STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

OUR MISSION

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

www.rockford883.org | 6051 Ash St. Rockford, MN 55373 | 763-477-9165

2026-2027 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.

INTRODUCTION

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 last printed . District policies can be found on our website at www.rockford883.org. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific issue, please contact the building principal.

MISSION

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

VISION

Rockford Area Schools provides a supportive, rigorous, and relevant learning culture producing courageous learners prepared to enter a global society.

CORE VALUES

Excellence: To be our best, expect our best; to be inspired daily to become the very best we can be

Students First: A safe, healthy environment to challenge, engage and inspire all students

Community: It's about all of us, all the time

Integrity: Align actions and words with values and beliefs while respecting differences

Stewardship: Care and responsibility with our resources including natural and social environments

Student Experience: All students have access to engage in a rich arts and academics environment, and an abundance of extracurricular opportunities

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Student achievement and growth.
2. Healthy and supportive environment.
3. Community, school and family partnerships.
4. Culture of collective purpose.
5. Stewardship of resources.

CALENDAR FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

August 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

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31						

February 2027

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

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April 2027

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May 2027

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30	31					

June 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

School Closed

REAMS Assessment Day

Staff Development (no school for students)

Half Day Staff Development (no school for students)

Start of Quarter

End of Quarter

New teacher days

1st Qtr.	September 1 to October 30 =	39
2nd Qtr.	November 3 to January 15 =	43
3rd. Qtr.	January 19 to March 18 =	41
4th Qtr.	March 30 to June 3 =	46
		169 days
	May 28th- Commencement	

New Staff Days	8/4, 8/5	
Workshop Week	8/24, 8/25, 8/26, 8/27	4
SD Days/Work Days	10/14, 11/2, 1/18, 2/16, 3/19(.5), 3/29, **5/21**, 6/4(.5)	7
Floating Day	8/03 - 8/21	1
2 PM days = 16 hrs		2
SCD 169 + Work/Staff Days 14		183

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

PART I – INFORMATION

Arrival and Dismissal Hours

School day hours at each building are:

REAMS 8:05am-3:00pm (doors open at 7:50am)
ECSE AM Section: 8:05am-10:45am
ECSE PM Section: 12:15pm-2:55pm
RMS-CES 7:50am-2:45pm (doors open at 7:30am)
RHS 8:00am-2:50pm (doors open at 7:20am)

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.rockford883.org.

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 and this handbook.

Employee Directory

Refer to District Policy 406

Most district employees' email addresses follow the format: firstname.lastname@rockford883.org . More information is located on our website at www.rockford883.org.

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.

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, Director of Finance and Operations 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 the school office.

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. Students must wear the issued cap and gown unaltered and only regalia pre-approved by the district: gold honor cords, red, white and blue military cords, NHS stole, and/or IB Diploma Candidate recognition pin. 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.rockford883.org.

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.

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 a nominal fee 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 534R

A complete and nutritional breakfast/lunch program is available at our school. Menus are published on the Rockford Area Schools website at www.rockford883.org. Students may select a 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.Prior approval is required for all lunch visitors. All visitors are expected to follow main office check-in and check out procedures determined by individual buildings. Please contact the main office in each building for more information regarding their process.

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.

2025-2026 LUNCH PRICES
Adult/Second Full Student Breakfast $2.50
Adult/Second Full Student Lunch $5.05
Milk $.60
Second Entree Only $3.50
Other Ala Carte Items $1.00-$3.50
**Prices subject to change*

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 negative balance of $5 or greater as indicated by their account.

Parents/guardians can make deposits to student lunch accounts in the Infinite Campus Portal or mailing a check to the high school kitchen, attention: Harlan Adelman. 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. Details on negative account balances and unpaid meal charges can be found in **Appendix 7**.

Up to date information can be found at https://www.rockford883.org/district/departments/foodservices

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

Rockford Area Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any educational program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including employment.

All Title IX reports and concerns should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools

More information can be found at https://www.rockford883.org/district/departments/human-resources/title-ix.

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 6** 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

Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover, Superintendent
Office Address: 6051 Ash St.
Rockford, MN 55373
Office Number: 763-477-9165 x 4002

Section 504 Coordinator
Samantha Bloom, Guidance Counselor
Office Address: Rockford High School
7600 County Road 50, Rockford, MN 55373
Office Phone Number: 763-477-5846 ext. 3033

Molly Wirth, School Counselor
Office Address: Rockford Middle School—Center for Environmental Studies
6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN 55373
Office Phone Number: 763-477-5831 ext. 2600

Allison Leistico, School Counselor
Office Address: Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School
7650 County Road 50, Rockford, MN 55373
Office Phone Number: 763-477-5837 ext. 1006

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 0ºF -- outside recess for all students.
2. Between 0ºF and -10ºF -- recess time may be shortened.
3. Colder than -10ºF -- 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 at least once every three weeks. 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.rockford883.org. 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 be one tool to help you stay informed about your child's class.

Monthly Parent Bulletin
The Monthly building bulletin is emailed on the first Friday of each month during the school year. It features highlights from the previous month and previews upcoming events.

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 the school year, please check out the academic calendar in the Introduction part of this handbook, visit our website www.rockford883.org, 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 any other part of the building.

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 attention to Christa Larson. (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.

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 canceled 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.rockford883.org. A media message will be announced over TV stations, KARE 11 TV, WCCO 4, KSTP 5 and KMSP 9, placed on KRWC 1360 radio and our social media channels. 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.

E-Learning Day

Instead of a school closure, we might decide to have an E-Learning Day. E-Learning allows schools to offer access to online instruction provided by the students due to inclement weather. While E-Learning days cannot replace students' face-to-face time with their teachers, they can provide better continuity when inclement weather inhibits a full day of in-person instruction.

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.rockford883.org.

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 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.rockford883.org.

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.rockford883.org.

Telephone Access & Messages to Students

Refer to district Policy 524

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).

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 are prohibited from using cell phones and other electronic communication devices during classroom instructional time, unless directed to do so by the classroom teacher or staff member. 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, and malicious and sadistic conduct. **In the case of an emergency, please contact the school office instead of contacting your child directly.**

Cell phone expectations are designed to ensure that cell phones do not hinder the learning environment or disrupt positive social interactions. By adhering to these guidelines students, parents, and school staff contribute to a school community that values education, engagement, and respectful behavior.

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.

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

Rockford High School follows the International Baccalaureate (IB) policies that were approved by the Rockford Area School Board and authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). These policies can be viewed on the Rockford High School website.

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, including the use of print, digital resources, or AI without proper citation 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.rockford883.org. 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:

Grade	Grade Pt. Value
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

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
		B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	0-59

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
Refer to District Policy 613R
Additional weight is given for courses where the curriculum is significantly more challenging, such as College in the School (CIS) courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. College courses taken by PSEO students, deemed by Rockford High School to be equivalent to its CIS 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.

Grades will be weighted with an additional multiplication factor of .66 and this weighted factor will be calculated into the students weighted grade point average (GPA). 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.

Required Area of Study	Credits Class of 2028 & beyond	Credits Class of 2026 & 2027
English	8	8
Social Studies	7	7
Math (All students must complete Algebra II)	6	6
Science (All students must complete Chemistry or Physics)	6	6
Physical Education	1	1
Health	1	1
Fine Arts	2	2
Career & Technical	1	1
Personal Finance	1	0
Electives	17	18
TOTAL	50	50

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 Programming

Refer to District Policy 623
For students who qualify, the school district may provide summer school learning opportunities. For more information, contact the Director of Teaching and Learning 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 Learning & Innovation Department page on the district website, www.rockford883.org, 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 5.

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

Consistent attendance means attending more than 90% of school days, showing a strong link to academic success and overall school engagement. Low attendance may indicate issues that need addressing, like disconnection from school, barriers to attendance, emphasizing the importance of regular attendance for academic progress. You may be notified by your child's principal if your child misses more than 10% at any point in the school year in an effort to partner and support your child.. For detailed information, see the "Student Attendance" policy on the district website at www.rockford883.org.

Absence Notification

Parents/guardians are required to call the attendance line at 763-477-7525 or the building office staff by 2:45 pm each day a child is absent or tardy or it will be marked unexcused. 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 due to reported illness 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 (3 or more per semester).

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 and will be recorded as an unexcused absence**. 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.

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.

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. Different expectations exist for elementary, middle, and high school level students. For details on each building's expectations please visit each building's Information page under the Students and Families tab.

All students are also prohibited from using a cell phone or other electronic communication devices (bluetooth headphones, glasses with assistive technology and/or AI capabilities, tablets, smartwatches, and similar personal technology) 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, or staff members 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.rockford883.org.

Rockford Area Schools complies with state requirements mandating nonexclusionary discipline policies and practices. "Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices" means policies and practices that are alternatives to dismissing a pupil from school, including but not limited to evidence-based positive behavior interventions and supports, social and emotional services, school-linked mental health services, counseling services, social work services, academic screening for Title 1 services or reading interventions, and alternative education services. Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices include but are not limited to the policies and practices under sections 120B.12; 121A.575, clauses (1) and (2); 121A.031, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1); 121A.61, subdivision 3, paragraph (r); and 122A.627, clause (3).

District 883 Technology Devices

Rockford Area Schools is a 1:1 learning environment where each student is issued a school-owned device to support learning in and out of the classroom. This program enhances access to digital tools, encourages collaboration, and supports creativity and academic success. Devices include Chromebooks and other grade-appropriate technology. For more information on device use, care, and expectations, please refer to the 1:1 Handbook available on the district website under Technology: www.rockford883.org/technology/techplan.

Dress and Appearance

Refer to District Policy 504

Enforcement of appropriate student attire will be approached with careful consideration and sensitivity, with the goals of supporting students as they express themselves. When, in the reasonable judgment of school administration, (1) a student's attire or appearance may materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational mission, school environment, classwork, or school activities; (2) may incite or contribute to substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others; or (3) pose a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications. Parents or guardians will be notified. Other consequences may be enforced in line with Policy 506 (Student Discipline).

Drug-Free School and Workplace

Refer to District Policy 506
Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation) of alcohol, controlled substances,intoxicating substances, or look-alike substances, which includes e-cigarettes,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.

Gambling

Participation in gambling activities for money or other collateral or incentives is prohibited on school grounds without a state-approved gambling license. Students who are found in violation of this expectation may be subject to disciplinary action up to or including suspension or expulsion.

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.rockford883.org.

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.rockford883.org.

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.rockford883.org.
Within 30 days of the start of each school year, the school district must give parents and students direct and timely notice, by United States mail, e-mail, or other direct form of communication, of any curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student's educational data. The notice must:

1. Identify each curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider with access to educational data;
2. Identify the educational data affected by the curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract; and
3. Include information about the contract inspection and provide contact information for a school department to which a parent or student may direct questions or concerns regarding any program or activity that allows a curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider to access a student's educational data.

The school district must provide parents and students an opportunity to inspect a complete copy of any contract with a technology provider.

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.

Public Displays of Affection

Students are expected to maintain appropriate personal boundaries while at school. Excessive public displays of affection, such as kissing or prolonged hugging, are not allowed, as they can be disruptive to the learning environment.

Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices

Refer to District Policy 506

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 carry or use 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; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices and Electronic Delivery Devices" policy, see the district website at www.rockford883.org. 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, 506

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; nunchucks; 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. The building principal shall, as soon as practicable, refer to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system, as appropriate, a student who brings a firearm to school unlawfully. 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.rockford883.org.

PART IV — HEALTH AND SAFETY

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).

Anonymous Reporting

Any person in the community can submit an anonymous report for situations where real or perceived harm has or could occur to another person or group of people. Please contact the school office or district office.

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System allows students in grades 4-12 to share a concern privately and safely, allowing for intervention and assistance before a crisis occurs. For more information, please visit our website.

Asbestos Management Update

The school district has developed an Asbestos Management plan. A copy of this plan can be found at the Rockford Area Schools District Office and is also 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.rockford883.org.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Director of Business Operations at 763-477-9165, x4006.

Clean Indoor Act

The district's Clean Indoor Act contact person is Director of Business Operations, who can be reached by calling 763-477-9165 x4006.

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.rockford883.org.
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 via the school's website at www.rockford883.org., 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.rockford883.org.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 "Administrating 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.rockford883.org., 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 canceled.

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 assess 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.

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, an estimated schedule of pesticide applications (which will be available for review or copying at the school office), and the long-term health effects of the class of pesticide on children can be requested by contacting the Director of Business Operations 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 middle school's Ash Street entrance) 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.

1. Policy Cross Reference Table

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2. Rockford High School Academic Honors

Honors

Students in grade 12 that have maintained a 3.33 to 3.66 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:

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.

Students who are eligible scholastically will be notified by letter and invited to an informational meeting to review the remainder of the selection process.

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. 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.

Faculty and staff will be given a list of all scholastically eligible students to rate accordingly regarding character and leadership qualities.

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.

The chapter advisor will tally the rating scores for each candidate.

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.

Students will be notified by mail of the decision of the selection committee.

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 semesterapproximately 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 grades5 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 5 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

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 FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

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.

N*ote: Refusal to release the above information to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions alone does not affect the school district's release of directory information to the public, including military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions. In order to make any directory information about a student private, the procedures contained in the Directory Information section of this notice also must be followed. If you do not want your child's or eligible student's directory information released to military recruiting officers or post-secondary educational institutions, you also must notify the school district that you do not want this directory information released to any member of 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.

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

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Statewide Assessments:
Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. When all students participate in statewide assessments, schools and educators have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools continuously improve the education they provide and identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the Minnesota Academic Standards or the WIDA English Language Development Standards. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K-12 districts and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education, and statewide assessments give educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)
MCA and the alternate assessments (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)/Alternate MCA) are annual assessments in reading, mathematics, and science that provide a snapshot of student learning aligned to the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.

WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for English Learners
The WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS are the annual assessments for English learners that provide information about their progress in learning academic English, based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments gives families a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students may use MCA results for:

- Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) enrollment eligibility in grade 10.
- Course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.

English learners who take the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements have the opportunity to exit from EL services.

Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes, and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions on how to use money and resources to support all students.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the following page. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

Updated March 2026

Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, the student will not have the opportunity to exit from EL services.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Certain statewide assessment calculations include all eligible students, including those who do not participate. Non-participation impacts accountability results, which may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any additional consequences for not participating.

Explore the Statewide Testing page for more information.

(education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing)

Additional Information

- On average, students spend less than 1% of instructional time taking statewide assessments each year.
- Minnesota Statutes limit the total amount of time students can spend taking other district- or school-wide assessments to 11 hours or less each school year, depending on the grade.
- School districts and charter schools are required to publish an assessment calendar on their website by October 1 each school year. Refer to your district or charter school's website for more information on assessments.

Statewide Assessments: Parent/Guardian Decision Not to Participate

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that your student will not participate in statewide assessments and will not receive individual assessment results. **This form must be submitted to your student's school or district office prior to testing.**

First Name:_____ Middle Initial:_____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Current Grade in School:____ Student ID Number (if known): _____

School: _____ District: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reason for Refusal:_____

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) your student will not participate in this school year:

☐ Reading MCA/Alternate MCA ☐ Science MCA/Alternate MCA

☐ Mathematics MCA/MTAS ☐ WIDA ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Contact your school or district for more information on participation decisions for local assessments.

(Note: This form is only applicable for the 20___ to 20____ school year.)

Updated March 2026

2026-2027 Parent Refusal Form Link

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 651.296.128

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 534R

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 of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting meal shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. 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 are issued a meal account when they enroll in the district. It is the parent(s)' or guardian's responsibility to make sure adequate funds are available in the meal account. Meal payments may be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal for each individual student. Payments can be made in any school building office via cash or check.

B. If the school district receives school breakfast aid under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.1158 or lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.111, it must make breakfast and lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance. All kindergarten students receive a breakfast without charge.

C. A student with an outstanding meal account balance will be allowed to receive a meal without providing payment. The cost of the meal will be added to the student's meal account balance.

D. Once a meal has been placed on a student's tray or otherwise served to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meal account balance with the exception of a la carte items.

E. When a student has a negative five (-$5) account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a la carte items or a second additional entree.

F. Each student will have their own meal account number. A single common number for families with more than one student in the school system will not be used. Each student's account is managed separately. Rockford Area School District #883 -- Policy 534R In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.

G. Families may apply for free or reduced price meal benefits at any time during the school year. Families need to apply annually for benefits. If the household size or income changes during the year, families can reapply. Applications are available online on the district website.

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 ten ($10.00) or less.

B. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program, including, but not limited to, dumping meals, withdrawing a meal that has been served, announcing or listing students' names publicly, or affixing stickers, stamps, or pins.

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. In some instances, the school district does use a collection agency to collect unpaid school meal debts after reasonable efforts first have been made by the school district to collect the debt. 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.

E. The school district will not impose any other restriction prohibited under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.37 due to unpaid student meal balances. The school district will not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or access to material, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid student meal balance.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

A. 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; Rockford Area School District #883 -- Policy 534R In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.
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 will post this policy on the school district's website or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.

C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it will provide the vendor with its school meals policy. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with whom the school district enters into either an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district's school meals policy.

8. Activities: Attendance & Academic/School Regulation

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 and Behavioral Considerations

Excessive tardiness, unserved detention time, or significant or multiple behavioral referrals 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 your 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.

10. Bullying Prohibition

Refer to District Policy 514

I. PURPOSE

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with a student's ability to learn and/or a teacher's ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, the school district intends to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, and to remediate and discipline for those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation, and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. An act of bullying, 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, or on school

transportation. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying or other prohibited conduct that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student~~,~~ or other students, or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges. This policy also applies to an act of cyberbullying regardless of whether such act is committed on or off school district property and/or with or without the use of school district resources.

B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.

C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen or negate the prohibitions contained in this policy.

D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.

E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.

F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures, including the school district's discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506). The school district may take into account the following factors:

    1. The developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved;
    2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
    3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
    4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
    5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. The school district shall employ research-based developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative and remedial measures and effective discipline for deterring violations of this policy, apply throughout the school district, and foster student, parent, and community participation.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events.

G. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying reported to the school district and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

A. "Bullying" means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:

1. an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or

2. materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

The term, "bullying," specifically includes cyberbullying as defined in this policy.

B. "Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.

C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

D. "Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct" means, but is not limited to, conduct that does the following:

1. Causes physical harm to a student or a student's property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;

2. Under Minnesota common law, violates a student's reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; or

3. Is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, prohibited

conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or the MHRA.

E. "On school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

F. "Prohibited conduct" means bullying or cyberbullying as defined in this policy or retaliation or reprisal for asserting, alleging, reporting, or providing information about such conduct or knowingly making a false report about bullying.

G. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct prohibited conduct, prevent prohibited conduct from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of prohibited conduct.

H. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURE

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or prohibited conduct under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available in the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

C. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct at the building level. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct directly to a school district human rights officer or the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters. The building report taker or a third party designated by the school district shall be responsible for the investigation. The building report taker shall provide information about

available community resources to the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the perpetrator, and other affected individuals as appropriate.

D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

E. Reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of bullying and the record of any resulting investigation.

F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Within three days of the receipt of a complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the building report taker or a third party designated by the school district.

B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others, pending completion of an investigation of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, consistent with applicable law.

C. The alleged perpetrator of the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines that bullying or other prohibited conduct has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the

factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; the student discipline policy (See Policy 506) and other applicable school district policies; and applicable regulations.

E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets of bullying or other prohibited conduct and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of bullying or other prohibited conduct who have been involved in a reported and confirmed bullying incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

F. In order to prevent or respond to bullying or other prohibited conduct committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, when determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, who provides information about bullying or prohibited conduct, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying or prohibited conduct. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy.

VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

A. The school district shall discuss this policy with school personnel and volunteers and provide appropriate training to school district personnel regarding this policy. The school district shall establish a training cycle for school personnel to occur during a period not to exceed every three school years. Newly employed school personnel must receive the training within the first year of their employment with the school district. The school district or a school administrator may accelerate the training cycle or provide additional training based on a particular need or circumstance. This policy shall be included in employee handbooks, training materials, and publications on school rules, procedures, and standards of conduct, which materials shall also be used to publicize this policy.

B. The school district shall require ongoing professional development, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 122A.60, to build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with

students to identify, prevent, and appropriately address bullying and other prohibited conduct. Such professional development includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;
2. The complex dynamics affecting a perpetrator, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;
3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for perpetrating or being the target or victim of bullying or other prohibited conduct in school;
4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and
5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.

C. The school district annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying and other prohibited conduct.

D. The administration of the school district is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the target or victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to targets or victims of bullying.

E. The administration is encouraged to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and is directed to review programmatic instruction to determine if adjustments are necessary to help students identify and prevent or reduce bullying and other prohibited conduct, to value diversity in school and society, to develop and improve students' knowledge and skills for solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in civil discourse, and recognizing, responding to, and reporting bullying or other prohibited conduct, and to make effective prevention and intervention programs available to students.

The administration must establish strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.

The administration is encouraged, to the extent practicable, to take such actions as it may deem appropriate to accomplish the following:

1. Engage all students in creating a safe and supportive school environment;
2. Partner with parents and other community members to develop and implement prevention and intervention programs;
3. Engage all students and adults in integrating education, intervention, and other remedial responses into the school environment;

4. Train student bystanders to intervene in and report incidents of bullying and other prohibited conduct to the schools' primary contact person;

5. Teach students to advocate for themselves and others;

6. Prevent inappropriate referrals to special education of students who may engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct; and

7. Foster student collaborations that, in turn, foster a safe and supportive school climate.

F. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent or reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.

G. The school district shall inform affected students and their parents of rights they may have under state and federal data practices laws to obtain access to data related to an incident and their right to contest the accuracy or completeness of the data. The school district may accomplish this requirement by inclusion of all or applicable parts of its protection and privacy of pupil records policy (See Policy 515) in the student handbook.

VIII. NOTICE

A. The school district will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.

B. This policy or a summary thereof must be conspicuously posted in the administrative offices of the school district and the office of each school.

C. This policy must be given to each school employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.

D. Notice of the rights and responsibilities of students and their parents under this policy must be included in the student discipline policy (See Policy 506) distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year.

E. This policy shall be available to all parents and other school community members in an electronic format in the language appearing on the school district's or a school's website.

F. The school district shall provide an electronic copy of its most recently amended policy to the Commissioner of Education.

IX. POLICY REVIEW

To the extent practicable, the school board shall, on a cycle consistent with other school district policies, review and revise this policy. The policy shall be made consistent with Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 and other applicable law. Revisions shall be made in consultation with students, parents, and community organizations.

11. Harassment and Violence

Refer to District Policy 413

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment 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 (Protected Class).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class.

B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's Protected Class, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, school district personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)

C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel based on a person's Protected Class.

D. The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Assault" is:

1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;

2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or

3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public

assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability when the conduct:

1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;

2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or

3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

D. Protected Classifications Definitions

1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual who:

   a. a physical, sensory, or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities; of such individual;

   b. has a record of such an impairment; or

   c. is regarded as having such an impairment.

2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors being domiciled with:

   a. their parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian; or

   b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.

3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.

4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.

5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.

6. "Sexual orientation" means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical,

or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness. "Sexual orientation" does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.

7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.

E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.

F. Sexual Harassment; Definition

1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment~~,~~ or an education; or

b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or

c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.

2. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:

a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;

b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;

c. unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of students(s) by teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;

d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors,

accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;

e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or

f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence; Definition

1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof that involves the touching of another's intimate parts, or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.

2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:

a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts;

b. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;

c. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or

d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence; Definition

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to an individual's Protected Class.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel

or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct that may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

E. In Each School Building. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.

G. In the District. The school board hereby designates **each building principal** as school district human rights officers to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.[1]

H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.

I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.

L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.

N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.

O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

V. INVESTIGATION

1

A. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.

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 any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.

D. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.

E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law, and applicable school district policies and regulations.

B. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials

will notify the targets or victims and alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VIII. 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 Minnesota Department of Human Rights or another state or federal agency, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minnesota Statatutes Chapter 260E may be applicable.

B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence or abuse.

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.

B. This policy shall be given to each school district employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.

C. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.

D. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

E. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.

F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

12.Hazing Prohibition

Refer to District Policy 526

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing.

B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.

C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.

E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.

F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate hazing or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of hazing may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of hazing may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

G. This policy applies to hazing that occurs during and after school hours, on or off school premises or property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.

H. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

I. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.

2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.

5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

C. "On school premises or school district property, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

D. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.

E. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

F. "Student organization" means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report hazing anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

B. The school district encourages the reporting party to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building

report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of hazing prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

C. A teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, and other school employees shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conducts that may constitute hazing or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.

F. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.

B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students; or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.

C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and applicable school district policies and regulations.

E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in hazing.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged hazing, who provides information about hazing, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged hazing, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

A. This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's building and staff handbooks.

B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

Handbook Acknowledgement Form 2026-2027

We have received a copy of the 2025-2026 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