. Defiance may lead to disciplinary action.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS**

**Students may not leave campus during the regular school day unless a parent or guardian provides a written request.** All students must sign out at the attendance office before leaving campus. Failure to follow the procedure may result in disciplinary actions. Once a student is on campus they must remain until the end of their school day and not leave in between classes unless signed out by an adult on their contact list in Synergy.

## **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

It is the philosophy of the Palm Springs Unified School District to secure, at the lowest possible administrative level, equitable responses to complaints directed against employees by parents/guardians. At Palm Springs Unified School District, we are dedicated to maintaining effective communication and fostering positive relationships with our students, families, staff, and community partners. We take great pride in working collaboratively to address and resolve any concerns that may arise. Should you have a concern, we have provided a clear guide to our district's formal complaint resolution process-available using this link: <https://www.psusd.us/complaints> Please remember, our shared goal is always the best interest and success of our students.

## **DELIVERIES**

Floral bouquets, balloons, or other gifts for students will not be accepted by the front desk for delivery. While we join with you in the celebration of special occasions, these items are disruptive to the learning environment and will not be delivered during school time. We appreciate your understanding. Furthermore, students need to be responsible for remembering their books, devices, lunches, and other necessities. Please encourage them to accept the consequences if they neglect these responsibilities.

## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Students are responsible to follow the direction of teachers and staff in the event of any Emergency Drill (fire, earthquake, lockdown, or disaster). Listen carefully to the directions given by your teacher or staff member and obey them quickly and quietly.

- A. **FIRE DRILLS** – The signal for fire or a Fire Drill is repeated short soundings on the bell system. At the signal, students and staff are to evacuate to a pre-determined location and wait for further instructions.
- B. **EARTHQUAKES** – In the event of an earthquake or All Call alert for an Earthquake Drill, students are to duck under desks/tables, cover heads, and

---

hold onto the desk/table. All should stay indoors and away from exits, windows, and movable objects, remaining away from falling debris. If the movement has been severe, the building will be cleared; when the All Clear is sounded, students and staff *may* evacuate to a predetermined location. Follow the instructions of teachers and staff.

- C. **LOCKDOWNS** – At the All Call alert of “Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown,” students and staff will stay indoors and classrooms will be secured. If a Lockdown occurs while a student is outside of the classroom (i.e. lunch, restroom, passing period, etc.), students should immediately go into the nearest classroom or office with a locking door. Students should remain quiet and away from all doors and windows. No one will be permitted to leave the room until an All Clear is sounded. Students and staff will be notified when a Lockdown has been cleared.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are educational. Students must be prepared to benefit from the experience and not create a liability for other students, teachers, chaperones, and/or the district. Therefore, the following rules are in effect:

- Parents must fill out and sign a field trip permission form for each trip in order for the student to attend. Students that are at school and going on a field trip, must use district provided transportation to the field trip.
- Parents **MAY NOT** transport their own or other children on a field trip during the school day either going to or coming back from a school trip.
- Phone call permissions will not be allowed; a physical permission slip must be signed by a parent.
- Permission slips must be turned in prior to the day of the trip, unless the student was absent the day before the trip.
- Students who misbehave on the bus, grounds, or in class prior to a field trip are a poor risk and may not be allowed to attend the trip.
- Students who do not participate in the field trip will be supervised at school by another teacher or the principal. Their attendance will be credited.
- Parents are encouraged to attend field trips as chaperones. Without adequate parental participation, the field trip will be canceled. Individual teachers will set their own criteria for selecting parent chaperones.
- Children, other than those in the participating class, may not attend.

## **FINES AND CHARGES**

Fines and charges should be paid as they arise. *All debts must be cleared during your senior year prior to senior check-out (these include fines from previous campuses), or prior to transfer to another school.* Check with the main office to determine whether your student owes any fees to the school.

## **HEALTH OFFICE**

Desert Learning Academy is supported by the Palm Springs High School health office when medical consultation/support is necessary. **Students are not to leave the campus because of illness without first reporting to the front office. Any violation of this rule is considered truancy.**

## **INJURY/ILLNESS/MEDICATION**

If a student becomes ill or injured, he/she should immediately notify the teacher or aide for permission to go to the front office. Students may not have any medication (prescription or over the counter) in their possession, this includes cough drops.

If a student requires medication(s) at school, the parent/guardian must:

- Submit a signed statement from the physician, who shall indicate the medication, methods, amount and schedules for medication and,
- Sign a form authorizing school personnel to give the medication in the dosage prescribed by the physician.

(Ed Code 49423)

Medications will not be dispersed unless they are brought to school in the original container.

*Please contact the school health technician or district nurse, if you have any questions.*

## **SPLINTS, CRUTCHES, AND CASTS**

If a student is required to wear a splint, cast or use crutches, a doctor's note must be given to the school nurse with the length of time for use specified. Students using splints, crutches or casts will not be allowed to participate in PE or use playground equipment until they have been released from their doctor. Students will also be required to continue use of crutches until a doctor's release is submitted.



## **ID (IDENTIFICATION) CARDS**

At the beginning of the new school year or at the time of enrollment, students will have their pictures taken for their student ID cards. Every student will be issued a free ID card. Students will use their IDs to check in and check out at the front office every time they are on campus. Students not carrying their ID, or refusing to present ID to staff, may be subject to disciplinary action. Lost ID cards must be replaced. The charge for a replacement card is \$5.00. **Students are expected to carry their school ID cards with them at all times.**

## **LIBRARY**

Desert Learning Academy does not have a dedicated library space where students may check out reading materials. Chromebooks, and hot spots are checked out to student in the front office by front office staff.

### **Books, Devices, and Other Materials**

Students are responsible for all devices (i.e. calculators, Chromebooks, and hotspots) checked out to them. **Students must have their school-issued ID card to check out items.** Fines will be assessed for lost items and damage beyond normal wear. Lost or stolen items should be reported immediately.

### **Overdue Books and Fines**

At the end of the school year, seniors must clear all outstanding fines to complete their final check-out process. Transcripts, grades, and other activities will be withheld until all school textbooks and materials are returned or reimbursed. In August, returning students with overdue materials or fines may be delayed at Registration.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

The Palm Springs Unified School District is committed to providing equal opportunities for all genders and the handicapped in all education programs and activities, and for employees/applicants as required by Federal and State law.

## **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND OTHER DRUGS**

The Palm Springs Unified School District is a tobacco-free district. The use of any tobacco, alcohol, vape, or other illegal substances is prohibited at all times on district property and in district vehicles. Information on smoking cessation classes is available from the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance at (760) 883 2703.

Students are not permitted to possess or use tobacco, alcohol, vape pens, prescription medicines not checked in with the Health Office, or any other illegal substance from the time they leave home until the time they return to their house. Violations will result in appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to possible suspension.

## TRANSPORTATION

Students attending Desert Learning Academy need to have their own transportation. Students will be transported by bus or another district vehicle for field trips. A field trip form must be signed prior to such events. No bus services will be provided to and from school. Students may ride the city bus to school if their parents deem it appropriate, however the family incurs the cost of any fees to use city transportation.

## VISITORS ON CAMPUS

School policy is to allow on campus only those visitors who are authorized by school officials and have legitimate business at school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved with their children at school. Parents/guardians are asked to provide at least 24-hour notice before attending/observing class with their student. Parents/guardians and all other visitors must bring their driver's license or identification card and register in the front office.

All visitors will be screened through the Raptor system. The Raptor system is a comprehensive school safety and visitor management solution designed to enhance security in educational institutions. The system screens visitors and volunteers, printing identification badges and ensuring that all visitors are accounted for. It helps screen out registered sex offenders, manage custody issues, and coordinate emergency responses. All visitors must wear their Raptor identification badge while visiting the campus. Permission will not be granted for "guests" to attend classes. Unauthorized visitors will be escorted from campus.

Any Desert Learning Academy student **may not visit another campus** during the day unless that student is concurrently enrolled in a program at that school. Any student found on another campus who engages in any disrespectful behavior which reflects poorly on our school will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension.

## WORK PERMITS

Students may obtain a work permit application from the Counseling Office in the front office building.

### **Criteria to obtain a work permit:**

- Students must be in good standing
- GPA of 2.0 or better
- Good attendance (no more than 3 absences per semester)
- No disciplinary action (*tardies count as discipline*)
- Approval of Principal

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICIES**

### **APPORTIONMENT/ATTENDANCE**

At Desert Learning Academy all students enrolled in grades 2-12 earn attendance via work completion. This is called apportionment.

Students should attend every class, every day they have class as per the Master Agreement. Since we have fewer class days with the teacher, each class session is much more important to stay connected. During class time, teachers review key concepts and provide information for students on work to be done independently throughout the week.

### **HYBRID VS. ONLINE PROGRAM**

There are two kinds of classes at Desert Learning Academy, hybrid and online. Hybrid classes are on campus and in-person.

#### **HYBRID PROGRAM**

Students in grades 6 - 12 receive one day of in-person/virtual instruction, then work independently the other four days of the week at home. For students in grades 6-8, there are opportunities for daily contact with their teachers.

#### **ONLINE PROGRAM**

Students in grades 2-5 receive daily instruction through Zoom and Google Classroom with their fully credentialed teachers. Our teachers follow the same curriculum provided at other Palm Springs Unified elementary schools.

### **MASTER AGREEMENT**

Before a student can begin attending Desert Learning Academy, the student and parent must attend a comprehensive orientation, and they must sign a Master Agreement. This document is the contract between the family and the school site. It outlines what courses are being offered and the name of the teacher(s) of the courses. Among the responsibilities of the student and family are:

- to complete classwork on time
- to complete all state and district assessments (As a school of choice, there is no

opt out at Desert Learning Academy)

- to have a trusted adult at home for the student as a support during class time
- to use a PSUSD-issued electronic device for classwork and testing
- to be on present and on screen during class time

### **NON-NEGOTIABLES**

- Student connection is critical in independent study because teachers have a limited amount of time to provide support. We require that students use their PSUSD-issued chrome book for their classes and that they are on screen (**with their camera on**) during class time.
- Using their Chromebook enables our teachers to see how students are receiving instruction, whether they are engaged in learning, and whether they look like they need extra support. These visual cues are critical for communication, and having students live on screen enables teachers to do this.
- Teachers use GoGuardian to monitor student technology to ensure that they are focused on instruction and learning during class sessions.
- Students coming on campus for instruction must have their ID cards which they use to check in and out at the office every day.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

The teachers and students at Desert Learning Academy rely heavily on technology to complete their work. Desert Learning Academy has a tech support person on site to aid students, staff, and families. Parents should familiarize themselves with ParentVue and Google Classroom to support their students in their time at Desert Learning Academy.

The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the district be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of district computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with district regulations and the district's Acceptable Use Agreement.

Before a student is authorized to use the district's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the district or any district staff responsible for the failure of any **technology** protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and district personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

The Superintendent or designee, with input from students and appropriate staff, shall regularly review and update this policy, the accompanying administrative regulation, and other relevant procedures to enhance the safety and security of students using the district's technological resources and to help ensure that the district adapts to changing technologies and circumstances.

#### Use of District Computers for Online Services/Internet Access

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district computers with Internet access have a **technology** protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors and that the operation of such measures is enforced. (20 USC 6777, 47 USC 254)

To reinforce these measures, the Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this supervision.

The Superintendent or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

Student use of district computers to access social networking sites is prohibited. To the extent possible, the Superintendent or designee shall block access to such sites on district computers with Internet access.

## ACADEMIC CODE

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

Honesty and integrity are fundamental components of our student's education and character development. Our school has a fundamental obligation to promote, model, and educate students about the importance of basic character values. Administrators, faculty, staff and students should practice and emphasize integrity and ethical conduct in all relationships and situations.

Cheating of any kind while completing course requirements (e.g., taking examinations, completing term papers/projects/assignments) is a personal violation of the high standard of behavior we strive to maintain.

The intent of this policy is to support the school's efforts to encourage honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct throughout our students' school career with us and beyond.

Example of a violation of this policy may be (but is not limited to):

- Use of artificial intelligence 'AI'
- Forgery
- Using/sharing other information/references in a dishonest manner
- Copying another student's work; and/or other similar activity
- Theft of a test/other reference material, etc., from the teacher's classroom, files, or briefcase
- Copying information from the internet and turning it in as a student's own work

Disciplinary action will result in a failing grade on the assignment/test, parent conference, and possibly further disciplinary action depending on the severity of the offense which may include academic probation and suspension.

**GRADING PERIODS - ELEMENTARY (GRADES K-5)**

**K-5 Reporting Windows Trimesters**

	Start Date	End Date	Mid Reporting Open	Mid Reporting Close	Posting Window Open	Posting Window Close
<b>Trimester 1</b>	08/06/2025	10/31/2025	09/15/2025	9/19/2025	10/27/2025	10/31/2025
<b>Trimester 2</b>	11/03/2025	12/27/2025	12/12/2025	12/16/2025	02/23/2026	02/27/2026
<b>Trimester 3</b>	03/02/2026	06/05/2026	04/20/2026	04/24/2026	06/01/2026	06/05/2026
<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>	11/03/2026	11/07/2026	-	-	-	-
<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>	03/02/2026	03/06/2026	-	-	-	-

**Reporting Windows Grades 6-12**

Quarters and Semesters	Start Date	End Date	Posting Window Open	Posting Window Close
<b>Semester 1</b>				
<b>Quarter 1 Progress</b>	08/06/2025	09/15/2025	09/12/2025	09/19/2025
<b>Quarter 1 Reporting</b>	09/15/2026	10/10/2025	10/08/2025	10/15/2025
<b>Quarter 2 Progress</b>	10/13/2025	10/31/2024	10/31/2025	11/07/2025
<b>Quarter 2 Reporting/ Semester 1 End</b>	11/03/2025	12/19/2025	12/15/2025	12/19/2025
<b>Semester 2</b>				
<b>Quarter 3 Progress</b>	01/12/2026	02/06/2026	02/06/2026	02/17/2026
<b>Quarter 3 Reporting</b>	02/09/2026	03/13/2026	03/09/2026	03/13/2026
<b>Quarter 4 Progress</b>	03/16/2026	04/17/2025	04/15/2026	04/22/2026
<b>Quarter 4 Reporting/ Semester 2 End</b>	04/20/2026	06/20/2026	06/01/2026	06/05/2026

**GRADING PERIODS - SECONDARY (GRADES 6-12)****GRADING SCALE**

<b>GRADING SCALE (DLA Grading Policy)</b>		
<b>A</b>	90 - 100%	Outstanding Achievement
<b>B</b>	80 - 89%	Above Average Achievement
<b>C</b>	70 - 79%	Average Achievement
<b>D</b>	60 - 69%	Below Average Achievement
<b>F</b>	Below 60%	Little or No Achievement
<b>I</b>	Incomplete	Incomplete (issued only because of extenuating circumstances)
*Any changes to PSUSD Board Policy supersede site grading guidelines.		

**SENIOR GRADING**

The grading timeline for seniors is critical for teachers and graduating students. **For the 2025-25 school year, no senior work will be accepted after May 22, 2026.** This will allow for grading and calculating of credits.

**\*Progress Reports and Report Cards are turned in to the office on the dates above. Reports are mailed within two weeks.**



## COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

### CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A high school diploma or Certificate of Proficiency or 18 years of age is required for entrance.

### UC/CSU REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements to both the University of California (UC) campuses and the California State University (CSU) systems are based on grade point average in grades 10-12. Although CSU and UC schools do not require SAT and/or ACT scores, students may wish to complete these tests. Some majors have additional criteria for selection to specific colleges or universities.

Requirements listed below will also meet the minimum entrance requirements of most other colleges and universities in the United States.

### A-G REQUIREMENTS

The A-G requirements are a list of high school courses that student **must** complete (*with a grade of C or better*) to be eligible for admission to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU). However, these courses represent the basic level of academic preparation high school students should achieve to find success at **ANY** university.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

225 total credits earned in the following areas:

- English – 4 years
- Social Studies – 3 years
- Math – 3 years  
*\*including 1 year of Algebra 1 & 1 year of Geometry*
- Physical Science – 1 year
- Life Science – 1 year
- Physical Education – 2 years
- Fine Art or Foreign Language or CTE – 1 year
- Electives – 75 credits



## **COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **ACT (AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING PROGRAM)**

The ACT may be taken for entrance to any CSU and several hundred other colleges in the country. It covers English, Mathematics, and reading and science reasoning. Five test dates, beginning in early November are available. See your counselor in September regarding the November test.

### **SAT (SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST)**

The SAT Reasoning Test may be taken for entrance to any campus of the UC and CSU systems but is no longer required. See your counselor early in the school year for information on test dates, test center, and applications. Both tests are given several times a year, and we recommend that juniors take both SAT tests in the spring. You are encouraged to visit the website, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), for more specific information (including sample questions).

### **PSAT (PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST)**

Sophomores and Juniors may take the PSAT. Scores may be used by you and your counselor to determine future academic routes, and can also be useful in predicting future placement on College Boards.

### **COLLEGE ENTRANCE AND FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS**

Students who plan to pursue further education and training after high school graduation should plan to attend various workshops during school and make full use of the information and services available.

Throughout the year, printed information and workshops are provided to assist students with educational/college planning, college admissions testing, college applications, and financial aid/scholarship search applications. Parents are also invited to attend a college night and financial aid workshops.

Seniors should pay close attention to periodic publications distributed by the Counseling Office. All upcoming events, workshops, and deadlines are always advertised, and it is the student's responsibility to keep up on this important information.

### **OUT-OF-STATE AND PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

Students considering application to private and out-of-state colleges should contact those colleges for specific entrance requirements.

## **ADDITIONAL SECONDARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **CLASSES AT COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL**

If you are interested in a course that is not available at Desert Learning Academy, you may be able to take it through another comprehensive high school in Palm Springs Unified School District. Please contact your counselor to further discuss your options.

### **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT**

Concurrent Enrollment allows current high school students in good standing to take college-level classes. If the student passes the college class, it will count for both high school and college credit.

The Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) currently holds a partnership with College of the Desert (COD), where students who meet the following criteria are eligible to enroll at COD:

- Must be a current high school student spring of 9th grade and beyond (10th, 11th, 12th)
- 2.0 GPA in all high school coursework and no D's or F's in the semester prior to enrollment in college course
- 11th and 12th grade students can take up to 2 college courses in the Fall and Spring semesters (totaling 4 courses yearly), with high school approval
- 10th grade students can request to take selective college courses
- All students seeking to enroll in a college course, must request approval from Desert Learning Academy prior to enrolling in the course.

For additional information and questions, please contact your school counselor.

## **RECOGNITION AVAILABLE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **HIGH SCHOOL READINESS AWARDS**

High School Readiness is a recognition for eighth grade students who have met criteria showing they are prepared for entering high school. Students who qualify will receive either a Bronze, Silver, or Gold medal at the end of the recognition event. Criteria include the following:

- No out-of-school suspensions
- 97% Attendance
- Grade Level Lexile Scores
- Math and ELA Proficiency on the district benchmarks

The bronze medal will be awarded to students with a 3.0 - 3.49 GPA. The silver medal for students with a 3.5 - 3.79 GPA. The gold medal for students with a GPA of 3.8 or higher.

## RECOGNITION AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

### STATE SEAL OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (SSCE)

The CA State Seal of Civic Engagement is an award available for grade 12 students in California public schools, direct-funded charter schools, the juvenile justice system, and/or in alternative school settings up through grade twelve.

Students may earn a CA State Seal of Civic Engagement in grade 12 which is a gold seal that will be added to their transcript and diploma. This recognition could be listed on a college or work application.

Students are awarded the SSCE who have demonstrated excellence in civics education and participation, as well as an understanding of - The United States Constitution, The California Constitution, and the democratic system of government by satisfactorily meeting five criteria:

1. On track for graduation
2. Demonstrated understanding of civic knowledge
3. Demonstrated civic skills and action through project/activities
4. Demonstrated quality student reflection
5. Testimony of student civic mindedness

### STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY

The CA State Seal of Multiliteracy is an award that recognizes a student's proficiency in two or more languages. The criteria for the award include:

1. Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall GPA of 2.0 (Cs or better in English courses)
  - EL Students may demonstrate English proficiency with an overall score of 4 on the ELPAC
2. Passage of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for English language arts administered in grade eleven, at or above the "standard met" achievement level.
3. Proficiency in one or more languages, other than English demonstrated through one of the following methods:
  - AP (score of 3 or higher)/IB (score of 4 or more)
  - Successfully completed of a four year high school course of study in world language with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
  - Passage of a district test with a score of proficient or higher demonstrating proficiency in all of the modes of communication (reading, writing, and speaking) that characterize communication in the language.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

The following is a brief review of progressive discipline actions the school may take for offenses occurring before, during, or after school, going to or from school, or while involved in school activities. Minor offenses are handled by teachers, campus supervisors, and/or counselors according to classroom and school rules. More serious offenses are referred to administration.

The discipline system includes:

1. Classroom Consequences (developed by teachers)
2. Counseling (teacher, school counselor, or administrator)
3. Parent/Teacher/Administration Conference
4. Detentions (Lunch or After School)
5. "No Go Lists" (Students are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities)
6. Alternative to suspension
7. In-School Suspension (Discipline work is assigned)
8. Out-of-School Suspension
9. Transfer to another educational program
10. Recommendation for Expulsion

### BULLYING

#### Board Policy-5131.2

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting bullying related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district.

The Board of Education recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical, mental and emotional harm.

No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, retaliate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any student or school personnel or retaliate against them for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for addressing bullying in district schools with the involvement of students, parents/guardians, and staff. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee may also collaborate with social services, mental health services, law enforcement, courts, and other agencies and community organizations in the development and implementation of effective strategies to promote safety in schools and the community.

Such strategies shall be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan and, to the extent possible, into the local control and accountability plan and other applicable district and school plans.

---

Any complaint of bullying shall be investigated and, if determined to be discriminatory, resolved in accordance with law and the district's uniform complaint procedures specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3. If, during the investigation, it is determined that a complaint is about nondiscriminatory bullying, the principal or designee shall inform the complainant and shall take all necessary actions to resolve the complaint.

If the Superintendent or designee believes it is in the best interest of a student who has been the victim of an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 48900, the Superintendent or designee shall advise the student's parents/guardians that the student may transfer to another school. If the parents/guardians of a student who has been the victim of an act of bullying requests a transfer for the student pursuant to Education Code 46600, the Superintendent or designee shall allow the transfer in accordance with law and district policy on intradistrict or interdistrict transfer, as applicable.

District families are encouraged to model respectful behavior, contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment, and monitor potential causes of bullying.

Any employee who permits or engages in bullying or relation related to bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

## **WHAT IS BULLYING?**

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated over time.

## **WHAT IS NOT BULLYING?**

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights.

These actions can cause great distress. However, they do not fit the definition of bullying and they're not examples of bullying unless someone is deliberately and repeatedly doing them.

## **REPORTING BULLYING**

In order to address bullying, it is very important to report incidents as soon as possible after they occur. Students may report to trusted adults. Incidents can be reported confidentially online at [Sprigeo](#).

## **SPRIGEO – ONLINE BULLY REPORTING**

If you feel unsafe or know someone who feels unsafe, you may report it through our online bully reporting system, Sprigeo. You can also download an app from the Apple Store or the Android Marketplace to submit a report. Visit Sprigeo [HERE](#) to submit a report if you feel unsafe or uncomfortable due to Bullying.

## **POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Students who bully or participate in bullying are subject to progressive disciplinary actions if the behaviors cannot be mitigated through school interventions.

Interventions include: peer mediations, counseling and meetings, on site detentions, loss of recess privileges, stay away orders, behavior contracts, suspension from school and ultimately expulsion from school.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

All students shall respect the rights and property of the school, students, and staff. All students will conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner at all times. Any student who chooses to exhibit defiant or disrespectful behavior toward any adult or peer will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or loss of on campus privileges.

## **DEFIANT & DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

Our primary goal is the education of our students. Any student behavior which interferes with staff or student performance of their duties will not be tolerated. Students who exhibit inappropriate, defiant, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or loss of on campus privileges. .

## **DRESS CODE POLICY**

Students and parents are responsible for reading and following the Dress Code Policy contained in this Student Handbook. Student clothing should demonstrate respect for oneself and others. Dress Code violations will be subject to phone calls home and changing into more appropriate clothing. Continued violations will result in more serious disciplinary action.

### **Board Policy- 5132: Student Dress and Grooming**

In cooperation with teachers, students and parents/guardians, the principal or designee shall establish school rules governing student dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Board policy and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.

Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day. (Education Code 35183.5)

When applying the following guidelines for all regular school activities, administrators shall consider whether the clothing presents a health or safety hazard or causes a substantial disruption to the educational program:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times.
2. Clothing, jewelry and personal items shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which promote the use of drug, alcohol or tobacco or other illegal activity, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.

Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

The dress code shall be modified as appropriate to accommodate a student's religious or cultural observance, health condition, or other circumstance deemed necessary by the principal or designee. In addition, the principal or designee may impose dress requirements to accommodate the needs of special school activities, physical education classes, athletic activities, and other



extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066)

The principal, staff, students and parent/guardians at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

### **Gang-Related Apparel**

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus. (Education Code 32282)

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received.

### **Uniforms**

In schools where a schoolwide uniform is required, the principal, staff and parents/guardians of the individual school shall jointly select the specific uniform to be worn. (Education Code 35183)

At least six months before a school uniform policy is implemented, the principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy. (Education Code 35183)

Parents/guardians shall also be informed of their right to have their child exempted.

The principal or designee shall also repeat this notification at the end of the school year so that parents/guardians are reminded before school clothes are likely to be purchased.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for determining student eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a method for recycling or exchanging uniforms as students grow out of them.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be allowed to wear organization uniforms on days when the organization has a scheduled meeting. (Education Code 35183)

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

All persons entering a school site or district facility may be subject to a metal detector scan and/or personal search to ensure that weapons, drugs, or other dangerous items are not brought on campus. Violators are subject to suspension, expulsion, or arrest.

**The administration retains control over buildings, parking lots, and grounds, and has the right to search them without warrant.**

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

Desert Learning Academy is committed to a work and educational environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each student has the right to learn in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal educational opportunity and is free from discriminatory practices. Sexual harassment is violation of Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Title VII of the Civil rights Act of 1964, and California Education Code Section 210 through 214, inclusive. Therefore, the district strongly condemns, opposes, and prohibits sexual harassment of individuals, whether verbal, physical, or environmental, by anyone. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

### **HOW TO REPORT HARASSMENT:**

Complaint forms are available in Administration. You can ask any adult on campus for help in solving a harassment problem. Complaints are handled by counselors and/or administrators.

**Any student who violates this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.**

## SUSPENDABLE OFFENSES AND POSSIBLE EXPULSION

### California Education Code

- 48900 (a-1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause serious physical injury to another person.
- 48900 (a-2) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self- defense.
- 48900 (b) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or any other dangerous object.
- 48900 (c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or any intoxicant of any kind.
- 48900 (d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another substance and represented that substance as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- 48900 (e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- 48900 (f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- 48900 (g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- 48900 (h) Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel.
- 48900 (i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- 48900 (j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia.
- 48900 (k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority or school personnel.\*  
***\*Except as provided in Section 48910, a pupil in kindergarten or any grades 1 to 8 inclusive, shall not be suspended for 48900 (k) and this shall not constitute grounds for a pupil to be recommended for expulsion.***
- 48900 (l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- 48900 (m) Possessed an imitation firearm.
- 48900 (n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289 of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.
- 48900 (o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for purposes or either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.
- 48900 (p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- 48900 (q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing.

48900 (r)	Engaged in the act of bullying, including but not limited to, bullying committed by an electronic act, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel as defined in Education Code 32261 (f) As used in this chapter, “bullying” means one or more acts by a pupil or group of pupils as defined in Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4; and 32261 (g) As used in this chapter, an “electronic act” means the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device, including, but limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.
48900 (t)	A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person.
48900.2	Committed sexual harassment (Grades 4-12 only).
48900.3	Caused, attempted to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence (Grades 4-12 only).
48900.4	Created an intimidating or hostile educational environment by intentionally engaging in harassment, threats or intimidation against a pupil or group of pupils (Grades 4-12 only).
48900.7	Terroristic threats against school officials or school property, or both.
48915 (a)(1)(A)	Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense
48915 (a)(1)(B)	Possession of any knife or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil.
48915 (a)(1)(C)	Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, except for either of the following: (i) The first offense for the possession of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis. (ii) The possession of over-the-counter medication for use by the pupil for medical purposes or medication prescribed for the pupil by a physician.
48915 (a)(1)(D)	Robbery or extortion.
48915 (a)(1)(E)	Assault or battery, as defined in Sections 240 and 242 of the Penal Code, upon any employee.

## MANDATORY RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION

### California Education Code

- 48915 (c-1) Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm.
- 48915 (c-2) Brandishing a knife at another person.
- 48915 (c-3) Unlawfully selling a controlled substance.
- 48915 (c-4) Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or sexual battery as defined in 48900 (n).
- 48915 (c-5) Possession of an explosive.

PLEASE NOTE: The Palm Springs Unified School District is a tobacco free district and no tobacco products may be used in any district facility by students, staff, or parents.

A student may be suspended by a teacher for the remainder of the period and for one additional period. A student may be suspended by the Principal/Principal’s designee no more than five (5) consecutive school days for one offense.