

WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**WISD**



**CONSTITUTION**

2021

2022

# Table of Contents

1. Vision, Mission and Goals of the Weslaco Independent School District.....	2
2. Preface, Motto and Purpose .....	3
3. Article I, Name .....	4
4. Article II, Membership .....	4-8
a. Sec. 1 Eligibility for Tryouts	
b. Sec. 2 Elections	
c. Sec. 3 Membership Size of Squad	
d. Sec. 4 General Scholastic Requirements	
e. Sec. 5 Financial Obligations	
f. Sec. 6 Resignation	
g. Sec. 7 Cheerleading Season	
5. Article III, Cheerleading Captains.....	8-9
a. Sec. 1 Qualification and Elections	
b. Sec. 2 Captain/Co-Captain Duties and Responsibilities	
6. Article IV, Uniforms & Accessories.....	9
a. Sec. 1 Uniforms	
7. Article V, Meetings, Practices, and Activities.....	10-12
a. Sec. 1 Cheerleading Meetings and Practices	
b. Sec. 2 Attendance & Transportation	
c. Sec. 3 Excused Absences	
8. Article VI, Social Media.....	12
a. Sec. 1 High School and Middle School	
9. Article VII, Termination.....	12-16
a. Sec. 1 High School & Middle School Termination	
b. Sec. 2 Permanent Dismissal	
c. Sec. 3 Compliance & Cheerleader Rules	
d. Sec. 4 Extenuating Circumstances	
e. Sec. 5 Demerits	
10. Article VIII, Cheerleading Competition: High School .....	16
a. Sec. 1 UIL Competition	
11. Article IX, Accidents and Injuries .....	16
12. Article X, Parental Consent and Support.....	17
a. Sec. 1 Parental Consent	
b. Sec. 2 Parental Support	
13. Article XI, Amendments and Interpretation .....	17
a. Sec. 1 Amendments	
b. Sec. 2 Interpretation	

# Weslaco ISD

## Vision, Mission and Goals

WISD Vision: Weslaco ISD inspires and empowers all students to reach their full, unique potential so that each thrives in and contributes to our global community.

WISD Mission: As the right choice the Weslaco Independent School District delivers a complete educational experience grounded in creativity, synergy, problem-solving and critical thinking that develops lifelong learners, confident leaders and engaged citizens.

### WISD Goals:

1. STUDENT SUCCESS/LITERACY FOCUS: High-quality, engaging, and innovative programs that develop college, career and service ready leaders.
2. ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: Safe, secure, drug-free, technology-rich, and inviting environments district-wide that promote high performance.
3. PARENT-COMMUNITY-BUSINESS-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS: Exceptional community service, open communication, and positive collaboration for student success.
4. PROFESSIONAL GROWTH/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: High-quality, research-based training development and support for all employees.
5. FINANCIAL STRENGTH: Strategic planning, management, accountability, and transparent financial stewardship to optimize federal, state, and local funding.

# Preface

This document, prepared in collaboration with the District's high school and middle school principals, sponsors, and cheerleaders/mascots, is for the purpose of providing guidelines pertinent to the cheerleader/mascot program.

Participation in the cheerleader/mascot organization promotes self-confidence and develops student leadership skills. Students must accept many additional responsibilities and commit to excellence to realize the purposes and objectives of the organization. Student success in the classroom and within the cheerleader/mascot organization is the underlying goal. Communication and a strong partnership between the home and the school are of utmost importance.

Information on activities and opportunities, as well as grading systems, procedures, rules and regulations specific to individual campuses, may be obtained from each school cheerleader/mascot sponsor and/ or principal. Additional sources of information include the District's (campus) publications entitled Student Handbook. Parents with questions or concerns should first contact the cheerleader/mascot sponsor and then the principal/designee.

"The UIL athletic program is based on the premise that athletes are students first and that athletic participation is a privilege rather than a right. Students learn teamwork and group responsibility. They also learn to deal with success and to overcome adversity. Research shows those who participate in extra-curricular activities tend to make better grades and have fewer discipline problems than those who do not participate." (UIL Parent Information manual) pg. 3

## Motto

We, the cheerleaders of Weslaco I.S.D., in order to promote sportsmanship and a respectful organization, select qualified members to elevate school spirit, in the ideals of friendship, fair play, and loyalty.

We, the cheerleaders of Weslaco I.S.D., do ordain, and establish this constitution of the Weslaco I.S.D. Cheerleaders.

## Purpose

- A. A cheerleader's first responsibility is to her/his academic program. Participating in cheerleading should not interfere with the educational process.
- B. The primary function of this cheerleading program is to support all interscholastic activities and promote school spirit and leadership throughout the year.
- C. This cheerleading squad has the responsibility to uphold, to reflect, and to project the goals and ideals of its school and community.
- D. If the cheerleading squad engages in cheerleading gymnastics and competitive programs, it should adopt and execute a comprehensive safety program.

## Article I

## Name

The name of the organization will be according to each Weslaco I.S.D. Middle and High School campus. (i.e., Cuellar M.S., Central M.S., B.Garza M.S., M. Hoge M.S., W.E.H.S., W.H.S. Cheerleaders.)

## Article II

## Membership

### Section 1 – Eligibility for Tryouts

- A. Tryouts are held in the spring.
- B. To tryout, for a Middle School squad, a candidate must have an overall average of 70 or better for the fall semester in all subjects
- C. A **High School candidate** must have an **overall average of 70 or better** on **all subjects** for the **fall semester**. **A 60 or above for all Pre-AP, AP and CC classes.**
- D. A candidate cannot have more **than 5 absences** for any period of the school day for the **fall semester prior to tryouts**. Any exceptions must be approved by the advisor(s) and the principal. Such exceptions can only be considered if absences are caused by circumstances beyond the control of the candidate or parents.
- E. Candidates must present a physical form from a medical doctor verifying that he/she is in good physical condition and is able to participate in vigorous physical activities.
- F. Candidates must turn in all medical forms, report cards, drug testing forms and parent permission forms at a designated time given by the advisor(s) prior to tryouts. Parents must sign the parent permission form stating that they have read the constitution and agree to give the candidate permission to participate.
- G. A written statement giving an approximate cost for cheerleading involvement shall be given to the parents whose children are trying out for cheerleader. This statement must be signed and returned to the advisor(s) on the date set by advisor(s).
- H. To ensure uniformity, the advisor(s) shall specify the dress code for tryouts.
- I. Due to safety issues, candidates who are currently pregnant must provide medical clearance from their treating physician.

- J. Candidates with an outstanding balance from any organization, club, or the school in general must clear their account prior to tryouts. At the principal's discretion, arrangements may be made to clear outstanding balances.
- K. Candidates who have been a WISD Cheerleader from 7th through 11th grade, and have fulfilled the duties the entire school year, will have the distinction of Hall of Fame Cheerleader. They will still have to follow the application requirements set by the Weslaco ISD Cheerleading Constitution. Hall of Fame Cheerleaders will not be required to try-out their Senior year. Seniors wanting to be considered for captain or co-captain may use their tryout scores from the prior year or tryout for score/placement purposes.
- L. Candidates must sign and agree to random drug testing by WISD, policy FNF local.
- M. All candidates must attend tryout meeting prior to tryouts with their parent/guardian, or make arrangements with advisor to receive tryout packet

## **Section 2 – Elections: The advisor(s) organizes elections**

- A. Tryouts are open to both males and females.
- B. Each candidate must participate in the prescribed tryouts and meet all requirements stated in Article II, section 1.
- C. The order of tryouts will be determined by the drawing of numbers. Candidates will be identified by a number only throughout the tryouts.
- D. The advisor(s) will select three neutral judges to be approved by the school principal. The judges cannot be affiliated with the school district, the school or candidates.
- E. The advisor(s) and principal will determine the location for tryouts. It is recommended that the school's gymnasium be used for this purpose.
- F. Tryouts will be closed.
- G. Video taping of tryouts will not be allowed.
- H. In case of a tie in final tabulations, the cheerleader with the highest fall semester GPA will be the determining factor.
- I. Any candidate injured during tryouts, or prior to tryouts, who is unable to perform cannot tryout.

- J. School personnel will tabulate the judges' scores and will give the results to the principal or his designee. **The judges' decision is final.**
- K. The tryout results will be announced on the same day as tryouts.
- L. If a parent wishes to view their student's individual tryout documents, they must make an appointment with the officiating administrator. Parents are allowed to view their student's individual document only. The statute of limitations for viewing is five (5) school days following the tryout session. By law, all other student scores are protected and cannot be shared with anyone except the coach, principal, or school administration. The original judge's score sheet will not be released to parents or students. No digital or photocopies of the judging score sheet will be allowed.

### Section 3- Membership Size of Squads

- A. The top scores will be used to determine the high school varsity squad consisting of a maximum of 26 members. **The squad will consist of students from ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade classes who receive the highest number of points.**
- B. The top scores will be used to determine the Junior Varsity squad consisting of twelve cheerleaders, unless overruled by the school principal. **The squad will consist only of students in the ninth and above grades.**
- C. The top scores will be used to determine the freshman squad, selected at the end of their eighth grade year, consisting of twelve cheerleaders, unless overruled by the school principal. **The squad will only consist of incoming freshmen. Freshman who wish to try out for the Varsity/JV forgo the option to be on the freshman squad.**
- D. The middle school squads will consist of eighteen (18) members and one mascot from each campus, unless overruled by the school principal. **The squad will consist of students from the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes.**
- E. The mascot will be selected through the use of neutral judges as specified in the selection of cheerleaders. This selection process will be used if more than the desired number of candidates is interested in the position. This position is open to any male or female student. The mascot will be considered a member of the cheerleading squad; therefore, he/she is subject to the same rules and regulations. The mascot does not count toward the squad limit. The mascot is responsible for their own attire as specified by the advisor(s).

## Section 4 – General Scholastic Requirements:

### All Cheerleaders and the mascot must meet the following standards:

- A. Once a candidate becomes a member of a squad, the grades necessary for participation will be governed by TEA and UIL rules.
- B. **All members must be enrolled in the cheerleading class throughout the year, if it is offered, unless approved by the campus principal. Exemption from the cheerleading class should only be to take a class needed for graduation.**
- C. Failure to be enrolled in the cheer class the entire academic school year will result in termination.

## Section 5 – Financial Obligation

All costs of uniforms and accessories will be paid by the members.

- A. All cheerleaders must pay a required deposit by the specified date in order for their uniforms to be ordered. Also, all cheerleaders must pay their account in full by the specified date or forfeit performances.
- B. Any member who drops out, or is removed from the organization, is financially obligated for all orders placed. **No refunds or cancellations on orders placed ahead of removal from the squad will be issued.**
- C. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader to reimburse the school for any lost cheerleading accessories that were purchased by the school.
- D. All cheerleaders must replace lost or stolen personal items that complete the uniform.
- E. The cost of the cheerleading uniform and accessories may vary from campus to campus. There will be additional costs for camp wear and camp registration.

## Section 6 – Resignation

- A. Any member who resigns will no longer be eligible to participate in any cheerleading function during the year and will be removed from the cheer class.
- B. A written notice, signed by parent/guardian and student, must be submitted to the campus principal and advisor(s).
- C. A member will forfeit any letter or award and the option to try out the subsequent year without approval of the campus principal.



## **Section 7 – Cheerleading Season**

- A. The cheerleading season starts after tryouts and ends in May of the following year; therefore, full participation is required throughout the year.
- B. All practices are considered cheerleading activities and attendance is mandatory. Exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the advisors.

## **Article III**

## **Cheerleading Captains**

### **Section 1 – Qualifications/Election**

- A. High School Squads: There will be one captain and one co-captain. An additional co-captain may be added depending on the size of the squad and at the advisor's discretion
- B. There will be one captain and one co-captain for the junior varsity squad. There will not be a captain or co-captain for the freshman squad.
- C. Middle School Squads: There will be one captain and one co-captain for the squad. An additional co-captain may be added depending on the size of the squad and at the advisor's discretion.
- D. The Captain must be:
  - a. A person who was a member of the cheerleading squad the previous year (all squads except 7th grade).
  - b. Exemplify leadership, dependability and responsibility.

#### **Captains will be chosen by advisor(s) based on:**

- 1/3 scores, 1/3 advisor(s), 1/3 squad vote (all squads)
- A member of a squad at the same campus the previous year (all squads except 7th grade)
- Junior or Senior (varsity squad)
- GPA 80 or above (all squads)

**\*\*\* All decisions are final.**

### **Section 2 – Captain/Co-Captain Duties and Responsibilities:**

The duties and responsibilities of the captain will be to:

- A. Work closely with the advisors to organize practices, performances, and any cheerleading squad activities.
- B. Make sure that all members are informed of all activities and the proper attire for said activities.
- C. Make all decisions with the assistance of the members, however, the final authority rests with the advisors.
- D. Make sure that all pep rallies are planned in advance. Give a copy of each program to the principal, coach, band director, advisor(s), and any other person(s) asked to participate in the pep rally. The program must be ready at least two days before the pep rally.
- E. Issue infractions to herself and to any member not conforming to this constitution in any way. The advisor must approve infractions.
- F. Make sure that all members help in returning equipment to the proper person(s) and/or place after games, pep rallies, or any cheerleader sponsored activity.
- G. Call for group vote in case of disagreements within the squad. The advisor(s) will have the final authority.
- H. Begin all practices promptly at the designated time.
- I. A captain and co-captain may be removed from her position if she is academically ineligible for a six weeks period.
- J. The co-captain(s) will assist the captain and will take on the captain's responsibilities when she is not present.

## **Article IV**

## **Uniforms and Accessories**

### **Section 1 – Uniforms**

#### **High School Squads and Middle School:**

- A. Uniform will be decided by advisors
- B. All uniforms will be made by the same person or company.
- C. No part of the uniform is to be worn except for games, pep-rallies, or other cheerleader sponsored activities unless permission is granted by the advisor(s).

## **Article V**

## **Meetings, Practices, and Activities**

### **Section 1 – Cheerleading Meetings and Practices**

- A. If during the day of a game a member is absent for more than half of that day, he/she will not be allowed to cheer or perform unless the absence is excused and approved by campus principal.
- B. Practices shall start promptly. The penalty for tardiness, unless excused by the advisor(s), will be the same as that for any other class.
- C. If the members of the squad are participants of other organizations, they are expected to share their time with both organizations. Other activities must not interfere with practice sessions; games, pep rallies, or any other cheerleading sponsored activities. Exceptions will be reviewed by the advisor(s) on case-by-case basis.
- D. All members are required to attend the summer cheerleading camp as a squad. The cheerleading camp is selected by the advisor(s) and approved by the principal. Any members unable to attend the summer cheerleading camp must have prior approval from the advisor(s). Failure to attend two or more summer practices will exclude the cheerleader from performing during the summer camp.
- E. Required summer practices will be designated by the advisor and approved by the principal. Any member unable to meet the summer practice schedule must receive prior approval from the advisor(s). Dismissal from the squad may result if missed sessions have not been approved by the advisor(s).
- F. Due to safety precautions, all attempts should be made to hold practice at appropriate school facilities.
- G. During the school year, cheerleading practice shall be limited to a maximum of eight hours per week outside the school day. The school day is defined as beginning when the first bell rings in the morning and ending when the last bell rings in the afternoon; the school week is defined as Monday through Friday.
- H. During the summer, cheerleading practice should be limited to a maximum of ten hours per week.

### **Section 2 – Transportation & Attendance**

- A. All members must ride to and from all scheduled out-of-town activities as a group. A cheerleader/mascot may be released to his/her parents only after a performance by signature or signed release form.
- B. Attendance is required at all meetings, practices, and cheerleader sponsored activities.
- C. The members of the squad will cheer at all activities as needed.
- D. All members must be at the activity location a minimum of thirty minutes before game time unless the advisor approves the time change.
- E. Each member of the squad must give full cooperation to the captain(s) as well as to the other members in all projects, games and activities.
- F. When the cheerleading squad conducts fund raising projects, attendance and participation are required by all members.
- G. Any cheerleader/mascot who has been absent from any events or practice not approved by the advisor will be benched for a set amount of time determined by the advisor(s). When benched, the cheerleader/mascot will sit in uniform with the advisor.
- H. All cheerleaders are expected to dress in an appropriate manner when traveling and conduct themselves according to student code of conduct.
- I. If a member of the squad is employed, they must understand that it should not interfere with their cheerleader activities and events. Exceptions will be reviewed by the advisor(s) on a case-by-case basis.
- J. All members are responsible for all items and belongings, the advisors are not responsible for any lost, stolen or misplaced.

### **Section 3 – Excused Absences (Please call advisor(s) ahead of time)**

- A. Absences from meetings, practice sessions, performances or other activities are excused for:
  - a. An absence from school on that day
  - b. Personal illness with doctor's note
  - c. Death or serious illness in the immediate family
  - d. Religious holiday
  - e. UIL game/match/performance
  - f. UIL school related meet
  - g. UIL games conflicts and school related meetings require a written notice.

- B. Unexcused Absences
  - a. Work
  - b. Vacation
  - c. Appointments (non-medical)
  - d. NON UIL involvements
  - e. NON UIL meetings
  - f. Competitive cheer practice or events

C. Reasons for absences must be in writing, signed by the parent and given to the advisor(s) on the school day after the absence, otherwise the absence will be unexcused and will affect your grade.

## **Article VI**                      **Social Media**

### **Section 1- High School and Middle School**

- A. Social Media posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and any other not listed, is a reflection of yourself and your activities. If you choose to participate in this program you are representing WISD cheer.
- B. All photographs and written posts need to be school appropriate.
- C. All online publications of inappropriate behavior, videos, or pictures and any unsportsmanlike conduct are subject to dismissal from the squad unless overruled by the principal.

## **Article VII**                      **Termination**

### **Section 1 – HIGH SCHOOL and MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**THE FOLLOWING MAY RESULT IN TERMINATION FROM THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR:**

- A. Three (3) unexcused absences from a practice session and/or cheerleader function; unless approved by the principal
- B. Excessive absences (5 per semester); unless approved by the principal
- C. Accumulation of fifteen (15) cheerleader demerits due to lack of performance or lack of participation as required by the organization

- D. Suspension of three(3) games
- E. Any violation of Article VI (Social Media)
- F. Unwillingness to submit to the authority of the advisor(s) and captain or co-captain
- G. Failure to assume responsibilities or carry out cheerleading assignments
- H. Failure to maintain proper decorum

## **Section 2 – Permanent Dismissal**

**THE FOLLOWING WILL RESULT IN PERMANENT DISMISSAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION. FURTHERMORE, IT MAY PREVENT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM BEING ALLOWED TO TRYOUT FOR ANY W.I.S.D. CHEERLEADING SQUAD FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR.**

- A. Placement in AEP (guidance center) during the current school year
- B. Expulsion
- C. Disorderly conduct/behavior towards administration, staff and/or advisor(s)
- D. Showing up to a practice or any event under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
- E. Charged and convicted for possession/under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol on or off campus
- F. Three violations of Level II General Misconduct Violations of the Student Code of Conduct
- G. Forgery on any forms

**DISMISSAL PROCEDURES WILL ADHERE TO DISTRICT DUE PROCESS POLICY. ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND THERE WILL BE NO APPEALS.**

## **Section 3 – Compliance**

**Any member of the WISD Cheerleading Squad, serving as a cheerleader, will comply with the rules and regulations of this constitution and/or accept the consequences as**

**written in this constitution: DEDUCTION OF POINTS (DEMERITS WILL BE ISSUED), REFERRALS, BEING BENCHED AT GAMES, OR SUSPENSIONS.**

## **Cheerleader RULES**

### **A. CHEERLEADER MUST:**

1. Be prepared to cheer.
2. Be on time.
3. Be spirited and cheerful.
4. Put forth a “good face”- do not let the public see your troubles.
5. Be at attention while in formations- do not wave or talk to the public.
6. Not chat with each other while in formation.
7. Be neat and well groomed.
8. Wear clean-pressed uniforms and clean shoes.
9. Wear appropriate accessories (bows, etc.) with uniform.
10. Wear a proper day uniform.
11. Have hair held back from the face in a secure ponytail.
12. Not wear jewelry with uniform
13. Keep nails natural and no false nails allowed. Keep them short with no color.
14. Not chew gum at any performance, practice, or activity.
15. No public display of affection with a significant other while in uniform.
16. No hickies are permitted at any time.

17. Be respectful to self and others.
18. Do not use profanity.
19. Be attentive when captain or advisor(s) is giving instructions
20. Not leave a game, practice session or any required activity without permission from advisor(s).
21. Participate with minimum requirements of fundraisers.
22. Turn in money and forms on the due date.
23. Not wear all or part of the uniform without advisor(s) permission.
24. Not lend uniform parts to non-members.
25. Do an equal share of work to keep cheerleading running smoothly.
26. Be responsible for your actions.
27. NOT use cell phone use during practice, games or performances without permission from advisors.
28. Use social media to elevate school spirit in a positive way.
29. Motivate and encourage others to promote school spirit.

#### **Section 4 – Extenuating Circumstances**

After considering the circumstances, if the breach of conduct is judged by advisor(s) and principal to be serious enough, a member may be dismissed from the organization.

#### **Section 5 – Demerits**

1. A demerit will be given to cheerleaders not following rules and regulations of cheerleading. One demerit for each offense will be given each time a rule is broken or conduct is disruptive.
2. A demerit will be given for not attending a practice or cheerleading event. Exceptions will be reviewed by the advisor(s) on a case-by-case basis.
3. Cheerleaders will be allowed a maximum of three demerits per week. The fourth demerit will mean loss of performance for the week. The demerit occurs at the end of the week, consequence will carry



over for the following week. If it is absolutely crucial for the team member to perform a routine, the cheerleader will perform only that routine, and sit out the rest of the performance.

4. A cheerleader will be informed when receiving a demerit and will be required to sign documentation.
5. Demerits will be given by the sponsor only, but can be brought to the attention of the sponsor by any member of the squad.
6. Demerits will be given the first time, and every time the offenses are committed, as the cheerleader should be familiar with all the rules, regulations and discipline laws of cheerleading.
7. Once a cheerleader has accumulated fifteen demerits, dismissal procedures will begin in accordance to district due process policy. Exceptions will be viewed by the advisor and principal on a case-by-case basis.

## **Article VIII CHEERLEADING COMPETITION: HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Section 1 – UIL Competition:**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL:**

- A. Advisor(s) and principal approval is given
- B. Final approval rests with the WISD School Board
- C. Overnight stays require following the Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Handbook procedures and practice.

## **Article IX Accidents and Injuries**

- A. Upon injury, a cheerleader is responsible to notify the sponsor immediately. A trainer will be notified immediately for evaluation.
- B. Referral for emergencies will be authorized by the trainer.
- C. The athletic director, principal, advisor and coaches are not responsible for any injury incurred while participating in any cheer activity.
- D. If an injury should occur while at an event/game, the athlete is covered through the district's athletic insurance.

## **Article X**     **Parental Consent and Support**

### **Section 1- Parental Consent**

- A. All deposits and payments are due on specified dates.
- B. Assure that your child (cheerleader) is present and on time to all mandatory event, practices and games.
- C. Cheer Season is YEAR round.
- D. All decisions made by the advisor, coaches, and campus principal are final.
- E. Fundraisers and funds are the responsibility of both parent and cheerleader.

### **Section 2- Parental Support**

- A. Cheerleading is an extension of the classroom and academics comes first.
- B. Encourage good sportsmanship and a positive influence throughout the year.
- C. Be respectful to all athletes, coaches, advisors, administrators and other parents.
- D. Report any injury experienced by the athlete immediately.
- E. Use appropriate language at all times.

## **Article XI: Amendments and Interpretation**

### **Section 1- Amendments**

- A. This document may be amended at any time but only with the approval of the principal.
- B. This document is not intended to limit the sponsors decision making pertaining to the cheerleading program.
- C. Decision making will be consistent with the guidelines set forth in this document and following all district policies.

### **Section 2- Interpretation**

- A. The school administration and cheer advisors will have final authority in the determination of such interpretations.
- B. There will be no appeals to the interpretation of this document.

