RISE Program Handbook 2025-2026

Mission: To facilitate responsibility for students to respect and appreciate themselves, others, and their environment and to develop a work ethic in order that they may become productive citizens.

Resilient ~ Independent ~ Self-Aware ~ Empowered

Staff Directory:

Superintendent	Dr. Rich Powers
Director of Special Education & Alternative Building Administrator (also a RISE committee member)	Melissa Krumm
Director of Instructional Services (also a RISE committee member)	Jodi Brogan
Director of Administrative Services	Chad Carlson
High School Principal	Erik Garnass
Assistant High School Principal	Lindsay Curtis
Assistant High School Principal (also a RISE committee member)	Drake Bailey
Activities Director	Ben Anderson
Resource Officer	Deputy Matthew Schnur
RISE Teacher (also a RISE committee member)	Ruth Toomer
RISE paraprofessional	TBD
General Education Teacher (Rise Committee Member)	Sonja Hook

Welcome to Bluejay Nation

We are all here to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Bondurant-Farrar Community School District. To be Bondurant's BEST, reasonable standards of discipline and mutual respect are necessary among all students and school employees. This handbook is designed to assist students and parents/guardians in gaining an understanding of the basic operational procedures required of all RISE students. Students who attend the RISE Program fall under the guidance of this handbook as well as the Bondurant-Farrar High School Student Handbook. High School / Student Handbook.

Please read the following to determine if the RISE Program is the right choice for you.

- RISE is for students who have struggled to be successful in the typical high school setting due to significant behavior challenges. RISE provides a comfortable, safe, and welcoming environment where students' individual needs and the rights of others are respected.
- Students work at a pace that benefits their own learning style.
- Class size is smaller, allowing for more individual attention.
    - RISE capacity is six full-time students
- Students are expected to attend class and arrive on time.
- Parents are encouraged to attend Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Criteria for Admittance:

Students must be:

- A resident of Bondurant-Farrar
- In grades 9th-12th
- Referred by an IEP team or MTSS team and approved by the RISE committee
    - Included in the referral form must be a description(s) of previous supports/plans
    - Students may have an IEP with a BIP, but not required

Schedule:

- Monday school will start at 9:00 and dismiss at 1:00
- Tuesday - Friday school will start at 9:00 and dismiss at 2:30
- Lunch will be delivered beginning at 11:00 am daily
- Snow delay schedule
    Late Start 10:00 am
    Early Dismissal 1:00 pm

Attendance: *If a student is absent, a parent or guardian must report their child absent to the High School office. The High School office will then notify the RISE teacher.*

The RISE program's start time is 9:00 each day. Any student who is later than 9:15 will be considered tardy unless following an individualized attendance contract. Individualized attendance contracts must be approved by the program director.

- Students will start the RISE program following the standard RISE schedule (i.e. 5 days a week, full days), unless otherwise noted in their individualized programming.
- Any changes to the schedule that results in less instructional time (i.e. fewer days, shorter days), needs to be determined by a team during a formal meeting.

- Any changes to the schedule that does not impact instructional time (i.e. arrive early and/or stay late) can be made by the teacher, parents, and student.

In the event a student in the RISE program is not attending, a meeting will be held (i.e. IEP meeting) to determine barriers to attendance. After three meetings with the family, if the student is still not attending, they may be dropped from the program.

Continuation of Eligibility:

Continuation of eligibility will be reviewed annually. Students will remain eligible and enrolled in the RISE program as long as they are making appropriate progress. Appropriate progress will be determined by the RISE committee with input from the IEP and/or MTSS team. If a student is no longer eligible for RISE they will return to the traditional high school setting, unless a different placement is determined appropriate by the educational team.

Credit Requirements:

Students in the RISE program will be required to earn 48 credits in order to graduate from high school. A reduction of required credits (i.e. 40 credits) will be determined on an individual basis and documented in the student's IEP if appropriate. The determination to make a class pass or fail will be made on a case-by-case basis by the educational team.

Program Curriculum:

- Students will access the curriculum either through Google Classroom or Edmentum.

Google Classroom Courses: Courses offered through Google Classroom will align with the courses of the same name/content at the traditional high school. These courses may differ in terms of specific assignments but will utilize the essential outcomes developed by each High School content-specific department based on the Iowa Core. Although the format may be different, students need to demonstrate learning through assessments.

Edmentum Courses: Edmentum courses will be reduced to tutorials and mastery tests. No additional assignments will need to be completed. Students will be required to complete the tutorial before taking mastery tests. Mastery tests will be reset up to three times. If a student does not pass (60%+) a mastery test after three attempts, they will need to review the tutorial with an adult before the test will be reset again. Students are not allowed to have internet searches open while working on Edmentum courses.
Students may choose to complete an Edmentum PE course or complete and record physical activity/steps on a spreadsheet in order to earn PE credits.

- If choosing to complete the Edmentum course, students must complete the entire course with a passing grade.

        - If choosing to complete physical activity, 1000 minutes of activity is needed to earn .5 credits. Spreadsheets must be updated weekly and physical activity may include working out at the gym, participating in a recreational game, swimming, or riding a bike. Additionally, students may choose to submit steps obtained from walking or running. In this case, 4000 steps would be equivalent to 30 minutes of activity. Students cannot record more than 1 hour of physical activity per day but can include weekend activity time.
- Students will receive direct, small-group instruction based on needs outlined in each student's individual plan.
- Students are eligible to enroll in classes at the High School without permission from the RISE committee. However, if appropriate progress is not being made or if the student cannot meet behavior expectations, the student will be dropped from the class.
- Students will have group social-emotional instruction once a week, provided by a school counselor or social worker.
- Students will have access to a a mental health counselor based on eligibility

Extracurricular Events
RISE students may participate in extracurricular activities. These activities include school dances, athletic events, homecoming festivities, and clubs and athletic teams. To participate, the student must be a student in good standing and meet the academic and good conduct eligibility requirements, per the Bondurant Farrar High School Student Handbook, the RISE Student Handbook, and the Iowa High School Athletic Association's requirements.

Student in Good Standing:
To be considered a student in good standing, students must meet the following criteria:

- Academically eligible
- No outstanding detention
- No outstanding fees/fines

The inability to meet the above criteria will impact students in regards to their participation in school-sponsored activities, which will be determined by the RISE committee.

General Information:

Computer Usage: All students will have access to a district computer. Student computers will be used as needed and will stay on site.

Food Rules: Bringing food to the classroom for an approved activity is permitted, under the following guidelines and recommendations as per the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA): All snacks sent to school for the consumption of others must be pre-packaged. In an effort to support Make America Healthy Again , we encourage parents/guardians to provide healthy alternatives for classroom celebrations.

Leaving School during the School Day: Students leaving school before the normal dismissal time must have the program director's or high school principal's permission. If parents/guardians want an early dismissal for their son/daughter, they must call or sign a written request stating the reason. Students who have been authorized to leave early are to check out prior to leaving the building. Unauthorized leaving will constitute truancy. Any student who leaves the RISE campus without permission from the RISE teacher or Director of Special Education may be disciplined.

Lunch: Upperclassmen, or underclassmen with parental permission, are allowed to leave for lunch if they return within the appropriate time frame. If a student is late returning to school following lunch, they will lose open lunch privileges for 2 weeks. No student is to leave the RISE campus without permission from the program director or HS principal. Any student who leaves the RISE campus without permission from a school official will be disciplined.

Discipline: Specific behaviors of concern will be defined in each individual student's plan, and when assigning consequences, plans will be followed. Other discipline and consequences will follow the BFHS handbook.

Telephone Usage:

The telephone in the Alternative Program is not for student use. The student may take emergency calls; students will receive messages for any other calls. Cell phones
are not to be used during classroom time for calls, texting, surfing the web, or playing games.

Smoking, Tobacco, and Vaping Possession Policy: Students in possession of tobacco, smoking or vaping on school grounds will be referred to the School Resource Officer and the High School Administration. Students may be issued a police citation for drugs and/or alcohol in lieu of a suspension.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is any sexual behavior that is unwanted or unwelcome. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the RISE Program. Sexual Harassment includes offensive language, offensive gestures, and unwanted sexual advances. Students are asked to report such incidents to the instructor or the High School Administration.

Emergency/Physical Removal: The purpose of this policy is to give permission and authority to the school administrators to physically remove a student from a classroom, school facilities, or grounds when it has been deemed necessary in handling disciplinary matters. In the event a student becomes aggressive, the school administrators may incorporate the help of other school personnel in order to remove the student. In some cases, it may be necessary to have law enforcement authorities become involved in the situation.

Bus Safety/Transportation: Students who have specialized transportation will be dropped off at the front of the RISE building. Students who participate in classes at both the alternative building and the high school will be provided transportation by the school.

Fire: In the event of a fire, students and staff in the RISE classroom will exit the building through the safest, fastest, and most clear route of egress (i.e. front or back) door. Emergency signs will be posted in the classroom. Occupants will cross the street on the east side of the building and stand in the public parking lot until approval to reenter the building is granted by the fire department or administration.

Severe Weather: In the event of unexpected severe weather, students and staff will take cover in the main hallway and/or restrooms. If severe weather is expected and time allows to safely transport, students and staff will be moved to the Intermediate School to seek shelter.

Program Telephones: The primary telephone is a business phone and should be used by students for emergencies only. Parents should not call to talk to students, except in cases of a real emergency. Tardies to class or absences from class because students are using the telephones are unexcused unless a pass is received from the program director. Phones are answered between 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. The phone number is 957-8191. The bus garage is 967-2891 and the central office is 967-7819.

Dress Code: Students are to wear appropriate dress, which reflects good taste and is not disruptive to the educational environment. While students have a great deal of freedom and responsibility in school dress, some guidelines are to be followed. Footwear is to be worn at all times. While most clothing styles are acceptable, examples of unacceptable attire are midriffs, halter-tops,

unfinished or inappropriate tank tops and shorts or skirts that are too short. Additionally, clothing that displays obscene materials or profanity or advertise products that are in conflict with the policies and rules of Bondurant-Farrar High School Student Handbook, such as alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco, ETC., are considered inappropriate.

Visitors: Students are NOT allowed to bring visitors to the school. Visitors disrupt the educational environment. If an outside therapist, JCO, or other support staff/adult needs to visit with a student, they will need to present a valid ID. These meetings will take place in the conference room, not in the classroom with other students.

Care of Building and Equipment: All students are responsible for leaving the program property and equipment in the same condition as when such facilities were made available to them, except for reasonable wear with proper use. Students will be held responsible for any damage to program properties; fines or the cost of repair will be assessed when necessary.

Level I Investigator:
Procedures for investigations of abuse by employees are handled by the district Level I Investigators, Dr. Rich Powers, Chad Carlson, or Jodi Brogan who can be contacted by calling the district office at 515-967-7819.

Section 504 Policy Statement:
It is the policy of the Bondurant-Farrar Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to each disabled student within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled under this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Due process rights of disabled students and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced. The Director of Instructional Services is the coordinator of Section 504 activities.

2025-2026 RISE Handbook was approved by the School Board on JJuly 29, 2025

It is the policy of the Bondurant-Farrar Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator; Chad Carlson, Director of Administrative

Services, 300 Garfield St. SW, Bondurant, IA 50035, 515-967-7819, carlsonc@bfschools.org. -OR- Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-7204, Telephone: (312) 730-1560, Facsimile: (312)730-1576, Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

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