Sec. 1. SCHOOL YEAR

Midland Academy Charter shall operate so that it provides the minimum number of instructional days specified in the charter contract currently on file with the State of Texas and as specified by Education Code 25.081.

Sec. 2. LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY

A school day shall be at least 7 and a half hours which is 450 minutes each day, including intermissions and recesses.

Sec. 3. REQUIRED INSTRUCTION

A primary purpose of Midland Academy Charter's curriculum is to prepare thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism and can function productively in a free enterprise society with appreciation for the basic democratic values of our state and national heritage. Midland Academy Charter shall foster the continuation of the tradition of teaching United States and Texas history and the free enterprise system in regular subject matter, in reading courses, and in the adoption of textbooks.

Sec. 4. REQUIRED CURRICULUM

Midland Academy Charter shall ensure that all students enrolled participate actively in a balanced curriculum designed to meet individual needs.

Midland Academy Charter shall offer to students in all grade levels the curriculum required by the charter contract currently on file with the State of Texas. This curriculum shall include, at appropriate grade levels:

1. A foundation curriculum that includes:
   a. English language arts;
   b. Mathematics;
   c. Science; and
   d. Social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and
2. An enrichment curriculum that includes:
   a. To the extent possible, languages other than English;
   b. Health, with emphasis on:
      i. Physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;
      ii. Mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; and

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iii. Suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

c. Physical education;
d. Fine arts;
e. Career and technology education;
f. Technology applications;
g. Religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and
h. Personal financial literacy.

Education Code 12.111(a), 28.002(a), 28.025.

Sec. 5. <u>SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION</u>

The following provisions in this Section apply for any social studies course in the required curriculum pursuant to Education Code 28.002(h-3):

a) ***Teacher Discussion***

A teacher may not be compelled to discuss a particular current event or widely debated and currently controversial issue of public policy or social affairs. A teacher who chooses to do so shall, to the best of the teacher's ability, strive to explore the topic from diverse and contending perspectives without giving deference to any one perspective.

b) ***Students***

Midland Academy Charter or a Midland Academy Charter teacher may not require, make part of a course, or award a grade or course credit, including extra credit, for a student's:

1. political activism, lobbying, or efforts to persuade members of the legislative or executive branch at the federal, state, or local level to take specific actions by direct communication; or
2. participation in any internship, practicum, or similar activity involving social or public policy advocacy

c) ***Trainings. Orientations, or Therapies***

A teacher, administrator, or other employee of Midland Academy Charter may not be required to engage in training, orientation, or therapy that presents any form of race or sex stereotyping or blame on the basis of race or sex.

d) ***Course Content***

A teacher, administrator, or other employee of Midland Academy Charter may not:

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1. require or make part of a course the concept that:

    i. one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
    ii. an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
    iii. an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race;
    iv. members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex;
    v. an individual's moral character, standing, or worth is necessarily determined by the individual's race or sex;
    vi. an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;
    vii. an individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual's race or sex;
    viii. meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race to oppress members of another race;
    ix. the advent of slavery in the territory that is now the United States constituted the true founding of the United States; or
    x. with respect to their relationship to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to, the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality; and

2. require an understanding of The 1619 Project.

Education Code 28.002(h-3).

Sec. 6. <u>CHARACTER TRAITS AND PERSONAL SKILLS INSTRUCTION</u>

Midland Academy Charter shall adopt a character education program that includes the following positive character traits:

1. Courage;
2. Trustworthiness, including honesty, reliability, punctuality, and loyalty;
3. Integrity;
4. Respect and courtesy;
5. Responsibility, including accountability, diligence, perseverance, and self-control;
6. Fairness, including justice and freedom from prejudice;
7. Caring, including kindness, empathy, compassion, consideration, patience, generosity, and charity;
8. Good citizenship, including patriotism, concern for the common good and the community, and respect for authority and the law;

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9. School pride; and
10. Gratitude.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Midland Academy Charter shall adopt a character education program that includes the following positive character traits and personal skills:

1. Courage;
2. Trustworthiness, including honesty, reliability, punctuality, and loyalty;
3. Integrity;
4. Respect and courtesy;
5. Responsibility, including accountability, diligence, perseverance, self-management skills, and self-control;
6. Fairness, including justice and freedom from prejudice;
7. Caring, including kindness, empathy, compassion, consideration, patience, generosity, charity, and interpersonal skills;
8. Good citizenship, including patriotism, concern for the common good and the community, responsible decision-making skills, and respect for authority and the law;
9. School pride; and
10. Gratitude.

The programs shall be implemented in accordance with guidelines published by the Commissioner of Education / State Board of Education.

Education Code 29.906.

Sec. 7. <u>SCHOOL CALENDAR</u>

The Superintendent shall develop a school calendar reflecting Midland Academy Charter's operations in accordance with the requirements of the charter contract. The Superintendent or designee shall distribute the school calendar to all students and parents.

Sec. 8. <u>RECOGNITION DATES</u>

Midland Academy Charter will regularly observe the following recognition days, weeks, and months by appropriate activities in public schools:

Hydrocephalus Awareness Month: September is Hydrocephalus Awareness Month to:

1. Increase public awareness of hydrocephalus; and
2. Encourage the development of partnerships between the federal government, health care professionals, and patient advocacy groups to advance the public's understanding of the condition, improve the diagnosis and treatment of the condition, and support research for a cure.

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Gov't Code 622.106.

Texas History Month: March is Texas History Month in honor of those Texans who helped shape the history of the State of Texas and in recognition of events throughout Texas' history. Texas History Month shall be regularly observed by appropriate celebrations and activities in public schools to promote interest in and knowledge of Texas history.

Gov't Code 662.102.

Celebrate Freedom Week: To educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded, the week in which September 17 falls is designated as Celebrate Freedom Week.

Education Code 29.907.

Generation Texas Week: To educate middle school and high school students about the importance of higher education, the Superintendent shall designate one week during the school year as Generation Texas Week. The Superintendent shall designate one week during the school year as Generation Texas Week for all middle school, junior high, and high school students attending Midland Academy Charter.

During the designated week, each middle school and high school shall provide students with comprehensive grade-appropriate information regarding the pursuit of higher education. The information provided must include information regarding:

1. Higher education options available to students;
2. Standard admission requirements for institutions of higher education, including:
   a. Overall high school grade point average;
   b. Required curriculum;
   c. College readiness standards and expectations as determined under Education Code 28.008; and
   d. Scores necessary on generally recognized tests or assessment instruments used in admissions determinations, including the Scholastic Assessment Test and the American College Test;
3. Automatic admission of certain students to general academic teaching institutions as provided by Education Code 51.803; and
4. Financial aid availability and requirement, including the financial aid information provided under Education Code 33.007(b).

Additionally, each middle school, junior high school, and high school shall provide to the students during the designated week at least one public speaker to promote the importance of higher education.

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Education Code 29.911.

Holocaust Remembrance Week: The governor shall designate a week to be known as "Holocaust Remembrance Week" in public schools to educate students about the Holocaust and inspire a sense of responsibility to recognize and uphold human value and to prevent future atrocities.

Holocaust Remembrance Week shall include age-appropriate instruction, as determined by Midland Academy Charter:

1. Information about the history of and lessons learned from the Holocaust;
2. Participation, in person or using technology, in learning projects about the Holocaust; and
3. The use of materials developed or approved by the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

Education Code 29.9072.

American Indian Heritage Day: The last Friday in September is American Indian Heritage Day in recognition of the historic, cultural, and social contributions American Indian communities and leaders have made to this state. American Indian Heritage Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs in public schools to honor American Indians in this state and to celebrate the rich traditional and contemporary American Indian culture.

Gov't Code 662.056.

Constitution Day: Upon receipt of federal funds, Midland Academy Charter shall recognize September 17 as Constitution Day and hold an educational program on the United States Constitution for students served by Midland Academy Charter.

Pub. L. 108-447.

Father of Texas Day: November 3 is Father of Texas Day in memory of Stephen F. Austin. Father of Texas Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate and patriotic programs in public schools to properly commemorate the birthday of Stephen F. Austin and to inspire a greater lover for this state.

Gov't Code 662.045.

Public School Paraprofessional Day: The second Wednesday in May of each year is Public School Paraprofessional Day in recognition of education paraprofessionals including teacher assistants, instructional aides, educational trainers, library attendants, bilingual assistants, special education associates, mentors, and tutors. Public School Paraprofessional Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies and activities in public schools to properly recognize the paraprofessionals who have made tremendous contributions to the educational process.

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Gov't Code 662.049.

Sam Rayburn Day: January 6 is Sam Rayburn Day in memory of the Texas and American statesman, Sam Rayburn. Sam Rayburn Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate programs in public schools to commemorate the birthday of Sam Rayburn. *Gov't Code 662.041*.

September 11: To commemorate the events of September 11, 2001, in each year that date falls on a regular school day, each public elementary or secondary school shall provide for the observance of one minute of silence at the beginning of the first class period of that day. Immediately before the period of observance required by this section, the class instructor shall make a statement of reference to the memory of individuals who died on September 11, 2001. The period of observance required by this section may be held in conjunction with the minute of silence required by Section 25.082.

Education Code 25.0821.

State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day: February 19 is State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day (STAR Day) in honor of Texas joining the Union and the day that James Pinckney Henderson became the first governor of the State of Texas in 1846. STAR Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate and patriotic programs in the public schools to properly commemorate the annexation of this state and to inspire a greater appreciation for the history of this state.

Gov't Code 662.047.

Texas First Responders Day: September 11 is Texas First Responders Day in honor of the bravery, courage, and determination of Texas men and women who assist others in emergencies. Texas First Responders Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies in public schools to honor Texas first responders.

Gov't Code 662.050.

Texas Girls in STEM Day: March 1 is designated as Texas Girls in STEM Day to celebrate and encourage the participation of girls in fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Texas Girls in STEM Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs in public schools to:

1. Encourage girls in this state to consider career fields in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and
2. Celebrate and honor the women of this state who have excelled in those fields.

Gov't Code 662.071.

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Texas Military Heroes Day: The governor shall designate a day to be known as Texas Military Heroes Day in public schools to educate students about the sacrifices made by Texans who have served in the armed forces of the United States. Texas Military Heroes Day will include appropriate instruction, as determined by Midland Academy Charter. Instruction may include:

1. Information about persons who have served in the armed forces of the United States and are from the community or the geographic area in which Midland Academy Charter is located; and
2. Participation, in person or using technology, in age-appropriate learning projects at battlefields and gravesites associated with a person who has served in the armed forces.

Education Code 29.9071.

Women's Independence Day: August 26 is Women's Independence Day to commemorate the ratification in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote. Women's Independence Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate programs in the public schools to inspire a greater appreciation of the importance of women's suffrage.

Gov't Code 662.051.

Sec. 9. EXERCISE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PRAY

Each Midland Academy Charter student has an absolute right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school. A person shall not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

Education Code 25.901.

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