

ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS



2021-2022
PARENT—STUDENT
HANDBOOK

2021-2022 District Student-Parent Handbook

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Disclaimer: The Rockford Area School district reserves the right to alter or vary the application of these rules and procedures. As new policies or regulations are developed by the school board or State or Federal statutes, additions or deletions will be made to this handbook. Any conflicts between language in this handbook and a school district policy will be resolved in favor of the policy.

PART I – INFORMATION

About This Handbook

This handbook includes an overview of District #883 policies, regulations, and procedures about student rights and responsibilities. Those documents are updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to the documents reviewed in this handbook since the previous version was printed in fall 2020. District policies can be found on our website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific issue, please contact the building principal.

Arrival and Dismissal Hours

School day hours at each building are:

REAMS	8:05am-3:00pm
ECSE AM Section:	8:05am-10:45am
ECSE PM Section:	12:15pm-2:55pm
RMS-CES	7:50am-2:45pm
RHS	8:00am-2:50pm

School begins for each child as he/she enters the door and appropriate behavior is expected in all areas of the building at all times. For the welfare and safety of all students, it is requested that students do not arrive at school any earlier than necessary. If you choose to pick-up your child at the end of the school day, please be sure to sign-in at the front office and obtain a visitor's sticker. Unless participating in a school-sponsored activity or working with a teacher, students should not be in the building without supervision.

Calendar

Refer to District Policy 602

The school calendar is adopted annually by the school board. A copy of the school calendar can be found in the introduction section and on the school district's website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Class Assignments

Refer to District Policy 515

Students will receive instruction in required courses/classroom assignments throughout the school year. Parents and guardians will assist their child in selecting elective courses at RMS-CES and RHS. This selection is a term-long commitment. Schedules are subject to change due to academic needs and availability.

Complaints

Refer to District Policy 103

Students, parents/guardians, employees, or other persons may report concerns or complaints to the school district.

Complaints may be either written or oral. People are encouraged, but not required, to file a written complaint at the building level where appropriate. The appropriate administrator will respond in writing to the complaining party regarding the school district's response to the complaint.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students

The age of majority for most purposes in Minnesota is 18 years of age. Once a student reaches 18 years of age or attends a postsecondary institution, he or she becomes an "eligible student," and all rights formerly given to parents under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), transfer to the student. However, although the rights under FERPA have now transferred to the student, a school may disclose limited information from an "eligible student's" education records to the parents/guardians of the student, without the student's consent, if the student is a dependent for tax purposes. The eligible student has the right to have access to his or her education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, the right to have control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the records, and the right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education. The term "education records" is defined as those records that contain information directly related to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.

In an effort to keep parents/guardians included in their student's educational progress, an Authorization form is available at the high school office. Parents/guardians are asked to review this Authorization with their child and obtain their consent on or after their 18th birthday. All signed Authorizations may be returned to the high school counseling office and records will be updated to reflect the 18-year old child's consent to allow his/her parents or guardians to have access to all educationally related matters.

All students, regardless of age, are governed by the rules for students provided in school district policy.

Employee Directory

Refer to District Policy 406

Most district employees' email addresses follow the format: last name first initial@rockford.k12.mn.us. More information is located on our website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Employment Background Checks [*]

Refer to District Policy 404

The school district will seek criminal history background checks for all applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district. The school district also will seek criminal history background checks for all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether compensation is paid. These positions include, but are not limited to, all athletic coaches, extracurricular academic coaches, assistants, and advisors. The school district may elect to seek criminal history background checks for other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees.

Equal Access to School Facilities

Refer to District Policy 801

It is the intention of the Rockford School Board to make available, whenever possible, the facilities of the school system by organizations and groups in the community. For more information, please call Community Education at 763-477-4563. Appropriate and sufficient personnel are required to be present when facilities are in use. Charges will be made to groups when services of personnel are required when they normally are not on duty. Rental fees will be charged according to School Board Policy.

The school district has created a limited open forum for secondary students to conduct non-curriculum-related meetings during non-instructional time. The school district will not discriminate against or deny equal access or a fair opportunity on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. These limited open forum meetings will be voluntary and student initiated; will not be school sponsored; employees or agents of the school will be present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity; the meetings will not interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and non-school persons will not direct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups. All meetings under this provision must follow the procedures established by the school district.

Fees [*]

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state, federal, and local funds at no charge to a student. Students *are* expected to provide their own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. Students may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including (not an inclusive list):

- Cost for materials for a class project that exceeds minimum requirements and is kept by the student.

- Security deposits for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment.
- Field trips considered supplementary to the district's educational program.
- Admission fees or costs to attend or participate in optional extracurricular activities and programs.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
- Use of musical instruments owned or rented by the school district.
- A school district-sponsored driver or motorcycle education training course.
- Transportation to and from school for students living within two miles of school.
- Transportation of students to and from optional extracurricular activities or post-secondary instruction conducted at locations other than school.

Students will be charged for textbooks, workbooks, and library books that are lost or destroyed. The school district may waive a required fee or deposit if the student and parent/guardian are unable to pay. For more information, contact the school office.

Food in the Classrooms

Refer to District Policy 533

Food and beverages are to be consumed in the designated areas and are not permitted in the other areas without permission. No food or beverage of any kind is allowed in the auditorium, media center, or computer labs. If students bring food into the classrooms, please comply with our district wellness policy. Please be cognizant that many students have severe food allergies that may limit foods permitted in the classroom.

Birthday Treats

Please let the teacher know ahead of time if you would like to send treats to the class to celebrate your child's birthday. All treats must be store bought and commercially prepared. Healthy classroom treats can be ordered through our food service department.

Fundraising

Refer to District Policy 511

All fundraising activities conducted by student groups and organizations and/or parent groups must be approved in advance by the Activities Director (if extracurricular activity), building Principal and Superintendent. Participation in non-approved fundraising activities is a violation of school district policy. Solicitations of students or employees by students for non-school-related activities will not be allowed during the school day. The required paperwork to receive the required approval can be found at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Gifts to Employees

Refer to District Policy 421

Employees are not allowed to solicit, accept, or receive a gift from a student, parent, or other individual or organization of greater than nominal value. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to write letters and notes of appreciation or to give small tokens of gratitude.

Gifts and Deliveries to Students

Gifts, balloons, flowers, etc. will not be delivered during the school day with the exception of school-sponsored activities. Any deliveries will be kept in the office and delivered at the end of the day.

Graduation Ceremony

Student participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Students who have completed the requirements for graduation are allowed to participate in graduation exercises, unless participation is denied for appropriate reasons, which may include discipline. Graduation exercises are under the control and direction of the building principal(s).

Holiday Celebrations and Parties

Rockford Area Schools observes various holidays throughout the school year. Students who are unable to participate in holiday celebrations are excused from these events. Parents/guardians should contact the building principal in advance to excuse an absence. Please refer to the district calendar in the introduction of this handbook or on the website www.rockford.k12.mn.us

Infinite Campus

Parent Portal, located on the school's website, allows parents to connect to school anytime from any place that has Internet access. This program allows you to access your child's school records such as: attendance, academic progress reports, report cards, health records and lunch account. Student fees are assigned on your child's fee tab on your Parent Portal. Fees, including lunch payments, can be paid directly in your Campus account. To sign up, you need a photo ID, such as a driver's license, for assurance of confidentiality of your child's records. You can sign up at any building office.

Insurance

The school district does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school or school sponsored activities. Accident insurance information is available on our district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us or at www.k12specialmarkets.com regarding a school day or 24-hour accident insurance plan for school age children. The

service is provided through a private agency for your convenience. It is optional.

Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies

Refer to District Policy 519

Students may not be interviewed during the school day by persons other than a student's parents/guardians or school district officials, employees, and/or agents, except as provided by law and/or school policy.

Library/Media Center

The library/media center hours will be available at each building's office and on the district website. Students are welcome in the Media Center when a supervisor is present and are expected to follow the same rules as classroom behavior.

Lockers

Pursuant to Minnesota statutes, school lockers are the property of the school district. Students are to keep lockers neat and orderly and are to use the locker they are assigned. All hall lockers have combination locks. The district's insurance does not cover the loss of personal items. If using locker room lockers, students are **strongly encouraged to put and use locks on them**. Locks for locker room lockers may be purchased at school for \$5.00 or students may bring their own lock. If supplying their own lock, the combination MUST be shared with the school. Information regarding locker searches can be found under the Searches section.

Lost and Found

Please feel free to check the Lost and Found when you are at school and remind your child to check if they are missing anything. Items left at school will be donated to charity periodically throughout the year.

Parents/guardians should give the following point's careful consideration to help eliminate lost items:

1. Clearly label your child's coats, jackets, sweaters, caps, boots, etc., with his/her full name and grade.
2. Use caution in allowing articles of sentimental or monetary value to be brought to school.
3. When an article is lost, don't let time elapse before you or your child tries to locate it.

Lunch

Refer to District Policy 534

A complete and nutritional breakfast/lunch program is available at our school. Menus are published on the Rockford Area Schools website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Students may purchase lunch at school or bring a prepared lunch from home. Milk will be available for purchase to supplement lunches brought

from home. Student beverages must comply with our District's Wellness Policy (refer to District Policy 533).

Lunch is to be eaten in designated areas only, unless other arrangements are made. The right of the student to eat in the lunchroom or commons area is coupled with the responsibility of keeping the area presentable for others. Students are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior and observe school policies and rules during lunch. All schools have a closed campus as well as a closed lunch period; Students are not allowed to leave the lunchroom/commons area during lunch and visitors need to check in at the building office.

Lunch times vary by classroom, grade level or schedule. Lunch schedules may change at quarter and/or semester breaks for some students. Students will be notified of their assigned lunch time on the first day of class at each trimester/quarter.

2021-2022 LUNCH PRICES

Breakfast \$1.85

Elementary Lunch \$2.65

Middle/High Lunch \$2.90

Adult Lunch/2nd Lunch \$3.85

Milk \$.60

Lunch Balances

Students are encouraged to participate in the food service program on a daily basis. Sustained participation ensures a better program at lower costs.

Parents/guardians will be notified by email or letter when their students balance is at a positive \$10.00. Students will not be permitted to charge meals to their account if they have a \$-5.00 in their account. Sandwiches and milk will be provided until funds have been deposited to bring their account to a positive balance.

Parents/guardians can make deposits to student lunch accounts in the Infinite Campus Portal or mailing a check to the high school kitchen, attention: Deb Graunke. Students can also bring deposits to their building office. You can view your child's lunch balance by logging on to your Parent Portal on Infinite Campus. Students who have insufficient funds to pay for a meal may receive an alternate meal. Details on negative account balances and unpaid meal charges can be found in **Appendix 6**.

Students may be eligible for free and reduced price lunches and/or breakfasts. Free and reduced price eligibility forms are available at each school office, the district office and on the district website. For more

information regarding eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, contact 763-477-9165.

Messages to Students

Office telephones are available for students' use. Students will not be called out of class to receive phone messages except in the event of an emergency.

Personal cell phone use during the instructional day is prohibited at the elementary school, but allowed during non-instructional times at the middle and high schools. Students will not accept telephone calls in their classroom. Students are to use the phone only with their teacher's permission and only for very important messages. Making arrangements for after-school social affairs is not considered an acceptable reason to use the phone. Please make plans at home to take care of personal business (i.e., Cub Scouts, Brownies, and other after school activities).

Please see Cell Phones, MP3 Players and Other Electronic Devices section under Section III Rules and Discipline for further information.

Money

Please emphasize with your child(ren) the danger of leaving money or valuables in their desk or other places at school. The school assumes no responsibility for the loss of money or valuables.

Nondiscrimination [*]

Refer to District Policy 102, 401, 521, 522 and 528

The school district is committed to inclusive education and providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age in its programs and activities. The school board has designated the building principal, as the district's human rights officer to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination. Persons who wish to make a complaint regarding a disability discrimination matter may use the Student Disability Discrimination Grievance Report Form found on our website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. The form should be given to ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The school district recognizes its obligation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and activity in the school system. If there are questions

regarding Section 504, contact a building principal or the counselor.

Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Discrimination

The school district has developed a grievance procedure to comply with federal laws by providing due process standards that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of sex discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act or for complaints of disability discrimination under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. See **Appendix 5** for full procedure.

Vocational Opportunities Annual Notification

Rockford Area Schools offers a variety of vocational opportunities through the Business Education and Career and Technology Education Departments.

The purpose of this notice is to inform students, parents, employees and the general public that these opportunities are offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. Admission in the specific courses is determined by grade level, and in some cases, completion of prerequisite courses.

Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators

The district has designated the following individuals to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972.

Title IX Coordinators

Matthew Scheidler, POSA
Office Address: Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School, 7650 County Road 50, Rockford MN 55373
Office Phone Number: 763-477-5837 X 1006

Erin Raukar, Director of Human Resources
Office Address: 6051 Ash St.
Rockford, MN 55373
Office Number: 763-477-9165 x 4009

Section 504 Coordinator

Matthew Scheidler, POSA
Office Address: Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School, 7650 County Road 50, Rockford MN 55373
Office Phone Number: 763-477-5837 X1006

Notice of Violent Behavior by Students []**

Refer to District Policy 529

The school district will give notice to teachers and other appropriate school district staff before students with a history of violent behavior are placed in their classrooms. Prior to giving this notice, district officials will inform the student's parent or guardian that the notice will be given. The student's parents/guardians have the right to review and challenge their child's records, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior.

Outdoor Recess

All children must go outside on outdoor recess days. The temperature and wind-chill factor are considered when the decision is made for outdoor recess. The elementary school uses the following weather guidelines for preparing students to go outdoors at recess:

1. Warmer than 0°F -- outside recess for all students.
2. Between 0°F and -10°F -- recess time may be shortened.
3. Colder than -10°F -- indoor recess.

Parent/Guardian and Teacher Communications

Automated Information System

Our automated alert system has the capability to provide important messages electronically via computer, telephone and/or text message. This system is used for emergency situations only (e.g. school closings, threats, etc.).

Parent Portal through Infinite Campus

Parent Portal gives parents/guardians and students easy online access to current grades, attendance, test scores, health information, lunch account balances, etc. Teachers are required to update grades weekly. At times, the update may go beyond one week because of the grading of a major project. If you have questions or are having difficulty logging in, contact the building office.

Progress Report/Report Cards

Report cards will be available online at the end of each grading period. Printed copies are available upon request.

Teacher Classroom Calendar

Visit our website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us and find your school's tab, then the academics tab to find the teacher's website to view your child's upcoming assignments and class activities. This link is designed to help you monitor your child's homework, quizzes, tests, and major assignments. Information is updated regularly.

Weekly Building Bulletin

The weekly building bulletin is emailed on the last day of each school week. It features highlights from the current week and previews upcoming events.

Monthly Building Newsletter

The newsletter is emailed once per month and includes previews about what to expect in the coming month and other pertinent information.

Parent/Guardian and Teacher Conferences

Parent/guardian and teacher conferences will be held throughout the school year. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend and visit with teachers regarding student progress. In addition to the scheduled conferences, parents/guardians are invited to confer with teachers at any time. For more information on the conference dates for 2020-21 school year, please check out the 2020-21 academic calendar in Part 1 of this handbook or contact the building office.

Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Parents/guardians are welcome in the schools and are encouraged to volunteer. To volunteer in the school building or classroom, parents/guardians should contact the building office. Parents/guardians who visit the school must sign in at the building office before entering a classroom.

Photographs

Throughout the year, photographs are taken in classrooms and at school activities. Some of these photos may be published in local newspapers or in Rockford Area Schools' publications, emails or websites. Parents may request that their child's photographs and identifying names not be published. The request must be made in writing and sent to the district office. (This does not apply to pictures of school events taken by the news media.)

Pledge of Allegiance [*]

Refer to District Policy 531

Students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America one or more times each week. Any person who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reason may elect not to do so. Students must respect another person's right to make that choice. Students will also receive instruction in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect for the flag.

Return Check Notification

If your check is returned, it may be represented electronically. You authorize service charges and processing fees, as permitted by state law, to be debited

from the same account by paper draft or electronically, at our option. The use of a check for payment is your acknowledgement and acceptance of this policy and its terms. If you have any questions about this service, please contact the business office at 763-477-9165.

Schedule

Refer to District Policy 602

A schedule is needed to ensure the smooth operation of the school. The daily school schedule is often building specific and within the authority of the building principal to determine. A general building schedule can be found at the beginning of the handbook.

School Activities

Refer to District Policy 510

The school district provides opportunities for students to pursue special interests that contribute to their physical, mental, and emotional health; however, instruction is the school district's priority.

Students who participate in school-sponsored activities are expected to responsibly represent the school and community. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline apply to school activities.

All spectators at school-sponsored activities are expected to behave appropriately. Students and employees may be subject to discipline and parents/guardians and other spectators may be subject to sanctions for inappropriate, illegal, or unsportsmanlike behavior at these activities or events.

The Rockford Area School District is a member of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). Students who participate in MSHSL activities must also abide by the MSHSL rules. The district will enforce all MSHSL rules during the school year and in the summer where applicable.

Employees who conduct MSHSL activities will cover applicable rules, penalties, and opportunities with students and parents/guardians prior to the start of an activity. For more information about the MSHSL rules and student eligibility requirements, contact the Activities Director.

School Closing Procedures

Refer to District Policy 806

School may be cancelled when the superintendent believes the safety of students and employees is threatened by severe weather or other circumstances. The superintendent will make a decision about closing school or school buildings as early in the day as possible.

School closings due to severe weather or other emergency reasons will be posted on the district website at

www.rockford.k12.mn.us. A media message will be announced over TV stations, KARE 11 TV, WCCO 4, KSTP 5 and KMSP 9, and also placed on KRWC 1360 radio. Complementing the media messages is our family notification system through Infinite Campus.

The school district may conclude that students can be safely transported to and from school and keep school open, but an individual parent may disagree with our decision. Under such conditions, parents/guardians must exercise their judgment regarding the attendance of their child(ren). We will respect all reasonable decisions in these circumstances and excuse any absence.

NWSISD Closing Procedures

As a reminder for our NWSISD families, please go to NWSISD website for transportation information regarding school closings information, and other guidelines. To view the NWSISD website, please go to www.nws.k12.mn.us, click on the Transportation tab on the left side.

Searches

Refer to District Policy 502 and 527R

In the interest of student safety and to ensure that schools are drug free, district authorities may conduct searches. Students violate school policy when they carry contraband on their person or in their personal possessions or store contraband in their desks, lockers, or vehicles, including snowmobiles, parked on school property. "Contraband" means any unauthorized item, the possession of which is prohibited by school district policy and/or law. If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item(s) and, where appropriate, give the item(s) to legal officials for ultimate disposition. Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's "Student Discipline" policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, expulsion, and, when appropriate, the student may be referred to legal officials.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices

If the school district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school rule or law by use of a cell phone or other electronic device, the school district may search the device. The search of the device will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search. A student's cell phone or electronic device may be confiscated by the school district and, if applicable, provided to law enforcement.

Lockers and Personal Possessions Within a Locker [*]

According to state law, school lockers are the property of the school district. At no time does the school

district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Students' personal possessions within a school locker may be searched only when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school officials will provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched, unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

Desks

School desks are the property of the school district. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of desks provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Personal Possessions and Student's Person

The personal possessions of a student and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

Vehicles on Campus []**

Patrols and Inspections

School officials may conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and other school district locations and routine inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles, including snowmobiles, of students. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Search of the Interior of a Student's Motor Vehicle

The interior of a student's motor vehicle in a school district location, including the glove and trunk compartments, may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness. Such searches may be conducted without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant. A student will be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and to discipline if the student

refuses to open a locked motor vehicle or its compartments under the student's control upon the request of a school official.

Student Publications and Materials

Refer to District Policy 505 and 512

The policy of the school district is to protect students' free speech rights while, at the same time, preserving the district's obligation to provide a learning environment that is free of disruption. All school publications are under the supervision of the building principal and/or sponsor. Non-school-sponsored publications may not be distributed without prior approval.

Distribution of Non-school-Sponsored Materials on School Premises [**]

The school district recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes distributing non-school-sponsored material, subject to school district regulations and procedures, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner. Any student or employee wishing to distribute (as defined in this policy) non-school sponsored material must first submit for approval a copy of the material to the building principal who will review the request and render a decision. For detailed information, see the complete "Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees" policy 505 on the district's website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

School-Sponsored Student Publications

The school district may exercise editorial control over the style and content of student expression in school-sponsored publications and activities. Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to ensure compliance with the law and school district policies. Students producing official school publications and participating in school activities will be under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the school principal. "Official school publications" means school newspapers, yearbooks, or material produced in communications, journalism, or other writing classes as part of the curriculum. Expression in an official school publication or school-sponsored activity is prohibited when the material:

- Is obscene to minors;
- Is libelous or slanderous;
- Advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted for minors by law;
- Encourages students to commit illegal acts or violate school regulations or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of school or school activities;

- Expresses or advocates sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence or prejudice;
- Is distributed or displayed in violation of time, place, and manner regulations.

Expression in an official school publication or school-sponsored activity is subject to editorial control by the school district over the style and content when the school district's actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns. Official school publications may be distributed at reasonable times and locations.

Student Records [*]

Refer to District Policy 515

Student records are classified as public, private, or confidential. State and federal laws protect student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents/guardians and eligible students with certain rights. For the purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is one who is 18 or older or who is enrolled in an institution of post-secondary education. For more complete information on the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students regarding student records, please see **Appendix 3** in the back of this handbook.

"Authorized representative" means any entity or individual designated by the school district, state, or an agency headed by an official of the Comptroller of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, or state and local educational authorities to conduct, with respect to federal or state supported education programs, any audit or evaluation or any compliance or enforcement activity in connection with federal legal requirements that relate to these programs. A complete copy of the school district's "Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records" policy may be obtained at any school office or on the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Refer to District Policy 515

Rockford Area Schools recognize its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes. Rockford Area Schools recognize that only pertinent and factual information shall be in the permanent records of the district's students and that a parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review student's educational records.

Student Surveys [*]

Refer to District Policy 520

Occasionally, the school district utilizes surveys to obtain student opinions and information about students. For complete information on the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students about conducting surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations, see **Appendix 4** in the back of this handbook. A complete copy of the school district's "Student Surveys" policy may be obtained at any school office or on the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Telephone Access

A courtesy phone is available for student use in the school office and Community Center when permission from the office staff is given. Students will not be called out of class to receive phone messages except in the event of an emergency. Students may be prohibited from using cell phones during instructional time; expect to wait for a text response from your child until cell phone use is permitted. **In the case of an emergency, please contact the school office instead of contacting your child directly.**

Please see Cell Phones, MP3 Players and Other Electronic Devices section under Section III Rules and Discipline for further information.

Transportation of Public School Students

Refer to District Policy 707, 709R and 710

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district will provide transportation, at the expense of the school district, for all resident students who live two miles or more from the school. Transportation will be provided on all regularly scheduled school days or make-up days. Transportation will not be provided during the summer school break, except in certain circumstances. The school district will not provide transportation for students whose transportation privileges have been revoked or have been voluntarily surrendered by the student's parent or guardian.

Extracurricular Transportation

Refer to District Policy 710

The school district may provide transportation for students to and from extracurricular activities. To the extent the school district provides extracurricular transportation, the district may charge a fee for transportation of students to and from extracurricular activities and optional field trips at locations other than school.

Video and Audio Recording

School Buses

Refer to District Policy 711

The transportation of students to and from school is an important function of the school district, and transportation by the school district is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. The behavior of students and employees on the bus is a significant factor in the safety and efficiency of school bus transportation. Student and employee misbehavior increase the potential risks of injury. Therefore, the school district believes that video recording student passengers and employees on the school bus will encourage good behavior and, as a result, promote safety. The purpose of this policy is to establish a school bus video recording system.

All school buses used by the school district may be equipped for the placement and operation of a video camera. The school district will post a notice in a conspicuous location informing students that their conversations or actions may be recorded. The school district may use a video recording of the actions of student passengers as evidence in any disciplinary action arising from the student's misconduct on the bus.

Photos/Recordings Taken on School Property

Any picture or video taken on school grounds with a school-owned or personal digital camera, cell phone, etc. is the property of the school.

Places Other Than Buses

Refer to District Policy 712

The school district buildings and grounds may be equipped with video cameras. Video surveillance may occur in any school district building or on any school district property. Video surveillance of locker rooms or bathrooms will only be utilized in extreme situations, with extraordinary controls, and only as expressly approved by the superintendent.

PART II — ACADEMICS

The Rockford Area Schools' curriculum fulfills the requirements of the Minnesota Content Area Standards.

Academic Integrity

Refer to District Policy 506

Standard

All students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity which includes honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

All work submitted for credit in any class is expected to be produced by and be the original work of the student submitting it. Students who allow their work to be copied will receive the same or equal penalties to those who do the copying.

Consequences may include:

- redoing the assignment
- completing a new assignment
- loss of credit for the assignment/s
- loss of credit for the course
- removal from the course
- suspension from school

Cheating and Plagiarism

Refer to District Policy 506

Cheating and plagiarism are prohibited. Students who cheat or commit plagiarism on any test or assignment may be given a failing grade for that test or assignment and will be disciplined in accordance with the school district's "Student Discipline" policy.

Acceleration and Retention

All students are expected to achieve an acceptable level of proficiency. Students who achieve at an acceptable level will be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of the school year. Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents/guardians feel that it is in the best interest of the student. The superintendent's decision will be final. The district has a variety of services to help students succeed in school. For more information, contact the school counselor or building principal.

Acceleration: Students who achieve at levels deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of the school year.

Retention: Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents feel that it is the best interest of the student. Physical development, maturity, and emotional factors shall be considered as

well as scholastic achievement. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

Program Design: The superintendent, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A procedure for screening and identifying students for program assignment shall be developed in coordination with such programs. Opportunities for special programs and placement outside of the school district shall also be developed as additional options.

The school district will adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. This procedure will include how the district will assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for the student.

Alternative Educational Opportunities

Refer to District Policy 605

Some students may be at risk of not completing their educational programs. The school district provides alternative learning options for students who are at risk of not succeeding in school. Alternative educational opportunities may include special tutoring, modified curriculum and instruction, instruction through electronic media, special education services, homebound instruction, and enrollment in an alternative learning center, among others. Students and parents/guardians with questions about these programs should contact the school counselor or building principal.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Refer to District Policy 550

Minnesota Statute 120A.20 requires kindergarten students to be at least five years of age on or before September 1. The School District recognizes that children develop physically, emotionally and intellectually at their unique rates, resulting in varying levels of school readiness. An order determination for early entrance into kindergarten has been established by the Board of Education of Independent School District #883, Rockford Minnesota. Please contact the building principal for more information regarding processes for Early Admission Kindergarten.

Early Graduation

Refer to District Policy 613R

Students may be considered for early graduation after completing the conditions provided in district policy.

Extended School Year Opportunities

Refer to District Policy 508

The school district provides extended school year opportunities to a student who is the subject of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) if the student's IEP team determines the services are necessary during a break in instruction in order to provide a free and appropriate public education. For more information on extended school year opportunities for students with an IEP, contact the student's Case Manager.

Field Trips

Refer to District Policy 610R

Field trips may be offered to supplement student learning. Field trips may be optional and, if so, students who participate may be charged. Students will not be required to pay for instructional trips that take place during the school day, relate directly to a course of study, and require student participation.

Field Trip Eligibility

Refer to District Policy 610R

Field Trips are an extension of the regular curriculum and is part of the educational experience. While on field trips, all children are expected to demonstrate the same expectations and behavior as in school.

Grades

Parents and guardians may access student records electronically via the Parent Portal through the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. To ensure the confidentiality of student information, parent/guardian accounts must initially be set up at any of the building offices with a photo ID, such as a driver's license. This account will provide access to information regarding a student's attendance, academic progress, report cards, health records, student fees, and lunch account and serves as an important communication tool between the school and home.

Every student has the right to be informed of his/her academic progress. Progress information will be available for students in grades 7-12 regularly. Report cards will be available after the conclusion of each marking period. Report cards will be available electronically for parents/ guardians to review. Parents are encouraged to routinely check their child's information in the Parent Portal.

Grades 7-12

Grades shall be in letters A, B, C, D, and F for grades 7-12 and will be recorded on report cards and permanent records accordingly. The letter grade is

transposed to number equivalents as follows for computing grade point average:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Pt. Value</u>
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0.0 (no credit given)
I (incomplete)	No value

Incompletes

In order for an "incomplete" to be granted for a final semester grade, the student and teacher must meet to discuss the circumstances. All work must be completed within two weeks of the last day of the semester or the grade will be considered an F; unless there are extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Principal.

Pass/Fail Grading

Pass/Fail grading is **NOT** an option for students in **REQUIRED classes**, unless a student's individualized education plan stipulates otherwise. Elective courses may be taken on a pass/fail basis, with the permission of the instructor, and the approval of the principal.

Any such request must be made to the instructor and approved by the building principal during the marking period.

Weighted Grading

Additional weight is given for courses where the curriculum is significantly more challenging, such as College in the School (CIS), Advanced Placement (AP) courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. College courses taken by PSEO students, deemed by Rockford High School to be equivalent to its CIS or AP courses are eligible for weighted grading, per District Policy 620R. If a student takes a weighted class at Rockford High School, that student cannot receive weighted grading for the equivalent class taken at college.

Weighted Classes

Refer to District Policy 613R

Weighted classes will receive a two grade increment increase. On a 4.0 scale, weighted classes will be given

a .66 boost. (Example: 3.0 grade in a weighted class on 4.0 scale becomes 3.66.)

Grades K-6

Standards Rubric

- 1 - Does Not Meet
- 2 - Partially Meets
- 3 - Meets
- 4 - Exceeds

NE - No evidence

___ - A blank entry indicates a standard has not been addressed during a given grading period.

Graduation Requirements [*]

Refer to District Policy 613R

Students must meet all course credit requirements and graduation standards, as established by the state and the school board, in order to graduate from **Rockford High School**.

Course Credits Required

In order to receive a diploma, students must successfully complete the following credits and comply with the following high school level course requirements as listed.

Minnesota Academic Standards

All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Minnesota Graduation Standards:

- Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12
- Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12
- Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12
- Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12
- Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Ed. K-12
- Minnesota Academic Standards, Arts K-12

Students with an individualized education program, Section 504 accommodation plan, or limited English proficiency needs may be eligible for testing accommodations, modifications, and/or exemption. For additional information, see the counselor or building principal.

Homework

Refer to District Policy 506 and 612.1

Homework assignments are determined by the teachers. The amount of homework varies by teacher and subject area. The school district asks for parents/guardians and family members to encourage their child(ren) to complete homework thoroughly and promptly.

Students are responsible to request and complete the work that was missed during their absence(s) immediately upon return. A student (or parent) may also request homework prior to a student's return to school. Students

and parents may also request homework in advance of an absence, or while absent.

Parent Right to Know [*]

If a parent/guardian requests it, the school district will provide information regarding the professional qualifications of his/her child's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

1. whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional licensing status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree;
4. whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, the school district will provide parents with information as to the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments. The school district also will provide notice to parents if, for four or more consecutive weeks, their child has been assigned to or taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Right to Review Curriculum and Tests

Refer to District Policy 606

Textbooks and instructional materials are a vital component of the school's curriculum and may be reviewed by parents upon request. District #883 has adopted a procedure whereby parents and/or staff may initiate a request for reconsideration of instructional materials. The final decision for the use of controversial material rests with the school board.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

Refer to District Policy 613R and 620

Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students may apply to enroll in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and other advanced enrichment programs. General information about the PSEO program will be provided to all eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students by **March 1**. Qualifying credits granted to a student through a PSEO course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement will be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of the state academic standards. Interested students must fill out an application form and submit it to the Rockford High School counselor by **May 30** for enrollment the following school year. The

application form must be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian. Students wishing to take a PSEO course should contact Rockford High School counselor.

Repeating Courses

With the permission of the instructor and the administration, a student may elect to repeat a course at Rockford High School that he/she has passed, but that will not replace the previous grade that was earned.

Schedule Changes at Rockford High School

Schedule changes will be made the first three days of the semester per the following criteria:

- Did not receive a course required for graduation
- Registered and enrolled in a course for which you have not met the prerequisite
- Do not have a full schedule of seven classes per semester
- Received a course you did not request as an original or alternate during registration
- Students who request a "Guided Study Hall" after the start of the semester will be added at the midterm break. The dropped course and grade will be added to the student's transcript.

Summer School

Refer to District Policy 623

For students who qualify, the school district may provide summer school learning opportunities. For more information, contact the building principal or the special education coordinator.

Student Testing

In the spring, all students in grades 3-8, 10, and 11 take state tests to measure proficiency in the Minnesota Academic Standards. See the Teaching and Learning's page on the district website, www.rockford.k12.mn.us, for more information.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.31, subdivision 4a, requires the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to publish a form for parents/guardians to complete if they refuse to have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. The Parent/Guardian Guide to Statewide Testing document provides some basic information to help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their child and their school and community. See Appendix 4a.

Withdrawal Procedure

Please notify the school office and the teacher at least three days prior to withdrawing your child from school. You will be asked to indicate the last date of attendance and the name and address of the new school or school district. This information needs to be received by the school at least two days before the student's last day of attendance. This will enable us to properly close our school records for your child. Also, our regulations require that we have your signature on a Release Form, obtained from the receiving school, giving us permission to forward your child's records to the receiving school.

At the Rockford High School, the student needs to report to the counseling office the morning of his/her day of withdrawal. We are concerned about students who leave high school before completion. Should a student choose to withdraw from school, please:

- Contact a counselor to explore alternatives.
- Complete an Exit Interview.
- Obtain the Withdrawal Form from the counseling office.
- Return all books and pay all fees or fines.

PART III — RULES AND DISCIPLINE

Attendance [**]

Refer to District Policy 503R

Regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability. For detailed information, see the “Student Attendance” policy on the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Absence Notification

Parents/guardians are required to call the attendance line at 763-477-7525 or the building office staff each day a child is absent or tardy. Whenever an absence is pre-arranged (doctor, dentist, etc.) the student should bring a written permission slip from home in advance of the absence.

Excused Absence

Excused absences need to be verified upon the student’s return to school. Parents are requested to send a written excuse stating the reason for the absence; it must be dated and signed by the parent. Excused absences from school include, but are not limited to, student illness, medical or dental appointment, family emergency, religious observance or family vacation, and other absences which are pre-approved. While the school recognizes the value of family time and trips, we encourage parents to schedule trips that will coincide with scheduled school vacations.

Illness

Regular attendance at school is of utmost importance. However, we suggest that you do not send your child if he/she has a rash, fever, upset stomach, severe cold, undiagnosed red eyes, or sore throat. The school reserves the right to require medical verification in cases where student absences are excessive. From time to time, we receive notes from parents requesting that their child be excused from recess and/or physical education. Normally, children who are too ill to go outside for recess or participate in physical education are too ill to be at school. Any child who is to be excused from recess and/or phy ed for an extended period of time must have a doctor’s written excuse, which has been approved by our Health Service Office.

Make-up School Work

Make-up schoolwork may be obtained at the end of the school day after the third day of illness. Contact the school office the morning of the third day to make arrangements to have your child’s make-up work prepared.

Tardies

Students arriving after the morning bell will be considered TARDY. Students must report to the school office to obtain a Student Pass to class. Tardies in which students have an excused pass from a teacher or administrator will not count against the student’s attendance. There may be consequences for excessive tardiness.

Unexcused Absences or Tardiness

Absences or tardiness, which could have been avoided or prior approval was not made through the building principal’s office, are considered unexcused. This absence includes when the student has been absent from school with the consent of the parents but the excuse presented by the parents is not acceptable to school authorities. Examples include oversleeping, shopping, babysitting, working from home and missing the bus.

Closed Campus

Rockford Area Schools maintain closed campuses. Students who leave the building without adult supervision or permission are in violation of school policy and are subject to school consequences. This includes student lunch time. Students who leave for any reason must sign out through the front office before they leave. **Notes to excuse an absence when a student leaves without signing out through the office will not be accepted.** Entrance to the school during the day is limited; all doors are locked for the protection of students and staff. During school hours, all visitors need to report to the school office.

Leaving During School Hours

All children need to be dismissed through the Main Office. Once the parent/guardian has completed the Student Sign Out Log, school office personnel will call the classroom requesting that the child report to the office for dismissal. Parents are strongly encouraged to send a note to their child’s teacher indicating that they will be picking their child up early from school. No child will be allowed to leave his/her classroom early

without authorization from the school office. We need your cooperation on this matter to assure the safety of your children.

Note to Parent: As a result of state and federal expectations, it is essential that our students be in attendance on all testing dates. Under Every Child Succeeds Act, school districts are required to test at least 95% of eligible children. As family plans are made, testing dates should be avoided. Should you have any concerns regarding testing times, please seek the advice of your child's teacher.

Vacation and Vacation Lesson Plans

The building principal and staff recognize the educational value of family trips, although we encourage parents to plan their trip to coincide with scheduled school vacations. Absences due to a family vacation should be arranged, in advance, with the building principal and make-up work should be arranged, with the teacher, before the child leaves school.

Withdrawal Procedure

Please notify the school office and the teacher at least three days prior to withdrawing your child from school. You will be asked to indicate the last date of attendance and the name and address of the new school or school district. This information needs to be received by the school at least two days before the student's last day of attendance. This will enable us to properly close our school records for your child. Also, our regulations require that we have your signature on a Release Form, obtained from the receiving school, giving us permission to forward your child's records to the receiving school.

Behavior

All students are required to cooperate in creating an atmosphere that will make learning possible. Any behavior that interferes with learning, regardless of the degree, is considered disruptive. Students should conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect positively upon themselves and Rockford Area Schools.

Retaliation

Rockford Area Schools strives to protect students from retaliation for good faith actions in reporting behavior that is against the law or the district rules outlined in this handbook. Every reasonable effort will be made to stop retaliation immediately, to conduct a complete and thorough investigation of alleged acts of retaliation in a timely manner, and to provide prompt

corrective action if retaliation is found to have occurred. Students found guilty of retaliation may face consequences up to and including expulsion.

Bullying Prohibition []**

Refer to District Policy 514

The school district is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Acts of bullying, in any form, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation and by misuse of technology. Any incidents need to be reported immediately to the building principal. For detailed information regarding the school district's "Bullying Prohibition" policy, see **Appendix 6**.

Buses – Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior []**

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, including nonpublic and charter school students. The school district will not provide transportation for students whose transportation privileges have been revoked.

The school district is committed to transporting students in a safe and orderly manner. To accomplish this, student riders are expected to follow school district rules for waiting at a school bus stop and rules for riding on a school bus.

While waiting for the bus or after being dropped off at a school bus stop, all students must comply with the following rules:

- Get to the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pickup time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- Respect the property of others while waiting at the bus stop.
- Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- Use appropriate language.
- Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

While riding a school bus, all riders must comply with the following rules:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Remain seated facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- Keep arms, legs, and belongings to yourself and out of the aisle.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- Do not throw any object.
- No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- Do not damage the school bus.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. All school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

Bus Passes

Requests for students to ride a bus other than the designated bus, must be approved by an authorized school official. A bus pass must be presented to the bus driver before boarding. Under no circumstances will students be delivered to undesignated bus stops for social situations (i.e., birthday parties, sleepovers, Boy or Girl Scouts meetings, or other non-emergency events).

Transportation for day care changes must be completed using the Transportation Request Form three (3) school days prior to the date the change goes into effect. The forms are available at the Transportation Center or the school office.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices

Refer to District Policy 506 and 524R

Rockford Area Schools is committed to developing digital citizens who possess the skills to appropriately and responsibly use personal electronic devices. We encourage students to leave electronic devices at home, but if brought to school, it is strongly encouraged they be turned off and kept in the student's locker during the school day. Students are prohibited from using cell phones, and other electronic communication devices during the instructional day, unless permission is given by the building principal or teacher. Appropriate use varies by developmental level;

therefore, different expectations exist for elementary, middle, and high school level students. Electronic devices being used inappropriately during class will be confiscated. If an electronic device is confiscated, the parent will be contacted. Multiple violations will lead to disciplinary action.

At REAMS, cell phones are prohibited in classrooms.

At RMS-CES, students may appropriately use these devices before 7:50 a.m., during passing time, and after 2:45 p.m. in the school building. Electronic devices are allowed in the classroom during the school day with approval by a teacher for instructional purposes.

At RHS, personal electronic devices are allowed in the hallways and Commons before 8:00 a.m., during passing time, and after 2:50 p.m. in the school building. Occasional use of personal electronic devices is permitted during the school day with approval by a teacher.

All students also are prohibited from using a cell phone or other electronic communication device to engage in conduct prohibited by school district policies including, but not limited to, cheating, bullying, harassment, gang activity, etc. If the school district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school rule or law by use of a cell phone or other electronic device, the school district may search the device, this includes the search and seizure of district-issued Chromebooks and the files contained on the device and within the associated cloud storage accounts. The search of the device will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search. Students who use an electronic device during the school day and/or in violation of school district policies may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school district's discipline policy. In addition, a student's cell phone or electronic device may be confiscated by the school district and, if applicable, provided to law enforcement. Cell phones or other electronic devices that are confiscated and retained by the school district will be returned in accordance with school building procedures.

The recording, filming or photography of students, staff members, or school activities on your personal electronic device without the written consent of administration is strictly prohibited. Anyone who engages in the practice of sending, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit photos or messages (sexting) or inappropriate material will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. The school bears no responsibility if electronic devices are lost, stolen, or damaged anywhere on school property or off-campus at school-related events.

Discipline []**

Refer to District Policy 506

Misbehavior by one student can disrupt the learning process for many other students. In addition, students must learn to practice good safety habits, value academic honesty, respect the rights of others, and obey the law. For detailed information on the Student Code of Conduct and consequences for violations, see the complete “Student Discipline” policy on the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

District 883 Technology Devices

Student use technology devices may be available for students to loan from the school district. The mobile device loan program is designed to improve student achievement by expanding and enhancing technology access, collaboration capabilities, and creativity for students in their learning. Some of these devices include, but are not limited to chrome books, hotspots, laptops, and other program specific devices. The District 883 device loan agreement can be read in more detail (along with the care and usage) on the school website under technology.

Dress and Appearance

Refer to District Policy 504

Students are encouraged to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards.

Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Clothing appropriate for the weather.
- Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
- Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).

Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- “Short shorts,” skimpy tank tops, tops that expose the midriff, and other clothing that is not in keeping with community standards.
- Clothing bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar, or obscene.
- Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.
- Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in school district policy.

- Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.
- Headgear, including hats or head coverings, is not to be worn in the building except with the approval of the building principal (i.e., student undergoing chemotherapy, medical situations, student religious practice or belief).

If the administration believes a student’s appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. A parent or guardian will be notified.

Drug-Free School and Workplace

Refer to District Policy 418

The possession and use of alcohol, controlled substances, and toxic substances, which includes e-cigarettes and other vaping devices, are prohibited at school or in any other school location before, during, or after school hours. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances also is prohibited. The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who violates this policy.

District policy is not violated when a person brings a controlled substance which has a currently accepted medical treatment use onto a school location for personal use if the person has a physician’s prescription for the substance. Students who have prescriptions must comply with the school district’s “Student Medication” policy. The school district will provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school on chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.

Harassment and Violence Prohibition [*]

Refer to District Policy 413 and 525

The school district strives to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. For detailed information on the school district’s “Harassment and Violence Prohibition” policy, see the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Hazing Prohibition [*]

Refer to District Policy 526

Hazing is prohibited. No student will plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing. Students who violate this rule will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school district's "Student Discipline" policy. For detailed information on the school district's "Hazing Prohibition" policy, see the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

Internet Acceptable Use

Refer to District Policy 524R

All school district students have conditional access to the school district's computer system, including Internet access, for limited educational purposes, including use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, and professional and career development. Use of the school district's system is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable use of the school district's computer system or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate school district policies, including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, or exclusion; or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

A copy of the school district's "Internet Acceptable Use" policy is available at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Students will receive a copy of the school district's "Internet Acceptable Use" policy and are expected to understand and agree to abide by the policy as a condition of use of the school district's computer system. All students who wish to use the school district's computer system must sign the Internet Use Agreement form upon first attending classes at each school building or upon getting internet privileges reinstated.

Parking on School District Property

Refer to District Policy 527R

Students

The school district allows limited use and parking of motor vehicles by students in school district locations subject to the following rules:

- Parking a motor vehicle on school property during the school day is a privilege;
- Parking is permitted in designated areas only, by permit. For information, contact the building office;
- Students are not permitted to use motor vehicles during the school day in any school district locations unless an emergency occurs and

permission has been granted to the student by building office personnel;

- Students are permitted to use motor vehicles on the high school campus(es) only before and after the school day;
- Unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property may be towed at the expense of the owner or operator.

The school district may conduct routine patrols of school district properties and inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. Interiors of students' vehicles in school district locations may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule. If a search yields contraband, school officials may seize the item and may turn it over to legal authorities when appropriate. A student who violates this policy may be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and/or discipline according to the school district's "Student Discipline" policy.

Snowmobiles

As a convenience to students and families, students, age 14 years old or older who have completed a snowmobile safety course, are allowed to drive and park snowmobiles to Rockford Middle School or Rockford High School as a means of getting to and from school. A list of rules and designated parking places will be shared with drivers at the start of the winter season.

Visitors

Refer to District Policy 903

Visitors are permitted to park in designated school district visitor parking areas. Unattended vehicles left in other locations on school district property may be towed at the owner's expense.

Tobacco-Free Schools [**]

Refer to District Policy 419

School district students and staff have the right to learn and work in an environment that is tobacco free. School policy is violated by any individual's use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device (including vaping devices) in a public school, on school grounds, in any school-owned vehicles, or at any school events or activities. Students may not possess any type of tobacco, tobacco-related device, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device in a public school, on school grounds, in any school-owned vehicles, or at any school events or activities. Any student

who violates this policy is subject to school district discipline. For detailed information on the school district's "Tobacco-Free Environment" policy, see the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us. Contact any administrator if you have questions or wish to report violations.

Note: A limited exception to the tobacco prohibition exists for adult members of an Indian tribe, as defined under Minnesota law, who may light tobacco on school district property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony.

Vandalism

Refer to District Policy 506

Vandalism of any district property is prohibited. Violators will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials.

Weapons Prohibition

Refer to District Policy 501

No person will possess, use, or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in school district policy. A "weapon" means any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nun chucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon. A weapon also includes look-alike weapons. Appropriate discipline and action will be taken against any person who violates this policy. The school district does not allow the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students. Discipline of students will include, at a minimum: immediate out-of-school suspension; confiscation of the weapon; immediate notification of police; parent or guardian notification; and recommendation to the superintendent of dismissal for a period of time not to exceed one year. A student who brings a firearm to school will be expelled for at least one year, subject to school district discretion on a case-by-case basis. For a copy of the "School Weapons" policy, go to the school district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

There are situations where students may be asked to spend a period of time off campus due to behaviors inconsistent with district policy. In this case students are provided an alternate learning model wherein they can access curriculum and instruction via Google Classroom. This curriculum will be provided asynchronously (students learn at their own pace) or synchronously (live and online) depending upon the scheduled learning activities from individual classroom teachers.

PART IV — HEALTH AND SAFE

Accidents

Refer to District Policy 806

All student injuries that occur at school or school-sponsored activities should be reported to the school nurse. Parents/guardians of an injured student will be notified as soon as possible. If the student requires immediate medical attention, the principal or other district leader will call 911 or seek emergency medical treatment and then contact the parent(s).

Asbestos Management Update [*]

The school district has developed an Asbestos Management plan. A copy of this plan can be found in the Director of Buildings and Grounds Office at the Rockford High School and is available on the district's website.

The school district has on file a complete and updated Management Plan for dealing with asbestos-containing building materials within the school district's buildings. The Management Plan is available for viewing by interested parties during regular business hours at the District Office. Copies will be made available for reproduction at a nominal cost.

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School was designed without specifying or requiring the use of asbestos containing building materials. Rockford Middle School Center for Environmental Studies has asbestos inside fire doors. The asbestos containing materials at Rockford High School have been abated.

As required by federal law, the condition of asbestos in our schools is surveyed every six months and inspected every three years as part of an ongoing operations and maintenance program.

Plans for abatement projects as well as a listing of the previous year's projects, can be found on our website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Director of Building and Grounds at 763-477-9165, x4007.

Clean Indoor Act

The district's Clean Indoor Act contact person is Director of Buildings and Grounds, who can be reached by calling 763-477-9165 x4007.

Crisis Management

Refer to District Policy 806

The school district has developed a "Crisis Management" policy. The district has developed a district crisis

management plan with school-specific areas. Students and parents will be provided with information as to district- and school-specific plans.

The "Crisis Management" policy addresses a range of potential crisis situations in the school district and includes general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, campus evacuation, sheltering, and communication procedures. The school district will conduct lockdown drills, fire drills, and a tornado drill.

All school buildings have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be regularly updated and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be maintained by the building administrator and on file in the school district office. Facility diagrams and site plans have been provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.

Emergency Contact Information

Communications to parents/guardians will use contact information available. Please update your contact information through the Parent Portal to ensure that messages are sent to the correct locations in a timely manner.

In the event of an emergency, information will be communicated via one or more of the following methods, depending on the situation:

1. District-wide phone call placed to household phone number in the Parent Portal
2. Email to emergency contacts who have provided email addresses
3. Information posted on the school district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us
4. Announcement on local TV and radio broadcasts.

Health Information

Refer to District Policy 420, 516, 518, 530 and 806

Communicable Diseases

Refer to District Policy 420

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent/guardian suspects that his/her child has a communicable or contagious disease, the parent/guardian should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

Students with certain communicable diseases will not be excluded from attending school in their usual daily attendance settings as long as their health permits and their attendance does not create a significant risk of transmitting the illness to other students or school district employees. The school district will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a contagious student's attendance creates a significant risk of transmitting the illness to others.

DNR-DNI Orders

Refer to District Policy 518

The primary mission of the school district is education. DNR-DNI Orders (Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Intubate) are medical documents. School district staff will not accept or honor requests to withhold emergency care or DNR-DNI orders. The school district will not convey such orders to emergency medical personnel.

First Aid

The nurse's office in each building is equipped to handle minor injuries requiring first aid. If the nurse's office is not open, assistance can be sought from the building's administrative office. If a student experiences a more serious medical emergency at school, 911 will be called and/or a parent/guardian will be contacted depending on the situation. The district has installed automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School next to the gym, at the Rockford Middle School in the gym and in the hallway by the District Office, at Rockford High School in the lunchroom near the gym, and by the third hallway entrance, in the hallway between the high school and community center, and at the community center near the front desk. Tampering with any AED is prohibited and may result in discipline.

Health Service

The student health office is staffed throughout the day by a licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and/or secretarial staff. The health office staff works under the direction and supervision of a licensed school nurse.

At the beginning of each year and as changes occur; please alert the school nurse, and classroom teacher, if your child has a health problem that may affect his/her functioning. Also, promptly report to the nurse any communicable diseases, such as, strep throat, chickenpox, scabies, or head lice. Information will be kept confidential. If needed, the nurse is available for consultation with parents. If you need information about your child's health records contact the School Nurse at your child's school of attendance.

Students who become sick at school should report to the health office. In the event of an emergency, your student's safety is our first priority. We will immediately contact parent/guardian and 911, if necessary. Parent/Guardian contact information provided in the Parent Portal will be used. **Please keep emergency contact information/phone numbers updated in your Portal.**

Students who become sick at school should visit the Health Room located in the school office. If a child has a fever of 100° or higher, or other symptoms of illness, the parent will be notified. Health Office personnel only will contact the parent/guardian regarding health-related issues. The child should then be picked up from school. School health personnel are not permitted to administer treatment to your child unless previously arranged and then according to our medication policy. The health office personnel will arrange for students who get sick at school to go home early.

A parent/guardian should notify the school if his/her child is unable to attend school because of illness. A 24-hour fever-free period (below 100 degrees F) without the use of medication, is required prior to returning your child to school.

If you need information about your child's health records, contact the School Nurse at 763/477-5837 or healthoffice@rockford.k12.mn.us or via the school's website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us, to access contact information.

Immunizations

Refer to District Policy 530

All students must be properly immunized or submit appropriate documentation exempting them from such immunizations in order to enroll or remain enrolled. Students may be exempted from the immunization requirement when the immunization of the student is contraindicated for medical reasons; laboratory confirmation of adequate immunity exists; or due to the conscientiously held beliefs of the parents/guardians or student. The school district will maintain a file containing the immunization records for each student in attendance at the school district for at least five years after the student reaches the age of 18. For a copy of the immunization schedule or to obtain an exemption form or information, contact the school nurse or go to the district website at www.rockford.k12.mn.us for the district policy.

Medications at School During the School Day

Refer to District Policy 516

The school district acknowledges that some students may require prescribed drugs or medication during the school day. The school district's licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, principal, or teacher will administer prescribed medications, except any form of medical cannabis, in accordance with law and school district procedures.

Medication Administration

The administration of prescription and over-the-counter medication or drugs at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent. An "Administering Prescription Medications" form must be completed annually by a medical professional and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. Prescription medication as used in this policy does not include any form of medical cannabis as defined in Minn. Stat. § 152.22, Subd. 6. Prescription medications must come to school in the original container labeled for the student by a pharmacist, and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label. Prescription medications are not to be carried by the student, but will be left with the appropriate school personnel. Exceptions that may be allowed include: prescription asthma medications self-administered with an inhaler pursuant to school district policy and procedures, medications administered as noted in a written agreement between the school district and parent or as specified in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a plan

developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (504 Plan), or individual health plan (IHP). The school district is to be notified immediately by the parent or student 18 years old or older in writing of any change in a student's prescription medication administration. The school Health Office does not stock or supply over-the-counter medication.

Medications must be picked up by a parent / guardian at the end of the school year. If medications are unclaimed or cannot be returned to the parent / guardian, school health staff are to keep the medications in their original container with label intact and store them in a secure, locked location. Periodically (for example once per year), health office staff are to contact the Wright County Sheriff's Office or Hennepin County Sheriff's office for pickup and disposal. If they are unable to pick up for disposal of medications, medications would be disposed of through Sharps Compliance, Inc. using their Take Away Medication Recovery System.

Epinephrine Auto-Injectors/Inhalers

Refer to District Policy 516

Minnesota law allows students to carry and use their inhalers/ EPIPENS IF the licensed medication prescriber, parents and licensed school nurse agree the student has demonstrated appropriate knowledge and administration of the inhaler/ EPIPEN. A licensed medication prescriber's signed order for the Health Regulations and Procedures medication and parent signature must be on file in the school health office; this must include a statement to self-carry. Most elementary students need an adult to supervise their inhaler/ EPIPEN use to ensure adequate administration, frequency, technique, prescribed usage and safety. Parents are asked to provide an extra inhaler/EPIPEN to store in the health office in case the student's is left at home or lost. Students carrying these medications have the responsibility to use correctly and only for themselves. Students are asked to report to the health office if they use inhalers more than once during the school day. Students MUST report to the health office immediately if they use EPIPENS. Minnesota law allows, but does not require, school districts to maintain and administer EPI to a student or other individual who is determined to be having a severe allergic reaction, regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an auto-injector.

Districts and schools may obtain and possess epinephrine auto-injectors to be maintained and

administered by school personnel to a student or other individual if, in good faith, it is determined that person is experiencing anaphylaxis regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector. The administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with this section is not the practice of medicine.

Over-the-Counter Medication

With over-the-counter medications (OTC), elementary and middle school students should follow the same policy as prescription medications. Please submit via fax or in person, the administering prescription medications form, which can be accessed at www.rockford.k12.mn.us, then click the respective school tab, then the health services tab” to access contact information and forms. OTC medication must be in its original bottle. No OTC medication will be administered to students unless the above provisions are followed.

The school health office does not stock or supply over-the-counter medications.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up prescription medication from the health office prior to the end of the school year. For the safety of all students these medications will not be sent home with the student. Please contact the health office staff if you need to make different arrangements otherwise the medication will be destroyed at the end of the year.

High school students will be allowed to carry non-prescription medications on their person, but the following rules apply:

1. The medication must be in the original container with label and dosage information intact, and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.
2. A “Medication Administration” form must be signed by a parent and submitted to the Health Services Office each year for the student to self-administer the non-prescription medication.
3. The student’s name must be handwritten on the container.

The student is not to share his/her medication with any other students. If any of the above rules are abused, the right will be cancelled.

Screenings

Hearing, and vision screenings will be administered according to state guidelines or when requested by a parent or teacher. If a potential concern is discovered, a referral will be sent to the parent/guardian.

Student Accident Report Procedure

If an injury requires more than first aid, the school nurse is called to access the injury. If an injury requires more care than we can provide safely at school, the parents are called and the child is monitored at home or referred to a physician. If the accident requires immediate medical attention that cannot be provided at school, 911 will be called. Reports of these injuries are written and turned into the building principal and filed in the student’s health file.

COVID-19 Protocol

Students, staff, and visitors who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must visit the school nurse immediately. District staff will follow protocols outlined from the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education to mitigate exposure. These protocols may include contact tracing, quarantining, recommended testing, temperature checks, and more.

Pesticide Application Notice [*]

The school district may apply pesticide(s) on school property. To the extent the school district applies certain pesticides, the school district will provide a notice by **September 15** as to the school district’s plan to use these pesticides. In certain emergency-use situations (i.e. wasps), a pesticide may be used without notification. A parent may request to be notified prior to the application of certain pesticides on days different from those specified in the notice. Additional information regarding what pesticides are used, the schedule of pesticide applications, and the long-term health effects of the class of pesticide on children can be requested by contacting the business manager at the Rockford Area Schools District Office, 763-477-9165.

Safety

The safety of students on campus and at school-related activities is a high priority of the district. While district-wide safety procedures are in place, student and parent cooperation is required to ensuring school safety.

Custody

In cases where parents are separated or divorced, and one parent has legal custody; the school must have

proof in the form of a copy of the court order that spells out both custody and visitation rights. Schools must have on file appropriate legal documentation in order to assure compliance with any limiting court order.

Visitors in District Buildings

Refer to District Policy 903

Parents/guardians and community members are welcome to visit the schools. To ensure the safety of those in the school and to avoid disruption to the learning environment, all visitors must report directly to the school office upon entering the building, with the exception of events open to the public.

School building doors are locked during the school day. At the elementary school, visitors may gain access to the building by going to REAMS door 1 and checking in at the main office. At the middle school building, RMS-CES visitors may gain access to the building by going to door 4 (located on the north side of the building) and ringing the

buzzer. District Office visitors may gain access by going to door 1 (located at the school's main entrance on Ash Street) and ringing the buzzer. Visitors at the Rockford High School may gain access to the building by going to RHS door 1 and ringing the buzzer. An office staff member will greet the visitor and determine if the visitor should be permitted to enter the building.

All visitors will be required to sign in at the office and to wear a "visitor's badge" while in the building during the school day. Visitors must have the approval of the principal before visiting a classroom during instructional time. An individual or group may be denied permission to visit a school or school property, or such permission may be revoked. If the visitor does not comply with school district procedures or if the visit is not in the best interests of the students, employee, or the school district.

Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school without prior permission from the principal.

APPENDIXES

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In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.

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2. Rockford High School Academic Honors

Honors

Students in grade 12 that have maintained a 3.33 to 3.67 cumulative grade point average on a 4-point scale will receive Honors recognition.

High Honors

Students in grade 12 that received Honors recognition and also have earned an academic letter by maintaining a 3.67 or higher cumulative grade point average will receive High Honors recognition.

National Honor Society

Selection Process:

1. Students' academic records will be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. Students will be eligible beginning in 11th grade. Final GPA's from the previous school year will be used to establish the 3.5 requirement.
2. Students who are eligible scholastically will be notified by letter and invited to an informational meeting to review the remainder of the selection process.
3. Membership is not automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance. The selection process will focus on the remaining three criteria; leadership, character, and service.
4. Students will complete a Student Activity Information form. Each candidate is responsible to ensure that all necessary forms are returned by the given deadline. Late forms will not be considered in the selection process.
5. Faculty and staff will be given a list of all scholastically eligible students to rate accordingly regarding character and leadership qualities.
6. A committee consisting of five faculty members, chosen by the chapter advisor, will review the completed Student Activity Information Forms individually and complete a rating sheet on each candidate.
7. The chapter advisor will tally the rating scores for each candidate.
8. The chapter advisor will meet with the selection committee to review the scores of each candidate. Students who receive a score of at least 50

(60 possible) will be invited to become a member of the National Honor Society. The committee will individually review the candidate files of those students who received a score of less than 50. A majority vote of the selection committee will determine the selection of these students. The chapter advisor has no vote.

9. Students will be notified by mail of the decision of the selection committee.
10. All documents used by the selection committee, including the Student Activity Information Form, faculty ratings, and other recommendation forms, are to assist the committee in making sound decisions regarding membership. Such documents are used only by the selection committee, the adviser, and the principal and are considered confidential.

Honor Roll

The Rockford High School Honor Roll will be published at the conclusion of each trimester approximately two weeks after the grading period ends. The Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated on current term grades. A grade of "D" or "I" will eliminate a student from eligibility for either the "A" or "B" honor roll.

"A" Honor Roll: Students in grades 9 through 12 who achieve a GPA of 3.67 or higher will be recognized on the "A" honor roll.

"B" Honor Roll: Students in grades 9 through 12 who achieve a GPA of 3.00 or higher, but less than 3.67 with no D's will be recognized on the "B" honor roll. Honor roll status is based on a 4-point scale.

3. Student Records [*]

Refer to District Policy 515

Public Notice

Independent School District No. 883 gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in the District, and eligible students currently in attendance in the District, of their rights regarding pupil records.

1. Parents and eligible students are hereby informed that they have the following rights:
 - a. That a parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the request for access is received by the school district. A parent or eligible student should submit to the school district a written request to inspect education records which identify as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect. The parent or eligible student will be notified of the time and place where the records may be inspected;
 - b. That the parent or eligible student has a right to seek amendment of the student's education records to ensure that those records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. A parent or eligible student may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. The request shall be in writing, identify the item the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy rights of the student, shall state the reason for this belief, and shall specify the correction the parent or eligible student wishes the school district to make. The request shall be signed by the parent or eligible student. If the school district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing;
 - c. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosures without consent;
 - d. That the school district may disclose education records to other school officials within the school

district if the school district has determined they have legitimate educational interests. For purposes of such disclosure, a "school official" is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or other employee; a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school district has consulted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, public information officer, or data practices compliance official); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or any individual assisting a school official in the performance of his or her tasks. A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" if the individual needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and includes, but is not limited to, an interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, and student health and welfare and the ability to respond to a request for educational data;

- e. That the school district forwards education records on request to a school or post-secondary educational institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment, including information about disciplinary action taken as a result of any incident in which the student possessed or used a dangerous weapon, suspension and expulsion information pursuant to **20 U.S.C. § 7917, part** of the federal Every Child Succeeds Act and data regarding a student's history of violent behavior, and any disposition order which adjudicates the student as delinquent for committing an illegal act on school district property and certain other illegal acts;
- f. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the rules promulgated thereunder. The name and address of the office that administers the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

- g. That the parent or eligible student has a right to obtain a copy of the school district's policy regarding the protection and privacy of pupil records; and
 - h. That copies of the school district's policy regarding the protection and privacy of school records are located at each building office.
2. Independent School District No. 883 has adopted a school board policy in order to comply with state and federal laws regarding education records. The policy does the following:
- a. It classifies records as public, private, or confidential.
 - b. It establishes procedures and regulations to permit parents or students to inspect and review a student's education records. These procedures include the method of determining fees for copies, a listing of the locations of these education records, and the identity of the individuals in charge of the records.
 - c. It establishes procedures and regulations to allow parents or students to request the amendment of a student's education records to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
 - d. It establishes procedures and regulations for access to and disclosure of education records.
 - e. It establishes procedures and regulations for safeguarding the privacy of education records and for obtaining prior written consent of the parent or student when required prior to disclosure.
3. Copies of the school board policy and accompanying procedures and regulations are available to parents and students upon written request to the Superintendent.
4. Pursuant to applicable law, Independent School District No. 883 gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in the school district, and eligible students currently in attendance in the school district, of their rights regarding "directory information."

Directory information" includes the following information relating to a student: the student's name; address; telephone number; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors and awards received; the most recent educational agency or

institution attended by the student; and other similar information. "Directory information" also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). "Directory information" does not include a student's social security number or a student's identification number (ID) if the ID may be used to access education records without use of one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity such as a personal identification number, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. It also does not include identifying information on a student's religion, race, color, social position, or nationality.

- a. **THE INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE SHALL BE PUBLIC INFORMATION WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY DISCLOSE FROM THE EDUCATION RECORDS OF A STUDENT OR INFORMATION REGARDING A PARENT.**
 - b. **SHOULD THE PARENT OF A STUDENT OR THE STUDENT SO DESIRE, ANY OR ALL OF THE LISTED INFORMATION WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT THE PARENT'S OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT EXCEPT TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER FEDERAL LAW.**
 - c. **IN ORDER TO MAKE ANY OR ALL OF THE DIRECTORY INFORMATION LISTED ABOVE "PRIVATE" (I.E., SUBJECT TO CONSENT PRIOR TO DISCLOSURE), THE PARENT OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT MUST MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. THIS WRITTEN REQUEST MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**
 - (1) **NAME OF STUDENT AND PARENT, AS APPROPRIATE;**
 - (2) **HOME ADDRESS;**
 - (3) **SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDED BY STUDENT;**
 - (4) **PARENT'S LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT, IF APPLICABLE;**
 - (5) **SPECIFIC CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION WHICH IS NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC WITHOUT THE PARENT'S OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.**
5. Pursuant to applicable law, Independent School District No. 883 hereby gives notice to parents of students and eligible students in grades 11 and 12 of their rights regarding release of information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. The school district must release the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions within sixty (60) days after the date of the

request. Data released to military recruiting officers under this provision may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military and cannot be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces.

SHOULD THE PARENT OF A STUDENT OR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT SO DESIRE, ANY OR ALL OF THE LISTED INFORMATION WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED TO MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT.

IN ORDER TO REFUSE THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT, THE PARENT OR ELIGIBLE STUDENT MUST MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY, *BUILDING PRINCIPAL*, BY *SEPTEMBER 15* EACH YEAR. THIS WRITTEN REQUEST MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (1) NAME OF STUDENT AND PARENT, AS APPROPRIATE;**
- (2) HOME ADDRESS;**
- (3) STUDENT'S GRADE LEVEL;**
- (4) SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDED BY STUDENT;**
- (5) PARENT'S LEGAL RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT, IF APPLICABLE;**
- (6) SPECIFIC CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION WHICH ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED TO MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT;**
- (7) SPECIFIC CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION WHICH ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING MILITARY RECRUITING OFFICERS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**

4. Student Surveys [*]

Refer to District Policy 520

CONSENT/OPT-OUT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires **Independent School District 883** to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
9. This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing

purposes (“marketing surveys”) and certain physical examinations and screenings.

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to the building principal. The building principal will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

5. Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in State Wide Assessments



Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student's achievement, but your student's participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student's school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota's implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered "proficient."
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

Academic Standards and Assessments

What are academic standards?

The [Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards](#) are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)	ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3-8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science.• Majority of students take the MCA.• MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.• Given annually to English learners in grades K-12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.• Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs.• Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Why are these assessments effective?

Minnesota believes that in order to effectively measure what students are learning, testing needs to be more than answering multiple choice questions.

- To answer questions, students may need to type in answers, drag and drop images and words, or manipulate a graph or information.
- The Reading and Mathematics MCA are adaptive, which means the answers a student provides determine the next questions the student will answer.
- The Science MCA incorporates simulations, which require students to perform experiments in order to answer questions.

All of these provide students the opportunity to apply critical thinking needed for success in college and careers and show what they know and can do.

Are there limits on local testing?

As stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.301, for students in grades 1–6, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 10 hours per school year. For students in grades 7–12, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 11 hours per school year. These limits do not include statewide testing.

In an effort to encourage transparency, the statute also requires a district or charter school, before the first day of each school year, to publish on its website a comprehensive calendar of standardized tests to be administered in the district or charter school during that school year. The calendar must provide the rationale for administering each assessment and indicate whether the assessment is a local option or required by state or federal law.

What if I choose not to have my student participate?

Parents/guardians have a right to not have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Minnesota Statutes require the department to provide information about statewide assessments to parents/guardians and include a form to complete if they refuse to have their student participate. This form follows on the next page and includes an area to note the reason for the refusal to participate. Your student's district may require additional information.

A school or district may have additional consequences beyond those mentioned in this document for a student not participating in the state-required standardized assessments. There may also be consequences for not participating in assessments selected and administered at the local level. Please contact your school for more information regarding local decisions.

When do students take the assessments?

Each school sets their testing schedule within the state testing window. Contact your student's school for information on specific testing days.

- The MCA and MTAS testing window begins in March and ends in May.
- The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window begins at the end of January and ends in March.

When do I receive my student's results?

Each summer, individual student reports are sent to school districts and are provided to families no later than fall conferences. The reports can be used to see your child's progress and help guide future instruction.

How much time is spent on testing?

Statewide assessments are taken one time each year; the majority of students test online. On average, the amount of time spent taking statewide assessments is less than 1 percent of instructional time in a school year. The assessments are not timed and students can continue working as long as they need.

Why does it seem like my student is taking more tests?

The statewide required tests are limited to those outlined in this document. Many districts make local decisions to administer additional tests that the state does not require. Contact your district for more information.

Where do I get more information?

Students and families can find out more on our [Statewide Testing page](https://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.31, subdivision 4a, requires the commissioner to create and publish a form for parents and guardians to complete if they refuse to have their student participate in state- required standardized assessments. Your student’s district may require additional information. School districts must post this form on the district website and include it in district student handbooks.

Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must complete this form and return it to the student’s school.

*To best support school district planning, please submit this form to the student’s school no later than January 15 of the academic school year. For students who enroll after a statewide testing window begins, please submit the form within two weeks of enrollment. A new refusal form is required **each year** parents/guardians wish to opt the student out of statewide assessments.*

Date _____ (This form is **only** applicable for the 20____ to 20____ school year.)

Student’s Legal First Name _____ Student’s Legal Middle Initial _____

Student’s Legal Last Name _____ Student’s Date of Birth _____

Student’s District/School _____ Grade _____

Please initial to indicate you have received and reviewed information about statewide testing.

_____ I received information on statewide assessments and choose to opt my student out. MDE provides the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in to Statewide Testing* on the MDE website (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).

Reason for refusal:

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting the student out of this school year:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| _____ MCA/MTAS Reading | _____ MCA/MTAS Science |
| _____ MCA/MTAS Mathematics | _____ ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs |

Contact your school or district for the form to opt out of local assessments.

I understand that by signing this form, my school and I may lose valuable information about how well my student is progressing academically. As a result, my student will not receive an individual score. Refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state’s efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, my student will not be considered “proficient.”

If my student is in high school, I understand that by signing this form my student will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

To be completed by school or district staff only. Student ID or MARSS Number ____

6. Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Discrimination

The following grievance procedure applies to claims of sex and disability discrimination:

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of unlawful discrimination or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute unlawful discrimination shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy (*See district policies 102, 401, 402, 521, 522, 528*). The complaint must be filed within 30 calendar days of the alleged violation.
- B. The Human Rights Officer (*Building Principal*) is responsible for receiving oral or written complaints of unlawful discrimination toward an employee or student. However, nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting unlawful discrimination toward an employee or student directly with the Human Rights Officer, the school board or other school district official.
- C. While the school board has designated the Human Rights Officer to receive complaints of unlawful discrimination, if the complaint involves the Human Rights Officer, the complaint shall be made to the superintendent.
- D. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Human Rights Officer shall immediately notify the superintendent. If the superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the Human Rights Officer shall immediately notify the school board.
- E. The Human Rights Officer may request but not insist upon a written complaint. Alternative means of filing a complaint, such as through a personal interview or by tape recording, shall be made available upon request for qualified persons with a disability. If the complaint is oral, it shall be reduced to writing within 24 hours and forwarded to the superintendent. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. The school district encourages the reporting party to complete the complaint form for written complaints. It is available from the principal of each building or the school district office.
- F. The school district shall respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, take

appropriate action, and comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

INVESTIGATION

- A. The Human Rights Officer, upon receipt of a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination shall promptly undertake an investigation if deemed appropriate. The investigation may be conducted by the Title IX coordinator for complaints of sex discrimination or the Section 504 Coordinator for complaints of disability discrimination, or a school district official or neutral third party designated by the Title IX coordinator, Section 504 coordinator or Human Rights Officer. The investigation shall be completed within 30 days of the complaint, unless impracticable.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of other methods deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district shall consider the facts and the surrounding circumstances such as the nature of the behavior, past incidents or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incident occurred.
- D. The school district may take immediate steps to protect the parties involved in the complaint process, pending completion of an investigation of alleged unlawful discrimination. E. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district investigator shall make a written report to the Human Rights Officer. If the complaint involves the Human Rights Officer, the report may be filed directly with the superintendent or school board. The report shall include the facts, a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated, whether a violation of this policy has occurred as well as a description of any proposed resolution which may include alternative dispute resolution.
- E. The district shall comply with federal and state law pertaining to retention of records.

APPEAL

If the grievance has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, s/he may appeal to the Human Rights Officer within ten (10) school days of receipt of the findings of the school district investigation. The school district investigator shall conduct a review of the appeal and within ten (10) school days of receipt of the appeal, shall affirm, reverse, or modify the findings of the report. The decision of the school district investigator is final but does not preclude pursuit of alternative complaint procedures noted in the section entitled "Right to Alternative Complaint Procedures."

SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Upon conclusion of the investigation and receipt of the findings, the school district shall take appropriate action. If it is determined that a violation has occurred, such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, expulsion, transfer, remediation or termination. School district action taken for violation of this policy shall be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and school district policies.
- B. The result of the school district's investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures shall be reported in writing to the complainant by the school district in accordance with state and federal law regarding data or records privacy.

RETALIATION

The school district shall take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports alleged unlawful discrimination toward an employee or student or any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation or hearing relating to such unlawful discrimination. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation or harassment.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If there is a conflict of interest with respect to any party affected by this policy, appropriate action shall be taken such as, but not limited to, appointing or contracting with a neutral third party investigator to conduct the investigation or recusal from the process by the person for whom a conflict or potential conflict of interest exists.

DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

The school district shall adopt and publish these procedures.

RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse, which may include filing charges with the agencies listed below or initiating action in state or federal court.

Claims of discrimination may also be pursued through the following agencies where appropriate:

U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights, Region V
500 W. Madison Street- Suite 1475
Chicago, IL 60661
Tel: 312-730-1560 TDD: 312-730-1609

MN Department of Human Rights
190 E 5th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
Tel: 800.657.3704, 651.296.5663
TDD 651.296.1283

For complaints of employment discrimination:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
330 S. 2nd Avenue, Suite 430
Minneapolis, MN 55401
800.669.4000, 612.335.4040
TDD 612.335.4045

7. Unpaid Meal Charges

Refer to District Policy 534

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

- A. Students have use of a meal account. When the balance reaches zero, a student may charge no more than \$-5.00 (negative five dollars) to this account. When an account reaches this limit, a student shall not be allowed to charge further meals or a la carte items until the negative account balance is paid. Parents can make deposits to student lunch accounts in the Infinite Campus Portal or mailing a check to the high school kitchen, attention: Deb Graunke. Students can also bring deposits to their building office.
- B. If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minn. Stat. § 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance.
- C. A student with an outstanding meal charge debt will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received.
- D. The school district may provide an alternate meal that meets federal and state requirements to a student who does not have sufficient funds in the student's account or cannot pay cash for a meal. The school district will accommodate special dietary needs with respect to alternate meals. There is no cost of the alternative meal that will be charged to the student's account.
- E. When a student has a negative account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a snack item.
- F. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless written permission is received from the parent or guardian.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low starting at a positive \$10.00 or fall below zero.
- B. Families will be notified of an outstanding negative balance once the negative balance reaches \$-5.00 (negative five dollars). Families will be notified by email or a letter sent home.
- C. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free and reduced-price meals for their children.
- B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.
- C. Negative balances of more than \$-10.00, not paid prior to end of the fiscal year, will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. Collection options may include, but are not limited to, use of collection agencies, claims in the conciliation court, or any other legal method permitted by law.
- D. The school district may not enlist the assistance of non-school district employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:
 - 1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 - 2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
 - 3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. The school district may post the policy on the school district's website, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.

8. Activities: Attendance & Academic/School Regulations

Academic Eligibility

Students involved in activities are expected to maintain passing grades in **ALL** of their classes. There are participation penalties if students receive a failing grade. Students failing a class/classes from the end of a marking period will have the opportunity to restore eligibility. Further information can be obtained from the Activities handbook or the Activities Office.

Daily Class Attendance

Grade 7-12 students involved in athletics or activities must be in school or at a school-sponsored event all day to be eligible for competition. The exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- **7-12 students may have an excused absence from all or part of first and second period (approximately 10:30 a.m.). Parent or guardian must call the student in as ill/excused by 8:00 a.m. that morning.**
- 7-12 students may be excused for a medical appointment or other excused absence, in which case the absence will be allowed for any part, or all, of the school day. Upon returning to school, the student will furnish written notification from the medical office, verifying the visit.

The Activities Director will make the ultimate decision on a student's eligibility when there are extenuating circumstances to be considered.

Tardiness

Excessive tardiness on the part of activities participants may lead to disciplinary action taken by the school principal which may impact activity participation.

9. Fan Behavior Policy

Purpose

The schools of the Wright County Conference seek to provide a safe environment for athletes and fans at events and to that end expect fans to demonstrate good sportsmanship during athletic events. It is expected that all spectators will treat all athletic participants, coaches, and representatives of competing teams with respect at home and away interscholastic events.

Definitions

A. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.

B. Examples of good sportsmanship and respect for competing teams includes, but is not limited to:

1. Appreciating good play no matter the player.
2. Working cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
3. Refraining from booing or making negative comments about officials or participants.
4. Showing respect for public property and staying off the contest floor or field.
5. Representing yourself and you school with proper conduct.

C. Examples of negative, inappropriate, or potentially unsafe fan behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Participating in disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
2. Booing, heckling, disrespectful criticism of officials.
3. Antagonizing or inciting fighting among fans or players.
4. Having on one's possession or using artificial noisemakers.
5. Acting in ways clearly contradictory to expectations for good sportsmanship.

General Statement of Policy

A. Administrators will be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate level of supervision is scheduled at all school contests. This might include coaches, supervisors, administrators and law enforcement officials.

B. Inappropriate or potentially unsafe fan behavior will not be tolerated.

C. Should fan(s) continue to act inappropriately or act egregiously, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

1. On the first offense, the supervisor or an administrator will informally sit with the fan, explain the impropriety of the behavior and warn of the consequences for future inappropriate behavior. This informal meeting can happen during or subsequent to the contest. Fans can be ejected on first offense for blatant or egregiously inappropriate behavior. Failure to leave school grounds when ejected will constitute trespass.
2. On second offense, the individual will be ejected from the contest, or suspended from the next contest, and warned that any future inappropriate behavior will result in a suspension for a set number of contests or for the remainder of the school year. Failure to leave school grounds when ejected will constitute trespass.
3. On third and subsequent offenses, the individual will be ejected from the contest. The individual will be either suspended from attending contests for a set number of contests or for the remainder of the school year at the discretion of the Activities Director. Failure to leave school grounds when ejected will constitute trespass.
4. For the purposes of this policy, behavior at home and away contests can count towards the first, second or third offenses in establishing the pattern and/or severity of negative or unsafe behavior.
5. For students, suspensions apply to all home or away events. For adults, suspensions apply to all home events, and fans will be informed that they are unwelcome at away contests.
6. Should an adult violate suspension, police will be notified and said individual will be charged with trespass. Should a student violate suspension, the police will be notified and the student charged with trespass as well as be subject to school sanctions determined by school officials.
7. Host school will inform the school officials of a visiting school of any behavior of a fan(s) that constituted a first, second or third offense.

D. The Activities Director or another school administrator may take reasonable and prudent actions not specified in this policy to deal with negative, inappropriate or potentially unsafe fan behavior.



Handbook Acknowledgement Form 2021-2022

We have received a copy of the 2021-2022 Student Handbook for Rockford Area Schools - ISD 883.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date