

Robertson County Schools

Student Handbook 2026-2027

Robertson County Board of Education
800 M.S. Coutts Blvd
Springfield, Tennessee 37172
(615) 384-5588
www.rcstn.net



FOREWORD

This Student Handbook is intended to inform students and parents of some of the Robertson County School System's policies that pertain directly to students. This is not an inclusive list of all policies. The Board of Education's policies are available on the website. School policies and procedures are set forth in the Robertson County Handbook; however, individual schools may include additional policies and procedures that pertain only to those schools (refer to your child's school handbook).

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure each student is prepared to succeed in life.

VISION STATEMENT

Robertson County Schools will enable all students to reach and exceed high academic and career standards while empowering them to succeed in a technologically advanced and culturally diverse society.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to revise or change this document and the policies herein. The current policies and procedures are posted on the system's website and include the effective date 07.01.2026.

SCHOOL SYSTEM GENERAL INFORMATION

Up-to-date information about the Robertson County School System can be found by visiting website at <https://www.rcstn.net>.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Robertson County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or marital status, in training, activities or employment practices in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Acts of 1997 and 2004.

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SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

Director of Schools Dr. Danny L. Weeks
Donna Trice, Executive Administrative Assistant
Brandy Bonner, Receptionist

Assistant Director of Schools for Instruction Melanie Dickerson

Assistant Director of Schools for Operations Steve Sorrells

BOARD OF EDUCATION

District 1 Demetria White, Vice-Chair

District 2 Josh White, Chairman

District 3 Jeff White

District 4 Scott Rice

District 5 Stephen Ayres

District 6 Connie Hogan

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION (Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers are 615-384-5588)

Budget and Finance Sheila Clinard, Finance Coordinator
Della Jones, Purchasing Agent
Amy Jones, Administrative Assistant for Federal Programs
Jill Krebs, Bookkeeping Coordinator
Stephanie Stratton, Administrative Assistant

Buildings and Grounds Clint Corbin, Supervisor
Melinda Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Office: 615-384-0213

Career and Technical Education Will Elliott, Supervisor
Asia Hindman, Coordinator
Karla Hearron, Administrative Assistant

Elementary and Middle Grades Education Angel Williams, Supervisor
Suzanne Maddox, Learning Acceleration Coordinator

Abby Brosche, Middle Grade Coordinator
 Christie Champion, Elementary Grades Coordinator
 Kendra Monfette, Administrative Assistant

Federal Programs Dr. Emily Hollingsworth, Supervisor
 Kelly Whyte, Federal Programs Coordinator
 Amy West, Federal Programs Coordinator
 Dr. Angela Pepper, Title III Coordinator
 Lester Woodard Administrative Assistant

Human Resources Polly Spencer, Supervisor
 Annette Weeks, Coordinator, Certified
 Becky Caudill, Coordinator, Classified
 Christina Charpentier, Administrative Assistant

Visual & Performing Arts Coordinator J.R. Baker

Secondary Education Dr. Bob Pruitt, Supervisor
 Dr. Nicki Fields, 9-12 Coordinator

School Nursing Services Amber Savell, Coordinator
 Ashley Horton, District Charge Nurse
 Amber Roach, Administrative Assistant

School Nutrition Patsi Gregory, Supervisor
 Robert Swieder, Field Manager
 Brooke Stiles, Financial Coordinator
 Amy Castle, Administrative Assistant

Special Education Dr. Misti Swindle, Supervisor
 Cecilia Connally, Kristen Edwards, Nicole Roatti, and Melinda Smith, Coordinators
 Melissa Lemcke and Jennifer Myers, Instructional Coaches
 Kelly Monfette, Administrative Assistant

Student Services/Records Dr. Myles Hebrard, Supervisor
 Danielle Frazier, Family Resource Center Director
 Alyssa Ziegler, Behavior Coordinator
 Cathy Watkins, Administrative Assistant
 Sherri Wilson, Administrative Assistant/Records

System Data Lewis Walling, Supervisor
 Melinda G. Thompson, State Data Coordinator

Christy Bundy, Administrative Assistant
 Office: 615-382-8924

Technology Rodney Hopper, Supervisor
 Michele Carpenter, Administrative Assistant
 Caleb Gonzalez, Help Desk Technician
 Office: 615-382-2318
 Help Desk: 615-382-4685

Textbooks, Materials and Media Josh Vaden, Coordinator
 Sheila Pennington, Administrative Assistant
 Office: 615-384-0238

Transportation/Safety Kenny Hardaway, Director
 Julienne Hernandez, Administrative Assistant/Translator
 Daniela Castillo, Administrative Assistant/ Finance
 Julie Braswell, Safety/Operations Manager
 Cortney Woods and Jennifer Smith, Routing Coordinators
 Katrina Shelton, Dispatch/Field Trip Clerk
 Jason Gray, Human Resources Coordinator
 Zack Jones, Service Manager

Mike Smith, Bus Driver Trainer
 Office Number: 615-384-4555
 Unsafe Operation of a School Bus Hotline: 615-382-4680
 Fax Number: 615-382-3600

Webmaster Jesse Castillo

SCHOOL LISTINGS AND PRINCIPALS

Bransford Early Learning School (Pre K) 615-384-4313
Jill Reeves, Principal

Cheatham Park Elementary School (Grades 3 – 5) 615-384-0232
Jennifer Hayes, Principal
Nicole Brown, Assistant Principal

Coopertown Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 5) 615-384-7642
Tiffany Hyde, Principal
Kristie Vertrees, Assistant Principal

Coopertown Middle School (Grades 6 – 8) 615-382-4166
Dr. Joseph Bradley, Principal
Dr. Andrea Bringard, Assistant Principal
Dr. Hubbell King, Assistant Principal

Crestview Elementary School (Grades K – 5)..... 615-382-2222
Jen Teachenor, Principal
January Finch, Assistant Principal
Sarah Hall, Assistant Principal

East Robertson Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 5) 615-654-3874
Amy Shapton, Principal
Kecia Young, Assistant Principal

East Robertson High School (Grades 6 – 12) 615-654-2191
Mary Cook, Principal
Jeff Chatman, Assistant Principal
Holly Michie, Assistant Principal / 504 Coordinator

Greenbrier Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 5) 615-643-4529
Brooke Callis, Principal
Jennifer Connor, Assistant Principal

Greenbrier Middle School (Grades 6 – 8) 615-643-7823
Chesley Trelstad, Principal
Stephen Pelt, Assistant Principal
Cassie Wright, Assistant Principal

Greenbrier High School (Grades 9 –12) 615-643-4526
Dr. Katie Osborne, Principal
Dionne Springfield, Assistant Principal
Larry Staggs, Assistant Principal
Shane Sutton, Assistant Principal

Innovation Academy (Grades 6 - 12) 615-384-4821
Dr. Grant Bell, Principal
Brian Albamont Assistant Principal
Charlotte Osborn, Assistant Principal

Jo Byrns Elementary School (Grades Pre K –5) 615-696-0533
Megan Keyes, Principal
Alisa Holmes, Assistant Principal

Jo Byrns High School (Grades 6 - 12) 615-696-2251
Dr. Cory Willoughby, Principal
Allison James, Assistant Principal
Ken Neitz, Assistant Principal

Krisle Elementary School (Grades Pre K - 5) 615-384-2596
Amanda Miglore, Principal
Dr. Emilee Cain, Assistant Principal

Robert F. Woodall Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 2) 615-672-7772
Dinah Maupin, Principal
Patricia Appleby, Assistant Principal

Robertson County Phoenix Academy 615-382-2328
Dr. Mary Jo Holmes, Principal

Springfield High School (Grades 9 –12) 615-384-3516
Dr. Chris Tucker, Principal
Brittany Beck, Assistant Principal
Arielle Dyer, Assistant Principal
Jeff Haines, Assistant Principal
Hannah Thomas, Assistant Principal

Watauga Elementary School (Grades K - 5) 615-859-5252
Kelley Armstrong, Principal
Lisa Shrull, Assistant Principal

Westside Elementary School (Grades K-2) 615-384-8495
 Michelle Darnell, Principal
 Michelle Barnett, Assistant Principal

White House Heritage Elementary School (Grades 3 - 6) 615-672-4595
 Amanda Fields, Principal
 Kala Sorrells, Assistant Principal

White House Heritage High School (Grades 7 - 12) 615-672-0311
 Dr. Patrick Carneal, Principal
 Dr. Julie Dortch, Assistant Principal
 Stephen Owens, Assistant Principal
 Dr. Emily Thompson, Assistant Principal

Robertson County Schools Approved Revision 2026-27 Calendar

Revised 12/8/2025

JULY 19 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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	

AUGUST 19 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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 21 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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			

OCTOBER 17 DAYS Q1: 47 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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

NOVEMBER 16 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					

DECEMBER 14 DAYS Q2: 40 DAYS S1: 87 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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		

3: Independence Day
 Observance

3: Admin Day
 (6 hours)
 - No Students
 4: ½ Student Day
 (full day for teachers)
 6: PD Day (6 hours)
 - No Students

4: Q1 Prog Reports
 7: Labor Day
 - Schools Closed

12-16: Fall Break
 - Schools Closed
 23: Q1 Report Cards

2: Parent-Teacher
 Conferences
 3: PD Day (3 hours)
 - No Students
 20: Q2 Prog Reports
 25-27: Thanksgiving
 - Schools Closed

18: ½ Day for
 students and staff
 21-31: Winter Break
 - Schools Closed

JANUARY 17 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						

FEBRUARY 19 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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						

MARCH 15 DAYS Q3: 44 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

APRIL 22 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

MAY 15 DAYS Q4: 44 DAYS S2: 88 DAYS Y1: 175 + 5 SP=180 DAYS						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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					

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

1: Winter Break
 - Schools Closed
 4: PD Day (3 hours)
 - No Students
 5: Admin Day
 (6 hours)
 - No Students
 8: Q2 Report Cards
 18: MLK, Jr. Day
 - Schools Closed

5: Q3 Prog Reports
 15: Presidents' Day
 - Schools Closed

1: Parent-Teacher
 Conferences
 2: PD Day (3 hours)
 - No Students
 15-19: Spring Break
 - Schools Closed
 25: Q3 Report Cards
 26: Good Friday
 - Schools Closed

23: Q4 Prog Reports

21: Report Card Day
 - ½ Day for
 students & staff
 31: Memorial Day

18 - Juneteenth
 Observance

Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4
 *Includes 15 hours of PD *uses 5 stockpiled days; 8 days remain
 Admin Days Professional Development Days System Holiday Progress Reports/Report Cards Abbreviated Days (½ Days)

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is an essential function of overall student success. Attendance is a key factor in student achievement and students are expected to be present each day school is in session. A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than 5 on or before August 15. No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten program. A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three years of age.

Compulsory Attendance:

T.C.A. 49-6-3001(c)(1) states every parent, guardian or other legal custodian residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between the ages of 6 and 17 years, both inclusively, shall cause such child or children to attend public or non-public school, and in the event of failure to do so, shall be subject to the penalties provided in this part.

Absences from School

Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused by the principal/designee. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to be aware of consequences concerning graduation, prom, athletic participation, etc. This information can be found at www.rcstn.net and is available at each high school.

Excused absences may include, but not be limited to:

- (1) illness of student; after three (3) consecutive days, or repeated absences, a note from a physician may be required;
- (2) illness of an immediate family member after three (3) consecutive days, or repeated absences, a note from a physician may be required;
- (3) death of a family member;
- (4) extreme weather conditions;
- (5) religious observances;
- (6) college visits;
- (7) pregnancy;
- (8) school endorsed activities;
- (9) Summons, subpoena, or court order;
- (10) circumstances, in the judgment of the principal/designee, created by emergencies over which the student has no control.

Schools may require an official verification of any appointment prior to excusing the absence. Schools may limit the number of excused absences for appointments.

Unexcused absences shall include but are not limited to:

- (1) car trouble;
- (2) personal business (e.g. cleaning house, shopping, babysitting, errands, hair appointment, work in the private sector).

Students in grades K-8 will be allowed no more than 3 parent notes per semester.

Students in grades 9-12 will be allowed no more than 2 parent notes per semester.

In order to receive attendance credit, a student must be present for 3.5 hours of the school day in accordance with State Attendance Accounting policies. Perfect attendance practices will be defined by the school but should exemplify the amount of time spent in school.

Reasons for absences or tardiness and requests for early dismissals before the close of school must be requested by the custodial parent or guardian or those authorized by the parent/guardian to request release. Students participating in school-sponsored activities whether on or off campus shall not be counted absent.

All missed class work or tests may be made up, upon request of the student or parent/guardian. A reasonable effort must be made, and ample opportunities must be provided by school personnel. Grades may reflect less than full credit (exceptions include pre-announced tests and term assignments that will be due upon return). School work and tests missed for suspensions may be required to be made up.

An accumulation of **8** unexcused tardies/early dismissals will equal one (1) unexcused day, which will contribute to the number of unexcused days that trigger truancy interventions. Such absences may result in referral to juvenile court.

Chronic Absenteeism:

Chronic absenteeism is an indication of barriers or conditions that are limiting a student's opportunity to learn. All absences count (excused, unexcused, and disciplinary removals) and is identified when a child has missed 10% or more of instructional days (18 days). Excessive absences, no matter the type of absence, represents lost instructional time for a student.

Truancy:

Truancy is a legal violation that can result in a referral to juvenile court. A student is truant when s/he is in violation of compulsory attendance laws and is absent from school without a lawful excuse.

Progressive Truancy Plans:

T.C.A. 49-6-3009(c) requires director and attendance supervisor to devise and the board to adopt progressive interventions for student who violate compulsory attendance prior to filing a truancy petition or educational neglect charges.

Tier 1 will be implemented upon a student's accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences and must include communicating clear attendance expectations to the parent (i.e., phone call, email, etc.). School officials will continue to monitor unexcused and excused absences and provide prevention-oriented strategies. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will recognize good attendance matters and work to improve a child's attendance.

Tier 2 will be implemented upon a student's accumulation of five (5) unexcused absences and must include: student/parent conference, attendance contract, availability of follow-up meetings, and individualized assessment aimed at addressing the student's attendance problems. Suspensions may not be used in the absence count.

Tier 3 will be implemented upon a student's accumulation of seven (7) unexcused absences and must include: school-based community services, school-based restorative justice program, and/or Saturday or after-school courses designed to improve attendance and behavior.

Tier 4 will be implemented upon a student's accumulation of ten (10) unexcused absences and must be referred to Student Services for the Truancy Review and Support meeting. Parent(s)/guardian(s) failing to attend the Truancy Review and Support meeting will automatically have a petition filed with juvenile court.

If any tier of the plan is unsuccessful and the school can document that the parent/guardian is unwilling to cooperate, the director or designee may report absences to the appropriate judge (T.C.A. 49-6-3009(f)).

Release During School Hours

The following procedures will be observed with regard to dismissal:

1. No student will leave school prior to regular dismissal hours without the approval of the principal and parent. Elementary students will be permitted to leave school prior to regular dismissal only in the company of a parent, guardian, employee, police officer, court officer, or a person designated by the parent in writing.
2. When dental/medical appointments cannot be scheduled outside school hours, a parent/guardian must send a signed, written request for dismissal or call for the student in person. Schools may require an official verification of the appointment prior to excusing the absence.
3. Students will be released only upon the written request of the custodial parent/guardian or to those authorized by the parent/guardian.
4. Schools shall not permit a change in the physical custody of a child unless the person seeking custody presents a certified copy of a court order and gives reasonable advance notice.
5. High School students may be released for jobs and training centers outside their home school only when it is a part of an approved program.

Driver's License:

Any student 15 or older who becomes deficient in attendance shall be reported to the Department of Safety for driver license denial or revocation. A student is deficient if s/he drops out of school or has ten (10) consecutive or fifteen (15) days total of unexcused absences during a semester (T.C.A. 49-6-3014).

BEHAVIOR

The Robertson County Board of Education is required by state law to make and adopt rules setting forth standards of conduct and behavior that must be met by all pupils. Each school, in accordance with Board policies, shall also develop a code of behavior and discipline that is appropriate for that school. The following regulations apply to any student who is on school property, on a school bus, in attendance at any school-sponsored activity. Additionally, the regulations apply to any student whose conduct has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Board expects all school staff, students, and parents to assume responsibility for appropriate behaviors in school.

Each student has the right to:

- ❖ Have the opportunity for a free education in the most appropriate learning environment;
- ❖ Be secure in person, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizure;
- ❖ Expect that school will be a safe place;
- ❖ Have an appropriate environment conducive to learning;
- ❖ Not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, or disabilities; and
- ❖ Be fully informed on school rules and regulations.

Each student has the responsibility to:

- ❖ Know and adhere to reasonable and established rules/regulations;
- ❖ Respect the human dignity and worth of every other individual;
- ❖ Refrain from libel, slanderous remarks, and obscenity in verbal and written expression;
- ❖ Study and maintain the best possible academic achievement;
- ❖ Be punctual and present in the regular school program;
- ❖ Dress and groom in a manner that meets reasonable standards of health, cleanliness, modesty and safety;
- ❖ Maintain and/or improve the school environment, preserve school and private

- property, and exercise care when using facilities;
- ❖ Refrain from behavior which would lead to harm or which disrupts the educational process;
- ❖ Respect the authority of school administrators, teachers and other authorized personnel in maintaining discipline in the school and at school-sponsored activities;
- ❖ Obey the law and school rules as to the possession or the use of alcohol, illegal drugs and other unauthorized substances or materials; and
- ❖ Possess on school grounds only those materials that are acceptable under the law, and accept the consequences for articles stored or held in one's locker, bags, vehicles, or person.

Conduct

The staff is authorized to take reasonable measures to establish appropriate school behavior. Any employee shall have the authority to control the conduct of any student while under the supervision of the system. This authority shall extend to all school activities, including all games and public performances of athletic teams or other groups, trips and excursions. Such measures may include the use of reasonable force to restrain or correct students and maintain order.

A student shall not use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct which causes the disruption, interference or obstruction of any school purpose while on school property, in school vehicles or at any school-sponsored activity, function or event, whether on or off campus. Neither shall he/she urge other students to engage in such conduct.

A student found guilty of misbehavior may receive punishment ranging from verbal reprimand to suspension and/or expulsion dependent upon the severity of the offense and the offender's prior record, age, and appropriate accommodation to meet individual differences. The protections of IDEA and Section 504 are required and will be followed for all identified eligible students.

Use of Tobacco

The use and possession of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco paraphernalia by students is prohibited in school buildings or on school grounds, in school vehicles or buses, or at any school-sponsored activity at any time, whether on or off school grounds.

State law states that law enforcement officials may issue a juvenile court citation for students under 18 who unlawfully possess tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes. At the time of issuance of the citation, the officer or school official shall seize the tobacco product. In addition, the following actions will be taken:

- 1st offense: In-school suspension (ISS)
- 2nd offense: 1-day out of school suspension (OSS)
- 3rd offense: 2-day OSS
- 4th offense: 3-day OSS
- 5 and subsequent offenses: referral to Discipline Hearing Authority (DHA)

Use of THC Vapes

The use of any type of vape is prohibited on campus or at any school function. THC vapes will be considered a level IV offense and will automatically be referred to the DHA. If evidence is presented that a student was in possession, using, or distributing- the DHA has only two options available: expulsion from school for one-calendar year or remand to the alternative school for 180 days.

Alcohol and Drug Use

Students will not possess, distribute, or be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages in school buildings or on school grounds, school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored activity at any time whether on or off school campus.

Students will not market or distribute any substance that is represented to be or is substantially similar in color, shape, size, or markings to a controlled substance.

Upon information that a student is suspected of violating this policy, the principal/designee shall be notified immediately. If it is determined that the policy has been violated, the principal/designee shall notify the parent and appropriate law enforcement officials. The student shall be suspended and referred to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Students shall not possess, handle, transmit, use, or attempt to use any dangerous weapon in school buildings or on school grounds at any time, or in school vehicles, or off school grounds at a school-sponsored event.

Upon information that a student is suspected of violating this policy, the principal shall notify the student's parent/guardian and the appropriate law enforcement officials as required by law. Any weapon or instrument that is deemed to be hazardous or with intent, including laser pointers, stun guns, flame throwers, etc. shall be immediately confiscated. The student shall be suspended and referred to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority.

Dress Code (Policy 6.310)

Students shall dress and groom in a clean, neat, and modest manner so as not to distract or interfere with the operation of the school, during the school day and any school events on school property. Any clothing that exposes underwear or body parts is prohibited

(TC.A. § 1006.07(2)(d)). Specific guidelines appropriate for each level of school (elementary, middle, high) may be developed but include the following areas:

1. No head coverings, except for religious head coverings and coverings for medical reasons
2. No bare midriff, revealing necklines
3. No shorts, or jeans or jeans with holes more than three and one-half (3.5) inches above the fold of the knee
4. No tube, tank, see through tops
5. No sagging pants
6. No attire promoting alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
7. No dusters or trench coats
8. No clothing containing advertising for objectionable causes or offensive language
9. No gang related clothing
10. Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times (tied/fastened)
11. No outer clothing which resembles lounge wear, pajamas, or underwear
12. No spikes, chains, piercing, or other items that cause a safety concern

When a student is attired in a manner that violates the school dress code or is likely to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school, the teacher and/or principal shall take appropriate action. Costumes are prohibited unless otherwise allowed on specific days approved by the school principal.

Personal Communication and Electronic Devices

Students in grades 3 – 12 may possess personal communication devices and personal electronic devices so long as such devices are turned off and stored in backpacks, purses, or personal carry-all's. Such devices include but are not limited to: wearable technology such as eyeglasses, rings, or watches that have the capability to record, live stream, or interact with wireless technology; cell phones; laptops; tablets; and mp3 players. At no time shall a student operate an electronic device with video or picture taking capabilities in a locker room, classroom, bathroom, or other location where such operation may violate the privacy right of another person. Violation of this policy may result in confiscation of the device and other disciplinary actions.

At no time shall the school be responsible for preventing theft, loss or damage to devices brought onto school property.

Students can use personally owned devices in the classroom for education purposes only, and this must be done under the direct supervision of the teacher. Consequences can include, but are not limited to:

1st offense—Confiscation of device; return in 3 school days or \$10 fine.

2nd offense—Confiscation of device; return in 5 school days or \$20 fine.

3rd offense—Confiscation of device; return in 10 school days or at end of grading period, whichever is longer, or \$30 fine.

4th offense—Confiscation of device; return at end of semester or \$40 fine.

Subsequent offenses will be treated under 4th offense guidance and may result in more serious discipline.

Discipline Procedures/Discipline Levels

The following misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties.

In all cases where disciplinary action is taken, appropriate investigation and due process procedures must be followed. When appropriate, parents and law enforcement officials will be notified.

LEVEL ONE:

The principal of each school, working with the teaching staff, shall be responsible for the development and implementation of a code of conduct to deal with minor misbehaviors on the part of the student that impede orderly classroom procedures or interfere with orderly operation of the school/bus. These misbehaviors can usually be handled by individual staff members. These misbehaviors may include, but are not limited to, classroom disturbances, violation of the hands-off policy (keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself), classroom tardies, cheating, lying, use of vulgar language, dress code violations, failure to do assignments, failure to carry out directions, disrespect to staff or teacher, and other conduct warranting discipline.

Appropriate disciplinary options at the school level may include verbal reprimand, special assignments, restricted activities, counseling, withdrawal of privileges, issuance of demerits, strict supervised study, detention, or in-school suspension.

LEVEL TWO:

Include misbehaviors whose frequency or seriousness tend to disrupt the learning climate of the school or behaviors that do not represent a direct threat to health and safety but do require administrative action at school or on the bus. Level II behaviors should be referred to the principal/designee when other corrective efforts are unsuccessful.

These misbehaviors may include, but are not limited to, a continuation of the unmodified Level I behaviors, school or class tardies, school or class truancy, using forged notes or excuses, disruptive behavior, or disrespect to a teacher or staff.

Appropriate disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to: schedule change, behavior modification, peer counseling, referral to an outside agency, in-school suspension, detention, suspension from school-sponsored activities, suspension from riding the bus, or out of school suspension.

LEVEL THREE:

Include misbehaviors which are acts directly against persons or property, but whose consequences do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others in the school or on the bus.

These behaviors include but are not limited to: a continuation of unmodified Level One or Level Two behaviors, fighting (simple), vandalism (minor), stealing, use possession, sale, distribution, and/or being under the influence of tobacco products/e-cigarettes/vaping paraphrenia, harassment, abusive language, disrespect to teacher or staff, threats to others, and leaving school/campus without permission.

Appropriate disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to: in-school suspension, detention, restitution for loss, damaged, or stolen property, social adjustment classes, referral to outside agency, or out of school suspension not to exceed ten (10) days.

LEVEL FOUR:

Include acts which result in violence to another's person or property, or which pose a threat to the safety of others or are so serious they usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and action by the Disciplinary Hearing Authority.

These behaviors may include, but are not limited to: unmodified Level One, Two or Three behaviors, vandalism (excess of \$100), consensual or non-consensual sexual contact, bomb threat, death threat, extortion, theft/possession/sale of stolen property (excess of \$200), arson, harassment, fights (major, causing injury), assault and verbal assault, aggravated assault* possession/use/transfer of dangerous weapons (which include but are not limited to firearms and knives with blades greater than four inches), assault/battery*, possession/use/transfer of unauthorized substances (including alcohol, marijuana*, stimulant drugs*, THC, prescription medication not prescribed to the student, or drug paraphernalia), credible victimization of any student or employee of Robertson County Schools (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, slandering, and/or impersonating) and credible threat delivered via electronic means to cause bodily injury or death to another student or any employee of Robertson County Schools, that disrupts activities at school, valid threats of mass

violence on school property or a school-related event as determined by a threat assessment team.*

Any occurrence of Level Four behaviors must be reported to the school administration. The minimum disciplinary action by the school's administration is suspension to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. Infractions marked with an asterisk (*) are subject to expulsion or remand for a period of not less than a calendar year.

If a student's action poses a threat to the safety of others in the school, a teacher, school administrator, school employee, or school bus driver may use reasonable force when necessary to prevent bodily harm or death to another person.

Bus Consequences

Inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be addressed through verbal warnings, assigned seating, bus referrals, suspension of transportation privileges, or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by school administrators. In most cases, the following disciplinary level system will be used that requires administrative action:

Referral:	Consequence:
1 st	Parent/guardian notified
2 nd	1 day bus suspension
3 rd	3-day bus suspension
4 th	5-day bus suspension
5 th	7-day bus suspension
6 th	10- day bus suspension or DHA referral

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is not used in the Robertson County School System.

Student Suspensions

Any principal or assistant principal may suspend any student from attendance at school, including its sponsored activities, or from riding a school bus for good and sufficient reasons including but not limited to:

- Willful and persistent violation of the rules of school or truancy.
- Immoral or disreputable conduct, including vulgar or profane language.
- Violence or threatened violence against the person or any personnel attending or assigned to any school
- Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school or the property of any person attending or assigned to the school.
- Inciting, advertising, or counseling of others to engage in any of these acts.

- Possession of a pistol, gun, or firearm on school property.
- Possession of a knife.
- Assaulting a principal/teacher with vulgar, obscene, or threatening language.
- Unlawful use/possession of barbitol or schedule drugs (TCA 53-10-101).
- Engaging in behavior that disrupts a class or school-sponsored activity.
- Any other conduct prejudicial to good order or discipline in any school.
- Off-campus criminal behavior resulting in the student being legally charged with a felony when the student's continued presence in school poses a danger to persons or property or disrupts the educational process.

Days that school is closed do not count as suspension days.

Procedures for In-School Suspension (ISS) and Out-of School Suspension (OSS)

Unless the student's continued presence in the school, class or activity presents immediate danger to the student or other persons or property, no principal shall suspend any student until that student has been advised of the nature of the misconduct, questioned about the incident, and allowed to give an explanation.

Upon suspension of any student (including ISS in excess of one (1) day), an immediate attempt shall be made to contact the parent to inform him/her of the suspension. The student shall not be sent home before the end of the school day unless contact has been made.

Upon suspension of any student, other than for ISS of one day or less, the principal shall, within 24 hours, notify the parent of (1) the length, (2) the cause, and (3) the conditions for readmission which may include, at the request of either party, a meeting with the parent, student and principal.

If the suspension is to exceed five (5) days but is no more than ten (10) days, the principal shall request a meeting with the parent and student within the first five (5) days following the issuance of the suspension and shall develop and implement a plan for correcting the behavior. At the time of this meeting, whether attended or not by the parent/guardian and the student, the principal shall determine the length of the suspension (up to ten (10) days total) and the conditions for readmission.

If at the time of the suspension, the principal/designee determines that an offense has been committed which in the judgment of the principal/designee would justify a suspension for more than ten (10) days, s/he shall immediately suspend the student to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. After the hearing, the Disciplinary Hearing Authority may:

1. Order the removal of the suspension.
2. Order the removal of the suspension upon terms and conditions it deems reasonable.
3. Assign the student to an Alternative Program.
4. Suspend a student for a specified period of time.
5. Recommend expulsion to the Board of Education.

The Disciplinary Hearing Authority (DHA) shall make a written record of the proceedings. Within five (5) days of the DHA rendering a decision, the student, parent, or principal may appeal the decision of the DHA to the Director of Schools, who will affirm or overturn the decision of the DHA. Within five (5) days of the Director's decision, the student, principal, or principal may request a review by the Board. Following the review, the Board may grant or deny a request for a Board hearing.

If the suspension occurs during the last ten (10) days of any term or semester, the student shall be permitted to take such final examinations or submit such work as necessary to complete the course of instruction for that semester, subject to conditions prescribed by the principal/designee. Students under suspension from one school in the System cannot enter another school, nor attend school-sponsored activities/events in the System.

Zero-Tolerance Behavior

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment free of drugs, drug paraphernalia, violence and dangerous weapons, any student who engages in the following behaviors will be subject to a suspension for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Director of Schools shall have the authority to modify the suspension requirement on a case-by-case basis. Zero-tolerance acts as defined by T.C.A.

§ 49-6-3401(g) and § 49-6-4002:

- Unlawful possession of unauthorized substances including marijuana, stimulant drugs, and prescription drugs not prescribed to the student (e.g., any controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, or legend drug on school property or at a school-sponsored event)
- Committing aggravated assault upon any student, teacher, or system employee.
- Assault that results in bodily injury upon any student, teacher, principal, administrator, any other employee of the school or a school resource officer.
- Bringing to school or being in unauthorized possession of a firearm on school property.
- Valid threats of mass violence on school property or a school-related event as determined by the threat assessment team.

Procedural Due Process

Before school authorities administer disciplinary measures, reasonable inquiry shall be

made to determine the truth of what happened. The nature of this inquiry will vary in degree with the seriousness of the offense.

For minor offenses where the classroom teacher takes corrective measures, no formal procedure is required. The teacher will make an inquiry into the incident to ensure that the offender is accurately identified that he/she understands the nature of the offense, and that he/she knows the consequences of the offense for which he/she is accused

In case of severe offenses where there is a possibility of suspension or legal action, the student shall be advised of the nature of his/her misconduct, questioned about it, and allowed to give an explanation. The principal shall investigate the incident prior to administering discipline.

If the principal determines that the offense is of such nature that the student's suspension should exceed ten days, he/she shall refer the case to the DHA.

Interrogations by School Personnel

Students may be questioned by teachers or principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning must be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering falsely, or evasively or refusing to answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the principal may interrogate the student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

School personnel have a duty to report any reasonable suspicion that a student is carrying, or has carried, a weapon or is violating or has violated, a provision of the Tennessee Drug Control Act to the principal/designee. If the principal/designee is unavailable and the offense was committed on school property, the suspicion shall be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Interrogations by the Police Department

If the principal has requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours, on school grounds, and/or during school activities. The principal shall first attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise. However, the interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the principal or his/her designee shall be present during the interrogation. The use of policewomen or female staff members is desirable in the

interrogation of female students.

Police-initiated Interrogations

If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated crimes committed outside of school hours, the police department shall first contact the principal regarding the planned interrogation and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate. The principal shall make reasonable effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the principal or his/her designee shall be present during the interrogation.

Searches by School Personnel

Any trained principal/designee having reasonable suspicion may search any student, place, package or container, or thing on school property. Such objects may be in the actual or constructive possession of the student while on school property or during any organized school activity, including while riding any school owned vehicle. Such searches may be conducted if the principal/designee receives information which would cause a reasonable suspicion that the search will lead to the discovery of:

1. Evidence of any violation of the law;
2. Evidence of any violation of school rules or proper standards of conduct;
3. Any object or substance which because of its presence presents an immediate danger of harm or illness to any person.

All lockers or other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the system and are provided for the use of students, are subject to inspection, and may be accessed for maintenance, or search.

A student may be subject to a physical search, or a student's pocket, purse, or other container may be required to be emptied because of the results of a locker search, or because of information received which seems reasonable to the principal. School officials may conduct hand-held or walk-through metal detector checks of a student's person or personal effects.

Any refusal to a justified search will be subject to the suspension of school and a possible referral to the discipline hearing authority (DHA).

Searches by the Police Department

The principal may request the assistance of a school resource officer or the police to:

1. Search any area of the school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on the school premises; or

2. Identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy.

Student Vehicles

Students who ride bicycles or drive motor vehicles to school must leave them parked in designated areas until the end of the school day unless permission is obtained from the principal/designee. Parking regulations for each school will be developed. Vehicles parked on school property by students or visitors are subject to be searched for drugs, drug paraphernalia, dangerous weapons and/or other prohibited items.

RCS Bullying, Hazing, and Harassment Procedure

The Robertson County Schools Bullying, Hazing, and Harassment Procedure will be disseminated annually to all school staff, students, and parents via the Robertson County Student Handbook and/or website. This policy is in effect while students are on school property, at any school sponsored activity, on school provided equipment or transportation, or at any official school bus stop. If the act takes place off school property or outside of a school sponsored activity, this policy is in effect if the conduct is directed specifically at a student or students and has the effect of creating a hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process. These acts may also take place through electronic means. Cyber-bullying is bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to telephones, cellular phones, or other wireless telecommunication devices, text messaging, emails, social networking sites, instant messaging, videos, websites, or fake profiles.

Bullying is conduct that **meets one or more** of the following criteria:

1. Is an act directed at one or more students that is intended to harm or embarrass;
2. Is repeated over time; and
3. Involves an imbalance of physical, emotional, or social power.

Bullying can be conducted verbally or in writing (teasing, name calling, taunting, threatening to cause harm) socially/relationally (hurting someone's reputation or relationship), or physically (hurting someone or their possessions).

Hazing is an intentional or reckless act by a student or group of students that is directed against any other student(s) that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of the student(s) or that induces or coerces a student to endanger his/her mental or physical health or safety. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions and is limited to those actions taken and situation created in connection with initiation or affiliation with any organization.

Reporting and Investigations

The policy requires the principal and /or principal's designee, at each school, to be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints alleging violation of this policy. They are responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. They shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. Once determined through investigation that the policy has been violated, a report on the investigation will be delivered to the parents of the complainant and accused student(s) and to the Director of Schools (within the parameters of the Federal Family Educational Rights, and Privacy Act (FERPA) at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g). Documentation of all alleged violations of the bullying policy will be kept for historic reference.

All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal and/or principal's designee. All other members of the school community including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy. Reports may be made anonymously; however, such complaints may affect the school's ability to issue formal disciplinary action.

Preventions and Intervention Response

Consequences and appropriate remedial for anyone who commits one or more acts of harassment, bullying, or other acts of violent behavior may range from the development of a behavior plan up to and including suspension or expulsion, as set forth in the Robertson County Board of Education's approved code of conduct.

School administrators shall consider the nature and circumstances of the incident, the age and maturity of the student, the degree of harm, previous incidences or pattern of behavior, or any other factors as appropriate to properly respond to each situation.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of harassment, bullying or other act of violent behavior shall be unique to the individual incident and will vary in method and severity according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance, and must be consistent with the Board of Education's approved code of conduct.

Reprisal, Retaliation, and False Accusations

The Robertson County Board of Education prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports or assists in any investigation of an act alleged in this policy. It prohibits any person from falsely accusing another of having committed an act of harassment or bullying as means of reprisal or retaliation. The consequences of appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the administrator after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act.

Sexual Harassment of Students

Sexual harassment activity toward any student by an employee or another student will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment is defined as conduct, advances, gestures, or words of a sexual nature which:

1. Unreasonably interferes with the student's work or educational opportunities; or
2. Creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment; or
3. Implies that submission to such conduct is an explicit or implicit term of receiving grades; or
4. Implies that submission to or rejection of such conduct will be used as a basis of determining the student's grades and/or participation in an activity.

Victims of sexual harassment shall report these conditions to the appropriate school official. Confidentiality will be maintained, and no reprisals or retaliation will occur as a result of good faith reporting of charges.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, all of the circumstances, including the nature of the conduct and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated. The principal/designee shall be responsible for investigating the complaint. If a satisfactory resolution of the complaint is not reached, the student may appeal the matter to the Director of Schools and, ultimately, to the Board.

Racial Harassment

Racial harassment activity toward any student by an employee or another student will not be tolerated. Racial harassment may include:

1. Oral/written statements having racially demeaning implications; or
2. Gestures or conduct rooted in racial prejudice, or factors or considerations that signal contempt toward others of any race; or
3. Evidence, suggestion, or implication that racial factors may be considered as a basis for academic or personnel decisions.

Any person who alleges racial harassment by a staff member or student may complain directly to a principal or other individual designated to receive such complaints. Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting racial harassment will not reflect upon the individual's status nor will it affect future employment, grades, or assignments.

The right to confidentiality, both complainant and of the accused, will be respected, consistent with the Board's legal obligations, and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when the conduct has occurred.

GRADES

Grading System

Conduct grades shall be based upon criteria developed within each school and shall be:

E - Excellent S - Satisfactory U – Unsatisfactory

In grades 3-12, the following scale is used:

90 – 100	A	60 – 69	D
80 – 89	B	0 – 59	F
70 -- 79	C		

TCAP Achievement/EOC grades have a percentage impact on final grades as required in state law.

Honor Rolls and Awards

Honor Rolls may be published for students in grades 4-12. In order to qualify for the "A" honor roll, a student must receive an "A" in each subject attempted during the grading period. In order to qualify for the "A-B" honor roll, a student must receive at least a "B" in each subject attempted during the grading period. Parents may make a written request that their student's name not be included.

Class Ranking

Senior class ranking is calculated at the end of the 3rd nine weeks of high school. No ranking is available prior to that calculation.

Graduation

Robertson County students will be required to complete 26 credits on the block schedule. Students must meet all graduation requirements in order to participate in any graduation ceremony. The school system will sponsor graduation exercises two times per year during winter and spring. Should a student be found to be deficient in terms of attendance or behavior, s/he may be denied the privilege of participating in graduation exercises.

Honor Graduates

Any student who completes all requirements for a regular diploma with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 shall be designated a graduate with "Honors".

Graduate with Distinction

Students will be recognized as graduating with "Distinction" by attaining a 3.0 average AND completing at least one of the following: earn a nationally recognized industry certification; participate in at least one of the Governor's Schools; participate in one of the state's All-State musical organizations; be selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist; attain a score of 31 or higher composite score on the ACT; attain a score of 3 or higher on at least two advanced placement exams; successfully complete the International

Baccalaureate Diploma Program; or earn 12 or more semester hours of transcript postsecondary credit.

Graduate with State Honors

Any student who scores at or above all subject-area readiness benchmarks on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT shall graduate with “State Honors.” All benchmarks must be met on a single test. Students achieving such will be recognized at their individual commencements.

Tennessee Promise

The Tennessee Promise is only open to graduating high school seniors. It offers free tuition for five consecutive semesters of community college. There are several steps and requirements that must be completed by specified dates in order to remain eligible for the program:

1. Students must complete the application at www.tnpromise.gov by the November 2025 deadline. Check with your guidance counselor.
2. Submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.gov by the deadline established by the State of Tennessee.
3. Attend two mandatory meetings as scheduled in the Spring 2026.
4. Make an application to a Tennessee community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT).
5. Meet and maintain the grade point average requirement of the community college or technical college to which you are applying.
6. Complete eight hours of community service before enrolling in community college and maintain that level of service each term they are enrolled in the program.
7. Start college in the first fall semester after you graduate from high school. Once enrolled, you must take at least 12 hours of classes each semester you are enrolled.

For more information, contact your school counselor and visit www.tnpromise.gov.

Early Graduation

Students who will meet all graduation requirements at the end of the first semester of their senior year may apply for early graduation status. Application will be made on the appropriate forms and submitted per established guidelines.

Students approved for early graduation status will be awarded their diploma and be officially graduated at the end of the first semester as part of a school sponsored graduation exercise. Upon graduation, these students are no longer eligible for participation in school-

sponsored activities; such activities include but are not limited to: athletic programs, extracurricular activities, baccalaureate, prom, and second term graduation.

OTHER

Section 504

In compliance with state and federal law, Robertson County Schools will identify, evaluate, and provide access to appropriate educational services to any student eligible under Section 504. Eligible students must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services, please contact your school’s 504 coordinator.

ParentSquare

ParentSquare is the leading platform for schools to engage with families for student success. This all-in-one hub provides families with one place to view school information and announcements, respond as needed, and stay engaged with student learning. This notification system is fed by our student information system (PowerSchool), so please make sure your contact information (phone numbers and e-mails) are current in your school's main office. Individual schools may use other platforms to communicate daily information.

Care of School Property

Students shall help maintain the school environment, preserve school property, and exercise care while using school facilities or property. School property is defined as buildings, buses, books, equipment, materials, or any other item under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Any student found to be responsible for the loss or damage of school property may be held liable for replacement or fine. Failure to pay the fine imposed within a reasonable time may result in:

- Refusal to issue any additional textbooks or technology devices until restitution is made; or
- Withholding of all grade cards, diplomas, certificates, or transcripts until restitution is made.

Acceptable Use Policy

I understand that, as a Computer & Internet user, I am responsible for my actions and that I am responsible for acting considerately and appropriately, in accordance with the following rules. When using any Robertson County Schools Technology Resources or a personal device on district property, including computers and the Internet:

* I will not send, display, download or receive offensive and obscene messages, pictures, videos and/or music. * I will not use inappropriately explicit language. * I will not violate copyright laws. * I will not use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or any other social media sites except when related to classroom instruction. * I will not attempt to hack, bypass, or infiltrate any computer, network system, or web-filtering system. * I will not attempt to enter administrative network areas or other network areas not related to specific classroom instruction. * I will not sexually harass, insult, embarrass, stalk or cyber-bully others. (see Board policy 6.304) * I will not intentionally damage or vandalize computers, computer systems, computer networks, software or any other district owned equipment. * I will not use technological systems for a private gain or any commercial purpose. * I will not use other users' passwords, nor will I share my password with others.

* I will not attempt to access another user's private files, phone or e-mail messages, for this will be considered theft. * I will not intentionally misuse resources provided by the school system. * I will not disregard internet safety practices. Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) * I will not use a personal technological device during the school day unless it is being used for an academic purpose with permission from a faculty member in a designated area. * I will not load software not specifically licensed to Robertson County Schools. * I will not use a third-party Internet provider while on school property (personal hotspot/personal data plan). * I will not attach non-approved devices to the school network (personal router, etc.).

Safety instruction – Students will be given appropriate instruction in Internet safety, security, appropriate online behavior and cyberbullying awareness.

All data including e-mail communications stored or transmitted on school system computers shall be monitored. Students have no expectation of privacy with regard to such data.

I understand that any or all the following sanctions could be imposed if I violate any of the policies and procedures regarding the use of Robertson County Schools Technology Resources, including the Internet.

* Loss of access to Internet, access to other electronic media, and/or use of computers or other technology resources * Additional disciplinary action to be determined at the school or district level in line with existing practice regarding inappropriate language or behavior * Legal action, when applicable.

Sanctions listed above may also apply when activity away from school is harmful to or involves other students/staff and/or causes a disruption with regular school business.

The student and parent understands that they are responsible for equipment that is school issued, including all accessories. An optional protection plan can be purchased, before an incident occurs, which covers accidental damage and theft. Families without the yearly protection plan purchased may incur replacement costs up to \$600 for lost or neglected items.

The use of AI to generate false images, video, or audio of students and staff members is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to the creation, manipulation, distribution of content that inaccurately represents the likeness or actions of any individual.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Reporting Unsafe Operation of a School Bus

If you wish to report the unsafe operation of an RCS school bus, please call the transportation hotline at 615-382-4680.

Bus Conduct

The school bus is an extension of the school and a privilege; therefore, students shall conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior. Students are under the supervision and control of the bus driver while on the bus, and all reasonable directions shall be followed.

The principal/designee of the student transported shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal/designee determines that the behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus or if s/he disobeys state or local rules pertaining to transportation. The Director of Transportation is authorized to issue disciplinary consequences for any conduct that impedes the safe operation of a school bus.

Any student who gets off the bus at any point between the pick-up point and the school must present the bus driver with a note of authorization from the parent and signed by the principal/designee of the school that the student attends. Any student wishing to ride a bus other than his/her designated bus must have written permission from the parent and approval of the principal/designee.

Bus Rules

Safe and dependable pupil transportation requires constant team effort from all those involved in the process. These rules are designed to describe for students and parents the

behaviors, which will result in a safe and satisfactory school bus trip. It is of great concern to all of us that each child is safe every day. Teachers are requested to spend sufficient time during the school day to see that all pupils are thoroughly familiar with the school bus safety rules listed below. It is expected that students be at the bus stop prepared to catch the school bus ten (10) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive and note that the child may get picked up ten (10) minutes after the buses normal scheduled pick-up time.

1. **ON TIME:** In order that drivers may meet their schedules, students must be at the proper location for boarding the bus on time. Running to the bus presents added danger.
2. **WAITING:** All students must stay well clear of traffic lanes while waiting for the bus. Running, fighting, or shoving must not be allowed. The lives and safety of students depends upon good order at this time.
3. **COURTEOUS:** Each student who rides a school bus is expected to demonstrate a courteous and cooperative manner to all personnel.
4. **GOOD ORDER:** Students must maintain reasonable order so that the driver may be alert for any traffic hazards, signals, or emergency vehicles.
5. **REMAIN SEATED:** All students are to be seated and remain seated for the entirety of the trip. The driver may assign any or all students to certain seats as they seek to operation the school bus in a safe manner and students are expected to comply to all directives from the driver and/or attendant.
6. **PROPER DESTINATION:** Students must ride to their proper destination. To get off elsewhere, the student will give the driver a dated note signed by the parent and the principal.
7. **PROHIBITED:** Smoking, eating, drinking, or profanity are prohibited on the bus.
8. **KEEP INSIDE:** No students are to put their head, hands, or arms outside the bus window.
9. **GETTING OFF:** If students must cross the road after getting off the bus; they shall walk across approximately twelve (12) feet in front of the bus. Make sure traffic has stopped in both directions and then cross upon a signal from the driver.
10. **STAY CLEAR:** Students must never play about the bus either when getting on or off. Pushing, kicking, horseplaying or slapping at or near the bus can be extremely dangerous.
11. **ELIGIBILITY:** A student shall become ineligible for transportation when their behavior is such as to cause dissension on a school bus, or when they disobey state or local rules and regulations pertaining to and/or impeding the safe operation of a school bus.
12. **RESPONSIBILITY:** It is the personal responsibility of the student and his parents to maintain eligibility to ride the bus.

13. **PAY FOR DAMAGE:** Students who are known to inflict damages to the bus will pay the cost of repairs. This may be part of the principal's disciplinary action.
14. **PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE:** The principal of the school which the student attends oversee student's behavior on the bus just as in the classroom. Drivers and/or attendants will report to the principal students who need correction. The Director of Transportation may issue disciplinary action for any conduct that directly impacts the safe operation of a school bus.
15. **PUNISHMENT:** The principal of the school will administer punishment for bad behavior as required. This punishment may include suspension from school. When suspended from the bus, a student is suspended from all buses.
16. **RAILROAD CROSSING:** Students must reduce the noise level and assist the driver in listening and looking in order for a safe crossing.
17. **PRE-K BOARDING:** Pre-K students always board and unload the bus first to facilitate sign-on/sign-off and ensure student safety.
18. **PARENT RESPONSIBILITY AT BUS STOPS:** Although we are committed to the safety of students on the bus and at the bus stop, there are situations that require your assistance and participation in order to ensure the safety of your children when walking to and from the bus stop. Sometimes, children can be exposed to a dangerous situation because of their own or others' behavior. Students are under the control of their parents/guardians during the time they walk to and from the bus stop. Robertson County Schools makes use of parent responsibility walk zones to ensure efficiency in operating routes. Generally Elementary age students are typically not asked to walk more than one tenth of a mile to their designated bus stop, Middle school students not more than two tenths of a mile, and High school not more than three tenths of a mile. Unsafe bus stops are evaluated by the Transportation Director before bus routes are modified. Please note that students must be at the bus stop if they wish to ride the bus. (Standing at the house, on the porch, or inside will result in your student not having a way to school). Drivers are instructed not to blow horns for students/parents not at the stop due to HOA rules and regulations around the district. Drivers are not required to wait until a parent is present when dropping off or picking up students. Pre-K students are the only classification of students who require an adult be present at the bus stop under the law.
19. **CELL PHONES:** Students may possess cellular phones/tablets/laptops, so long as such devices are used in a safe, respectful, and responsible manner while on the bus. At no time shall a student operate a cellular device with video or picture taking capabilities in a locker room, classroom, bathroom, school bus, or other location where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. Students may use the personal communication devices to listen to music, work on homework, or watch/play games/movies that are age

appropriate and do not violate student code of conduct. Note: If listening to music or watching a video/game the student must listen with one ear bud in their ear and the other ear bud out in order for the student to hear any instructions provided by the driver/attendant. Students are expected to be respectful with cellular phones/tablets. Otherwise, the phones/tablets will be confiscated by the driver/attendant and will be given back to the student at the end of the route. Drivers may return the phone to the local school administrator if they deem that the use of said device was in clear violation of student code of conduct standards. If the cell phone/tablet is confiscated there will be disciplinary action for the student.

20. **SEAT BELT SAFETY:** Students who ride buses equipped with seat-belt restraint systems are required to wear them at all times while on the bus. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in disciplinary action.

NOTE: This list is not all inclusive and parents are encouraged to review the student handbook for additional safety expectations and consequences associated with violation of expectations.

MEDICATIONS

All medications must be stored with the school nurse unless other guidance is communicated from the nurse. Medication should only be dispensed by the school nurse or a trained staff member if a parent/guardian is unable to. All medications must be:

1. Stored in a locked box/cabinet in the nurse's station:
2. Brought to school by a responsible adult in a properly labeled pharmacy container (prescription), or unopened bottle (over the counter).
3. Accompanied by the physician's order for administration.

Emergency Medication:

1. Epi-pens and glucagon injections may be kept with the student. Students carrying epi-pens must have a physician's order stating they are capable of using the epi-pen without supervision. This physician's order must be accompanied by written permission from the parent/guardian.
2. Inhalers and glucagon injections may be kept with the student if there is parent permission and a physician's order on file with the school nurse. The student must be responsible for carrying the inhaler and/or glucagon injection.

Over-The-Counter Medicines:

1. Must be brought to school in a new, unopened container and labeled with the student's name and reason medication is needed.
2. Shall be administered according to the manufacturer's recommendation.
3. Aspirin/aspirin containing products will not be administered without a physician's order.
4. Herbals, vitamins, and essential oils will not be administered at school.

Prescriptions:

1. All prescription medications require a physician's order.
2. Prescription narcotic pain medications will not be given at school.
3. Medications prescribed 3 times per day should be given at home (before school, after school, and at bedtime).

Stock Medication/Supplies:

- A limited amount of stock medical supplies (gauze, latex free bandages, isopropyl alcohol, hydrocortisone, peroxide, calamine lotion, wound cleanser, petroleum jelly, etc.) are maintained in nursing clinics for use with our students.
- If you do not wish your student to be treated with such items, please provide notice to the building principal in writing.
- No stock medications are kept in school clinics. All medications must be provided by the parents along with correct documentation.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Childhood is an important time to establish lifelong healthy eating habits. Healthy school meals and nutritional education will be available to all children as an important part of their education. In addition to meal service, other foods and beverages sold on the school campus will meet federal and state nutrition standards as directed by Robertson County Wellness Policies.

Applications for no-cost or reduced-cost meals may be obtained from schools at any time during the school year and are available on-line on the county website. Even though meals are offered at no cost for some students, other financial benefits may be available to families approved for free or reduced meal benefits. Students who participate in reduced-cost meals will not be identified in any way from students who pay regular prices.

Robertson County School Board Policy 3.500 states, "In the event a student does not have adequate funds to purchase a meal, he/she will be allowed to charge the meal. The Director of Schools shall ensure that this policy is provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households that transfer to the school during the school year."

School breakfast and lunch prices for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows:

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
*Elementary School	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50
*Middle School	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.75
*High School	\$ 1.00	\$ 3.00
*Student – Reduced	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

Staff Member	\$ 2.50	\$ 4.00
Visitor Adult	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Visitor Child	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00

Schools who are members of the Community Eligibility Provision allow students in those schools to eat breakfast and lunch at no cost. Please consult your school for membership status.

Competitive Foods/Vending Machines

The sale of competitive foods must be in compliance with all local procedures, but at a minimum must be as stringent as the current state and federal regulations concerning competitive foods.

Vending machines in the schools will be controlled so that they will not offer competition to the school lunch and breakfast program or encourage poor eating habits. Students may not have access to vending machines containing competitive foods during meal service periods. Local, State, and Federal guidelines and procedures for implementation are on file in the district food service office.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Emergency Closing

The Board authorizes the Director of Schools to close schools in the event of hazardous weather or any other emergency that presents a threat to the safety of students, staff members, or school property. As soon as the decision to close schools is made, the Director of Schools will notify the local public media and request that an announcement be made. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified using ParentSquare phone notification system. It is imperative the most up-to-date telephone numbers are on file with your child's school. In the event of a school evacuation, please wait and listen to the ParentSquare call for instructions on the reunification (student pick-up) site; do not go to the school that has been evacuated.

Storm Warning Dismissal

Students may not be released to parent(s)/guardian(s) while the immediate area of the school is under a warning. Parents who arrive during an active warning will be encouraged to remain in a safe place within the school. Students who drive will not be dismissed until the warning has expired. Students may be held beyond regular dismissal time if there is an active weather warning at the time of dismissal. Students who are on buses at the time of a weather warning will seek shelter at the first available facility.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Robertson County Virtual School

The Virtual School is an online learning opportunity for Robertson County students in

grades 3-12. Students should be on track for graduation and free of substantial credit deficiencies. Since a great deal of learning will be self-directed, students must be eager to learn and motivated to do so. To schedule an eligibility screening, please contact RCVS at 615-382-8920.

Alternative School (Robertson County Phoenix Academy)

The Board operates an Alternative School for students in grades 3 -12 who have been suspended or expelled from regular school programs. Attendance in the Alternative School shall be mandatory, and students attending an alternative school shall provide their own transportation. Only district level action may determine placement in the Alternative School. The Robertson County School System honors the alternative school assignments of other districts.

VISITORS

Except on occasions, such as school programs, athletic events, open house or public events, ALL VISITORS MUST report to the office when entering the school and sign-in with the front desk. Authorization to visit the building will be determined by the principal/designee.

In order to maintain the conditions and atmosphere suitable for learning, no other person shall enter onto the school grounds or into the buildings during hours of student instruction except students, the staff, parents of students, and other persons with lawful and valid business on school premises.

The principal/designee has the authority to exclude from the school premises any persons disrupting the educational programs, disturbing the teachers or students, or on the premises for the purpose of committing an illegal act. The principal/designee shall engage law enforcement officials when s/he believes the situation warrants such measures. Requests by students to bring visitors to school must be submitted and approved by the principal. In general, visitors are not allowed to observe in classrooms.

Visitor Code of Conduct

Persons who come onto school property shall be under the jurisdiction of the site administrator/designee. Individuals who come onto school property or who contact employees on school or district business are expected to behave accordingly. The Director of Schools shall develop a visitor code of conduct to be presented to the board attorney, and then, approved by the Board.³ This code shall prohibit the following:

1. Cursing and use of obscenities;
2. Disrupting or threatening to disrupt school or office operations;
3. Acting in an unsafe manner that could threaten the health or safety of others;

4. Verbal or written statements or gestures indicating intent to harm an individual or property; and
5. Physical attacks intended to harm an individual or substantially damage property.

The visitor code of conduct shall be posted on the district's website as well as the school's website, and copies of the code shall be provided to all teachers, counselors, administrative staff, and other school employees. In addition, each school entrance shall have the visitor code of conduct posted prominently along with direction on how to have questions answered about the code.

Annually, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided with a copy of the code of conduct. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall acknowledge with their signature that they have read and understood the code of conduct.

Consequences for Visitor Code of Conduct Violations

The principal/designee has the authority to exclude from the school premises any persons disrupting the educational programs in the classroom or in the school, disturbing the teachers or students on the premises, or on the premises for the purpose of committing an illegal act.²

The principal shall contact law enforcement officials when he/she believes the situation warrants such measures.

ENROLLEMENT

Admission to School Requirements:

Parents of newly enrolling students must present:

- ❖ Birth certificate or officially accepted evidence of date of birth at the time of registration
- ❖ Evidence of current medical examination
- ❖ Evidence of required immunizations on a Tennessee Certificate
- ❖ Proofs of residence with the custodial parent(s) or legal guardian

Students must reside with the custodial parent, court appointed legal guardian, or properly delegated adult as provided for in T. C. A. 34-6-301 - 34-6-310. Both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the designated caregiver must reside in the State of Tennessee and the caregiver must reside in Robertson County.

Delegation of authority:

A "Parent" is defined as a parent or parents of a minor child may delegate to any adult person residing in this state temporary care-giving authority regarding the minor child when hardship prevents the parent or parents from caring for the child. This authority may

be delegated without the approval of a court by executing, in writing, a power of attorney for care of a minor child on a form provided by the department of children's services. Hardships may include but are not limited to:

1. The serious illness or incarceration of a parent or legal guardian;
2. The physical or mental condition of the parent or legal guardian or the child is such that care, and supervision of the child cannot be provided; or
3. The loss or inhabitability of the child's home as the result of a natural disaster.

(2) A local education agency (LEA) is not required to enroll a student with a power of attorney stating a hardship other than one (1) of the three (3) specifically stated in subdivisions (a)(1)(A)-(C). The LEA may, however, enroll a student with a properly executed power of attorney for other hardships on a case-by-case basis. Additional documentation may be requested.

(b) The power of attorney for care of the minor child shall be signed and acknowledged before a notary public by the parent.

(c) For purposes of this part the term "parent" includes a legal guardian or legal custodian of the minor child. [Acts 2003, ch. 71 § 1; 2004, ch. 521, §1.] All POAs must be revisited annually.

Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students

The Board may deny admission of any student who has been suspended or expelled from another in-state school system, even though the student changes residence. Enrolled students may be dismissed if it is determined subsequent to the enrollment that the student has been suspended or expelled from the former school system.

Student Assignment

Students are expected to attend the school to which they are assigned by virtue of their residence. Legal residence is defined as the place of regular lodging by the parent/guardian.

Students are enrolled in school on a temporary basis pending verification of enrollment documents. If at any time students are found to be in violation of enrollment guidelines, the parent/guardian will be notified by the school administrator. The parent/guardian will withdraw the child and enroll in the appropriate school of zone.

Open Enrollment

Parents may apply to attend another school in Robertson County depending on the number of available seats. The parents will have to complete the online application at www.rcstn.net yearly in the spring. The student's name will be placed into a lottery and if a seat is awarded to the student, the parents must provide transportation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Purpose of Student Surveys:

The Robertson County School District is committed to promoting student health and well-being by collecting data on behaviors, attitudes, and social norms related to substance use, mental health, and other health-risk behaviors. This policy authorizes student surveys to inform prevention, intervention, and support programs while ensuring parental choice and student privacy.

Survey Administration:

The district shall administer surveys, including the Tennessee Together Student Survey, to students biennially or as directed by state guidelines. Surveys will include evidence-based questions on substance use (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, opioids), mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety), and related risk behaviors to support district wellness initiatives.

Parental Notification and Opt-Out:

- Parents or legal guardians will be notified at least 30 days prior to survey administration via email. Notifications will detail the survey's purpose, sample questions, confidentiality measures, and opt-out procedures.
- Parents may opt their child out by submitting a written or electronic opt-out form, available on the district website or at school offices, to the school principal by the specified deadline.
- Students will participate in the survey unless an opt-out request is received.

Confidentiality and Privacy:

- All survey responses will be anonymous, with no personally identifiable information collected.
- Aggregated data will be used to enhance prevention programs and student support services, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Tennessee state laws.

Implementation:

- Surveys will be conducted by trained staff in a secure environment during school hours.
- The district will collaborate with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to align surveys with state prevention goals.
- Aggregated results will be shared with the community via the district website and annual reports to demonstrate impact on student wellness.

High Intellectual Potential Definition for Intellectually Gifted

"Intellectually Gifted" means a child whose intellectual abilities, creativity, and potential for achievement are so outstanding that the child's needs exceed differentiated general education programming, adversely affects educational performance, and requires specifically designed instruction or support services. Children from all populations (e.g., all cultural, racial, and ethnic groups, English Learners, all economic strata, twice exceptional, etc.) can be found to possess these abilities. Children identified as intellectually gifted are exempted from the discipline procedures at 34.C.F.R. 300.530-537. Children with a dual diagnosis that includes intellectually gifted must be considered as children with a disability and may not be exempted from the discipline procedures at 34 C.R.F. 300.530-537.

"Adverse effect" means the general curriculum alone is inadequate to appropriately meet the student's educational needs.

Assessment Criteria

Eligibility for services as a gifted student is based on evaluation in each of the following component areas:

- Educational Performance/Achievement
- Creativity/Characteristics
- Cognitive/Intelligence

Eligibility Criteria

In addition to meeting assessment criteria, a student must demonstrate a need for services beyond what is provided in the general education curriculum.

The Referral Process

Anyone, including the parent(s), guardian, or community professional may refer a student for screening and possible evaluation. A screening team of educational professionals considers screening information, previous evaluations, and teacher/parent input to determine if a comprehensive evaluation is needed. The team's decision is based on multiple data sources. An assessment team will determine the types of assessment needed. All procedural safeguards are followed to ensure evaluation procedures are non-discriminatory.

Services for Gifted Students

Special services are often required to meet the unique needs of gifted children. A team of professionals and the child's parent(s) plan the student's educational program based on the assessment information obtained through the evaluation process.

If you know of a child with these outstanding abilities and characteristics and would like to refer him/her for gifted evaluation, please contact your school's gifted teacher or Jenea Jackson at Central Office at any time.

Family Engagement Plan Robertson County Schools developed the following standards of family engagement to help accomplish our mission to ensure each student is prepared to succeed in life.

- ❖ The school district will establish opportunities for families to actively engage in the district's mission and strategic goals.
- ❖ The school will establish opportunities for families to actively support its mission and goals.
- ❖ The teacher will establish opportunities for families to actively engage in supporting their children's education.
- ❖ The family will support the learning of its members and the efforts of the school system to provide a quality education to all students.
- ❖ Handbooks, newsletters, report cards and other communications are easy to understand and translated to the degree practicable.

The complete Family Engagement Plan may be accessed at http://www.rcstn.net/departments/federal_programs/family_engagement_plan/ or a paper copy may be obtained at your child's school. This plan is to be reviewed annually by parents and educators.

Pre-made or Store Purchased Food/Drink

School administrators reserve the right to deny entry of food items for special occasions within the school. Please reach out to your child's school to understand the rules around the entry of outside food for celebrations, parties, field trips, etc.

In addition, carbonated beverages are discouraged throughout the school day. Not only can they be messy when spilled, they can impact the health of a child. Please note that some schools may prohibit or limit the availability of consuming carbonated beverages and may ask your child to discard the drink, put it away and take it back home, and/or drink water.

Outside food deliveries for students, during the school day, are prohibited.

Screenings

Robertson County students have the opportunity for various health screenings including vision, hearing, dental, body mass index, scoliosis, and blood pressure. Students in Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades will be offered a hearing, vision, blood pressure, and height/weight (Body Mass Index) screening. A color vision screening will

be offered to those students in 2nd grade. In addition, those students in 6th grade will be offered a screening for scoliosis. Parents will only be notified of their student's screening results if they are found to be outside of normal limits.

Please contact your school nurse for screening information.

Student Wellness Policy

The Board recognizes the link between student wellness and academic achievement. In order to promote overall wellness for our students, a Student Wellness Policy (policy number 6.411) has been created. This policy can be found on the county website under Board Policies. This policy states that an advisory council shall be established to serve as a resource to school sites for implementing policies. The School Health Advisory Council consists of individuals representing the school and community, including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, school board members, health professionals, school food service representatives, and members of the public.

Notification of Family Life Education

Your student has the opportunity to participate in valuable age-appropriate programs presented at school that will be offered during the school year that address abstinence-based family life education (teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention). This student handbook serves only as NOTIFICATION of the potential programs. A parent permission form will be sent home prior to all program opportunities. All program content follows the guidelines and requirements set forth in the Family Life Domain of the TN Health Education Standards as required by the TN State Board of Education. According to T.C.A 49-6-1304, Family Life Education is required. Parent(s)/guardian(s) have the right to review any and all program materials prior to the implementation. Please contact the individual agencies and request to review their curriculum. Contact information for each agency will be on the provided parent permission form.

Photo/Video

On occasion, students may be videotaped or photographed while participating in instructional programs or school activities. Over the course of the year, children's names and/or photos may be used or published in District publications or in local newspapers or other media or letters relating to school activities. If parents elect for students to be excluded, they must provide written documentation to the building Principal. Due to confidentiality, video recordings remain the property of the school system and are not to be shared / copied for the public.

Parents may photograph or video their own student, but photos or videos of other students or school personnel are prohibited without prior written notice from parents or guardians.

Student Records -- Annual Notification or Rights/ Privacy Rights

The student's parent/guardian or the eligible student has the right to:

- ❖ Inspect and review the education record.
- ❖ Seek correction of items in the records which are believed to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights.
- ❖ File a complaint with the appropriate officials when the System violates laws and regulations relative to records.
- ❖ Obtain a copy of such records at minimal expense.
- ❖ Exercise control over other people's access to the records, except when prior written consent is given, or under circumstances as provided by law, or where the System has designated certain information as "directory information".

A form is available online, under the Student Services tab, if a parent or guardian wishes to request a review of records.

Directory Information

Statistical information not identified with a particular student may be released to any person, agency, or the public. Directory information includes: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent or previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Student directory information for 11th and 12th graders shall be made available upon request to persons or groups which make students aware of occupational and educational options, including official recruiting representatives of the military forces of the State and the United States.

Parents/Guardians of students or eligible students have 2 weeks after this notification to advise the system in writing of items they designate not to be used.

Student Homework Help

Robertson County is proud to be in partnership with the Homework Hotline program. Homework Hotline provides one-on-one free tutoring by phone to Middle Tennessee students and parents. With Homework Hotline, students tackle new concepts, complete challenging assignments, and gain academic skills. Homework Hotline helps students achieve and thrive – one assignment at a time. Students who get the help they seek return to school better prepared and less discouraged.

Bilingual assistance is available in several languages. This program is free thanks to the program's sponsor. Robertson County Schools students may obtain homework help in any subject by calling the toll-free number at 1-888-868-5777 or 615-298-6636 on Monday through Thursday from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm or you can email questions to

director@homeworkhotline.info.

Homeless Liaison (McKinney-Vento)

Children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence have specific rights under the McKinney – Vento Education Assistance Act. Please contact the Homeless Liaison, Jenni Dusky, at jennifer.dusky@rcstn.net or by phone at 615-382-3609 or 615-289-6945, for additional information

Family Resource Center

The mission of the Family Resource Center is to help individuals identify and overcome barriers that impede the fulfillment of their goals, to promote the development of strong families, to assist in the preservation of family units, and to break the cycle of at-risk behaviors.

The Family Resource Center is a non-threatening referral agency that matches the problems individuals are experiencing with a community-based agency or a direct service offered by the Family Resource Center. Referrals to the Family Resource Center can be made by any individual, and the referral process is free. The Family Resource Center provides access to programs and workshops such as parenting support and stress management classes. These programs and workshops serve students, parents and the community. The Family Resource Center is located at 700 Bransford Drive, Springfield Tennessee. Please contact the Dr. Danielle Frazier at danielle.frazier@rcstn.net or by phone at 615-382-3104 or 615-487-9888, for more information.

School Health Services

The major objective of School Nursing Services is to protect and promote the health of students. Verification of physicals/immunizations, assessment of sick and injured students, performance of procedures, and assisting with medications are just a small portion of the services School Nurses provide daily. School Nursing services are conducted based on Tennessee State Laws, Guidelines for Health Care Professionals in the School Setting, and Board/Departmental Policies. Healthy children learn better! School Nurses are doing their part and thank you for doing yours.

Robertson County Schools' Suicide Protocol is available from the School Nursing Office upon request.

This department is located at 800 M.S. Coutts Blvd, Springfield, TN. Contact Amber Savell, RN, Coordinator, at 615-382-3606 or by email at amber.savell@rcstn.net.

Every Student Succeeds Act

The Every Student Succeeds Act provides information to parents regarding students, parents and schools.

- ❖ Parents have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct their child.
- ❖ Parents have the right to be notified if a district employs a teacher for over four weeks who does not meet the highly qualified requirements.
- ❖ The local school system is implementing a plan to ensure that all Robertson County teachers and paraprofessionals meet the requirements defining “highly qualified.”
- ❖ Parents have the right to request that their child’s name, address and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter without prior written consent.
- ❖ Parents may access complete information on the ESSA Act on the internet at www.ed.gov/esca.

For additional information please contact the Robertson County Board of Education at 615-384-5588.

Prohibited Concepts in Instruction

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1019 prohibits certain concepts from being included or promoted as part of a course of instruction, in curriculum, or included in supplemental instructional materials used in public schools in Tennessee.

(1) The following concepts are prohibited concepts that shall not be included or promoted in a course of instruction, curriculum, instructional program, or in supplemental instructional materials:

- a. One (1) race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- b. An individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, is inherently privileged, racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously;
- c. An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment because of the individual’s race or sex;
- d. An individual’s moral character is determined by the individual’s race or sex;
- e. An individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;
- f. An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or another form of psychological distress solely because of the individual’s race or sex;
- g. A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist, or designed by a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex;
- h. This state or the United States is fundamentally or irredeemably racist or sexist;
- i. Promoting or advocating the violent overthrow of the United States government;
- j. Promoting division between, or resentment of, a race, sex, religion, creed, nonviolent political affiliation, social class, or class of people;
- k. Ascribing character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of the individual’s race or sex;

- l. The rule of law does not exist, but instead is series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups;
- m. All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; or
- n. Governments should deny to any person within the government’s jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection .03(1), LEAs and public charter schools are not prohibited from including or promoting concepts as part of a course of instruction, in a curriculum or instructional program, or through the use of supplemental instructional materials if those concepts involve:

- a. The history of an ethnic group, as described in textbooks and instructional materials adopted in accordance Tennessee Code Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 22;
- b. The impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history; c. The impartial instruction on the historical oppression of a particular group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or geographic region; or
- d. Historical documents relevant to subdivisions .03(2)(a)-(c) that are permitted under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1011.

If it is believed that a school has included or promoted a prohibited concept in a course of instruction, curriculum, instructional program, or supplemental instructional materials in violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1019(a), a complaint may be filed. The Prohibited Concepts Complaint Form can be found on the Robertson County Schools Website(rcstn.net).

Unsafe School Choice Policy

Under the Tennessee State Board of Education’s Unsafe School Choice Policy, any public school student who is the victim of a crime as defined under T.C.A. 40-38-111(g), or the attempt to commit one of these offenses as defined under T.C.A. 39-12-101, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district. Additional information regarding this option may be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Services at 615-384-5588.

Student Complaints and Grievances

Student complaints and grievances shall first be made to the teacher, then to the principal/designee. If not resolved, the matter may then be appealed to the Director of Schools/Designee, then ultimately to the Board of Education. Forms for the reporting of such grievances are maintained in the office of each school.

PARENT RESOURCES

Child Advocacy Group Contact Information

In addition to the state and local resources available to parents and children, there are many agencies and organizations that offer support, information, training and help in advocating for persons with disabilities in Tennessee. This information is provided as a service to individuals seeking additional avenues for help and information. Neither the Department of Education nor the Robertson County Board of Education intends this as an endorsement or recommendation for any individual, organization, or service represented on these pages.

The ARC of Tennessee

44 Vantage Way, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37228

Website: www.thearctn.org

Phone: 615-248-5878

Toll free: 1-800-835-7077

Fax: 615-248-5879

Email: pcooper@thearctn.org

Family Focused Solutions

Pamela Taylor, Counselor

Phone: 615-230-0125

Robertson County Health Department

800 Brown Street, Springfield, TN 37172

Phone: 615-384-4504

Robertson County Schools

800 MS Courts Boulevard, Springfield, TN 37172

Website: www.rcstn.net

Phone: 615-384-5588

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP)

712 Professional Plaza, Greenville, TN 37745

Website: www.tnstep.org

Phone: 615-463-2310

Tennessee Protection and Advocacy (TP&A)

412 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212

Phone: 615-298-1080

Toll free 1-800-287-9636

Fax: 615-298-2046

TTY 615-298-2471

Department of Children's Services

To report abuse or neglect: 1-877-237-0004

Tennessee Voices for Children

Web site: www.tnvoices.org

Phone: 731-660-6365

Fax: 731-660-6372

TN Toll free: 1- 800-670-9882

Legal Services Division

Division of Special Education

Tennessee Department of Education

710 James Robertson Parkway

Andrew Johnson Tower, 5th Floor

Nashville, TN 37243-2851

Phone: 615-741-2921

Robertson County Crisis Line

Phone: 877-652-3069

Project Aware is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Robertson County Resource Directory

<https://www.rcstn.net>

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

Phone: 800-273-8255

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network- tspn.org

446 Metroplex Drive

Suite A224

Nashville, TN 37212

Phone: 615-297-1077

The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) is the statewide public-private organization responsible for implementing the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention as defined by the 2001 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

Stopbullying.gov

This site has a wealth of information on bullying and anti-bullying resources.

Answers to many questions and other helpful information not found in this handbook may be obtained from the State Department of Education by calling 1-888-212-3162 or visiting the web site: **www.tn.gov/education**.