RAWLINSON ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE Raider Nation

#togetherwelead #changestartswithme #empowered #levelupchallengeaccepted

It's a Great Day to be a Raider!

MASCOT: RAIDER

SCHOOL COLORS: GREEN AND GOLD

Kia Frazier
PRINCIPAL

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to another exciting school year at Rawlinson Road Middle School! We are thrilled to have your child as part of our school community. Middle school is a time of growth, discovery, and learning, and our dedicated staff is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and engaging environment for every student.

This handbook is designed to help you and your child understand our school's expectations, procedures, and available resources. Please take time to review it together and keep as a reference throughout the year.

We value our partnership with families and believe that open communication and collaboration are key to student success. If you ever have questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's make this year a great one!

Warm regards,
Kia Frazier
Principal

BUSINESS HOURS

Our office will be open Monday-Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Classes begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m.

School begins each morning at 8:15 a.m. and is dismissed at 3:15 p.m. each afternoon. We believe it is very important that students attend school for the entire instructional day and request that, except in cases of emergency, you have your child(ren) at school on time and do not sign them out of school before the end of the day.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/calendar

MCKINNEY-VENTO RIGHTS

The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which is defined as children who lack a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence. School-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act if your family lives in any of the following situations:

- a motel or campground due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodation
- a car, park, abandoned building, or a bus or train station
- doubled-up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- a shelter

Please contact your child's school counselor for more information and to determine if you might qualify.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The South Carolina Legislature passed a law during 1993-94 mandating a full minute of silence to be observed each day in our schools. Rawlinson Road Middle School observes this moment of silence following morning announcements. All students are expected to remain still and quiet during this period.

SRO HOTLINE

This line is for students to call with information they feel the SRO may need. It is a confidential voice mail line only.
803-985-7766

VISION STATEMENT

We aim to build a culture of learning that empowers all students to become well-rounded leaders by providing rigorous, standards-aligned instruction that builds critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and perseverance, while fostering a safe, supportive environment that helps them reach their full potential and gain the knowledge, skills, and discipline needed to thrive in a global society.

MISSION STATEMENT

To consciously create an inclusive and nurturing environment where respect, acceptance, and support for all are paramount. We strive to cultivate excellence in every student.

CORE BELIEFS

At Rawlinson Road Middle School, we believe that...

- Every student has inherent worth and can learn, grow, and achieve at high levels.
- A safe, inclusive, and supportive environment is essential for learning and personal growth.
- High expectations, rigorous instruction, and meaningful learning experiences prepare students for success.
- Positive relationships among students, staff, families, and the community are the foundation of a strong school culture.
- Leadership, respect, responsibility, perseverance, and integrity empower students to reach their full potential.
- We are committed to cultivating well-rounded learners who possess the knowledge, skills, and character to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing global society.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Rawlinson Road Middle School and Rock Hill Schools strive to model the *Leader in Me* framework. Our students and staff utilize the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids* as our guiding principles each and every day.

- Habit #1: Be Proactive- *You're in charge*
- Habit #2: Begin with the End in Mind- *Have a plan*
- Habit #3: Put First Things First- *Work first, then play*
- Habit #4: Think Win-Win- *Everyone can win*
- Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood- *Listen before you talk*
- Habit #6: Synergize- *Together is Better*
- Habit #7: Sharpen the Saw- *Balance feels best*

COMMUNICATION--THE LINES ARE OPEN

We want to keep you informed. Please look for the following ways we communicate.

RRMS Digital Sign - Important school events and announcements.

Canvas- Canvas is Rock Hill Schools learning management system. Parents and students should check weekly for updates on assignments and grades.

Class Dojo- Platform for school and Teacher communication.

Parent Conferences - Parents may make appointments for conferences with teachers, teams, counselors, or principals by telephoning the school office at 981-1500 or the guidance office at 981-1513.

Parent Portal- Parents **must** create an account in Parent Portal to view their students' grades and attendance.

Report Cards - Distributed at the end of each grading period in October, January, March, and June

RRMS Web Site - ***www.rrms.rock-hill.k12.sc.us***

RRMS Twitter/X- @RawlinsonRoadMS

RRMS Facebook Page- Find us at "Rawlinson Road Middle"

RRMS Instagram- Find us at "@rrms_raider_nation"

Email - All email addresses can be found on our website.

Electronic Newsletter- Principal Newsletter delivered via email each week.

Parent Notification System (Blackboard) - Messages will be sent to parents concerning school events and emergencies. Messages are delivered through phone, email, SMS text message, the school website, and social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Sports U- Athletic communication

PARENT/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Rawlinson Road is proud to have its business partners working to help us provide an enriched school program for our students. If you are interested in forming a partnership with our school, please contact the school principal, Ms. Frazier.

Open House

Open House is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Parent Volunteers

Our volunteers are composed of parents and teachers who work actively and effectively to strengthen home-school communication and provide a framework for improving our program through volunteer efforts. We encourage you to volunteer. Individuals interested in becoming a school volunteer should visit the district website and complete the Volunteer Interest Form.

School Improvement Council

The School Improvement Council (SIC) is composed of parents, elected by the parents of the children enrolled in the school; teachers, elected by the faculty; other representatives of the community, and persons selected by the principal. These council members work as a team to assist the school principal in determining the present and future needs of our school. The SIC meets every third Tuesday.

Visitors and Conferences

Parents and other members of the community on school business are always welcome at Rawlinson Road. For the security of all, as well as to avoid disturbing the learning environment of students, before going to any area of the building, all visitors must enter by way of the office and secure administrative permission. **Visitors will sign in with a picture ID and obtain a visitor's pass to be worn while in the building.**

Conferences with teachers may be arranged by calling the school counseling office. Parents are not to visit teachers or classes without making prior arrangements with the administration.

In-district students will not be permitted to visit other school campuses within the district. Students who do so may be charged with trespassing and/or recommended for expulsion from district schools. Out-of-town student visitors will not be permitted to visit the school without the permission of the principal.

According to SC law, any person entering the premises of any school in SC shall be deemed to have consented to a reasonable search of his person and effects. Anyone failing to comply with the "check-in" procedures with the office will be asked to leave our campus. After a warning, the police will be called, and the violators will be prosecuted. SC law also states that it shall be unlawful: (1) for any person willfully or unnecessarily (a) to interfere with or to disturb in any way or in any place the students or teachers at any school or college in this State. (b) to loiter about such school or college premises or (2) For any person to (a) enter upon any such school or college premises or (b) loiter around the premises, except on business, without the permission of the principal or person in charge. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction

thereof, shall pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days.

INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS

Policies and procedures may change during the year. If so, notification will be made.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students who are car riders or walkers **should not** arrive **before** 7:45 a.m. Upon arrival in the morning, all students should report to the cafeteria until they are dismissed to their team hallway at 7:45 a.m. Students arriving after 7:45 will report to the cafeteria if they are eating breakfast; otherwise, they will report directly to their team hallway upon arrival.

All car riders, bike riders, and walkers will arrive at the back of the school near the cafeteria each morning. Students who ride in cars are to be dropped off and picked up **ONLY** at the back of the school. The front area can be used for student drop-off/pick-up between the hours of 8:10 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Students arriving at homebase classes after 8:15 are considered tardy.

Students arriving after 8:15 in the morning need to be dropped off in front of the school. The back doors will be locked at 8:15 a.m.

Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds from the time they arrive on campus until dismissal without checking out through the office. All students who arrive after 8:15 a.m. and all students who need to leave before 3:15 p.m. must check in or out through the office. **Only individuals authorized in PowerSchool and able to present a valid photo ID may sign a student out from school.**

Students who leave school without following the appropriate procedures will be disciplined. Students not participating in after-school sponsored activities should leave campus immediately.

School **dismissal** begins at 3:15 p.m. Students are dismissed from their classrooms in an orderly manner following school procedures.

Students who are car riders, bike riders, or walkers will report to the cafeteria. Staff members supervise the dismissal process, greet parents and guardians in the car rider line, and call students for pickup as vehicles arrive. Walkers are dismissed from the cafeteria by staff once it is safe to do so. Students who walk to Northwestern High School to meet a parent/guardian who is a faculty member or to participate in an after-school activity will remain in the cafeteria and be dismissed as a group at 3:45 p.m., allowing them to arrive at Northwestern during the high school's dismissal.

Bus riders will report to the bus loading area with their grade-level peers and teachers. Students are expected to remain in designated areas and follow staff directions to ensure a safe and efficient dismissal.

On most days, all buses are loaded and depart from campus by approximately 3:25 p.m.

Parents/guardians should notify the front office of any changes to their child's regular mode of transportation. The front office will communicate these changes through the school's dismissal message system and notify the student before dismissal.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We encourage all students to participate in a variety of activities to experience success and build self-esteem. Sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation, and fair play are valued traits that are promoted by our teachers and coaches. Some of the planned activities include study groups, clubs, and sports. Students will need to sign up for these activities if they plan to participate. Most of these activities will begin in August. Before and after school activity times will vary. **It is important to have your rides get you here on time and pick you up on time.**

If a student is not present in school, they may not participate in after-school activities/events (i.e., dances, sports practices/games, play practices/performances).

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

See "Middle School Attendance Guideline" at the end of this handbook under "Rock Hill School District Policies" for details.

BOOK BAGS AND PURSES

All book bags and purses must be left in the lockers during the school day. Locker breaks are scheduled during the day to change out books and supplies for classes.

BUS REGULATIONS

See "Bus Transportation Agreement' and Common Disallowable Items on the Bus" at the end of this handbook under "Rock Hill School District Policies" for details.

CELL PHONES AND SCHOOL LAPTOPS

See "Possession/Use of Personal Electronic Devices and District-Owned Devices" at the end of this handbook under "Rock Hill School District Policies" for details.

Cell Phone Consequences

Students are not permitted to have access to their cell phone devices from the time they arrive on campus to when they leave campus, between 7:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Each time a personal device is confiscated due to a school policy violation, a referral is written, and a parent is contacted. Students who refuse to surrender their cell phones to any administrator or the dean will be considered insubordinate. Rules governing insubordination (defiance) will apply.

Consequences will follow the Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix.

Students who are reported for unlawfully recording or taking pictures in a campus restroom or locker room will **receive 3 days out-of-school suspension**. Unlawful recordings or picture taking in other campus areas (ie hallways and classrooms) will receive consequences according to the RHSD Middle School Discipline Matrix.

Note: Administration reserves the right to implement any level of consequence based on the severity of the incident.

DRESS CODE

District board policy states that the board reserves the right to bar from school students whose personal appearance is disruptive to the educational process and orderly operation of the school. Discretion to formulate reasonable dress codes is left to the administration. Rawlinson Road has adopted the following Standard Code of Dress:

1. During school hours, any solid color, collared top may be worn. All tops must be of one solid color and not contain any logos larger than the size of a quarter.

2. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves. Students must wear golf-type, button-down shirts or blouses (knit tops without buttons or low-cut in front are not acceptable) in long or short sleeves. Shirts must be long enough to be tucked into waistband (cropped shirts are not permitted). A solid color long-sleeved shirt may be worn under the collared shirt for warmth. Rawlinson Road swag (academic, team, fine arts, athletic t-shirts) may be worn with appropriate dress code bottoms. An RRMS, NWHS, RHHS, or SPHS t-shirt may be worn in place of a collared shirt.

3. Sweaters, crew neck sweatshirts, quarter zip pullovers, and lightweight jackets of any solid color and without logos may be worn **OVER** a dress code top. Solid color hoodies with no logo may also be worn during the school day, AS LONG AS the hood is not worn on the head. School logos for RRMS, NWHS, RHHS, and SPHS may be worn. Sweaters must be a solid color with no logo and can be a pullover or cardigan type. Sweatshirt designs not meeting dress code guidelines may not be worn inside out. **Students MUST wear a dress code top under any pullover/jacket.**

4. Each student is assigned a locker and lock. Backpacks, cell phones, and purses should be kept in the locker during the school day. Additionally, heavy or bulky outerwear should be in lockers during the school day. If students are headed outside for lunch, all coats and jackets must be carried and put on when they get outside. Students should place these items back in their lockers upon return.

5. School-approved colors for all pants, shorts, skirts, capris, and skorts must be khaki tan, gray, black, or navy blue. Any shade of khaki tan is allowed. Cargo pants, joggers, and shorts are permitted. All pants, shorts, skirts, capris, and skorts must be made of cotton twill material and worn fitting at the waist; low-rise trousers or shorts are not permitted. Standard waist logos found on pants are permitted.

6. All shorts, skirts, and skorts will be worn no shorter than 4 inches from the top of the knee. If a skirt has a slit, the top of the slit may be no higher than 4 inches above the knee. The following items are NOT appropriate for school: Wind/sweatpants, athletic shorts or any athletic wear, biker shorts, form-fitting clothes (leggings/jeggings), jeans, and tattered or torn clothing.

7. Clothing must be worn with appropriate undergarments, and undergarments must not be visible. All clothing must be size appropriate, with no sagging or oversized clothes being worn.

8. Offensive or suggestive writing, pictures, patches on clothing (including outerwear) and belt buckles are prohibited. This includes advertising alcohol, tobacco, or illegal products or depiction/promotion of racial, sexual, or violent behavior.

9. Head coverings of any type are not allowed. Religious exceptions are permitted.

10. Sunglasses may not be worn in the building due to safety reasons.

11. Students' hair, including facial hair, must be neat and clean, and well-groomed. No hair rollers, picks, or combs are allowed to be worn in the hair at school. Hairbrushes, combs, picks, and the like should be left in the student's locker.

12. All students must wear shoes. Shoes designed to be tied or buckled must be tied or buckled. For safety reasons, students will not be allowed to wear shower shoes, bedroom shoes, slips, or high heels more than 2 inches high. Be mindful shoes such as crocs pose a safety hazard on rainy days and at recess. Crocs and slides may not be worn at recess or PE.

13. Visible piercings are limited to the ears and the nose only.

14. Jewelry that can be perceived as a weapon is prohibited. This includes, but not limited to, collars or bracelets with studs, spikes, or chains. Any items noted as gang-related are not allowed. Other accessories that cause disruption to learning will be determined by the administration.

15. All students will adhere to the dress code during the school day, until the student LEAVES CAMPUS.

DRESS DOWN DAY GUIDELINES

In the event we have a dress down day, students must adhere to the following guidelines:

- T-shirts that have written logos or slogans must be appropriate; alcohol or tobacco advertisements on clothing are not permitted.
- Tattered jeans, even if deliberately shredded or torn should not reveal skin more than four inches above the knee.
- Leggings, jeggings, and yoga pants may be worn as long as the shirt covers the student's rear-end and they are not see through.
- Jeans and pants must be worn at the waist.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses must not be any shorter than a student's fingertips when his/her arms are held straight at the sides (approximately 4 inches).
- Shirts and tops should cover the chest and stomach area completely. Tops or dresses with thin straps or tank tops are not allowed. Must have sleeves.
- No cropped shirts.

- Clothing should be worn with appropriate underclothing and undergarments should not be visible.
- Straight leg jeans are acceptable, but clothing must fit appropriately. Pants or tops that are too tight are not allowed.
- No pajama pants or slippers are allowed.

The RRMS principal may waive any of these rules on special days declaring special rules for that day.

Consequences of Dress Code Violations

Students who come to school inappropriately dressed and/or not conforming to the dress code will follow the consequences outlined in the Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix.

Absences from school due to dress code violations are unlawful absences.

DRUG DOG

Search and Seizure and the Use of Trained Drug Dogs on School Properties

As authorized by State law, District and school administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on District property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses, probable cause, subject to the limitations and requirements of this policy.

Board policy permits district personnel to conduct random blanket searches of school property with professionally trained handlers and dogs for the purposes of detecting the presence of illegal materials. Policy JIH and Administrator Rule JIH-R

EARLY DISMISSAL

To reduce class interruptions, parents are asked to arrange for early dismissal of students before being picked up. This can be done by sending a written request for early dismissal to school with your child in the morning.

A student may be dismissed from school early with written permission from the parent or legal guardian; or the parent or legal guardian may come to the school IN PERSON with a photo id for a student. Students will not be excused as requested by telephone calls. **All written excuses will be verified.**

For your student's safety, we require that persons signing out a student **MUST** be on the student's contact list **AND** provide photo identification, such as a driver's license, to the receptionist before the student will be released.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Rock Hill Schools follows the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) for all emergency situations, including Secure, Hold, Lockdown, Shelter, and Evacuate. State law requires schools to conduct emergency drills each month. In addition, Rock Hill Schools conducts a fire drill, severe weather drill, and lockdown drill within the first 15 school days of each semester. Drills may occur at any time during the school day and are often unannounced.

When an emergency alarm or announcement is given, students should treat every drill as if it were a real emergency. The primary goal is to ensure the safety of all students and staff through a calm, orderly, and efficient response.

Emergency exit routes are posted in every classroom. During an evacuation, students should immediately follow their teacher's directions, quickly form a single-file line, and exit using the designated route. Students should walk at all times, remain calm, and avoid pushing or running.

If a student is not with their assigned class when a drill or emergency occurs, they should join the nearest supervised group and remain with that class until instructed otherwise. Teachers will account for all students once they have reached the designated safe location and report any missing or additional students to school administration.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Parents should notify the registrar office and update *Final Forms* with any changes of addresses, phone numbers, and alternative phone numbers that can be used in emergency situations. Being able to contact parents is essential in emergency situations.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In case school is closed for bad weather or any other kind of emergency, listen to local radio stations (WRHI 1340 AM and WTYC 1150 AM), download the Rock Hill Schools app, go to the district website (www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us), or wait for the parent notification from the district level. Decisions about opening school or a delayed opening are typically made by 6:30 a.m. and\ relayed to these contacts at that time. Please do not call the radio or television stations directly. In case of a nuclear plan emergency that requires a school evacuation, our students will be transported to Saluda Trail Middle School where they will remain for 4 hours for parent pick-up. After four hours, the students will be turned over to the Red Cross and transported to Lancaster High School in Lancaster, SC.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

At Rawlinson Road Middle School, we believe that a strong partnership among students, families, and staff creates the foundation for a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment where every student can succeed. We are committed to fostering a positive school culture that promotes both academic excellence and personal growth.

Our expectations are grounded in **Raider PRIDE—Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, and Excellence**. These core values guide student behavior, decision-making, and interactions throughout the school day while encouraging students to develop the self-discipline and character needed for success in school and beyond.

To ensure consistency across all settings, students are explicitly taught and expected to follow **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** in every area of the school, including classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, restrooms, common areas, buses, and school-sponsored activities. These routines help create a safe, orderly, and productive environment where teaching and learning can thrive.

Rawlinson Road Middle School implements **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** to teach, reinforce, and celebrate positive behavior. Students who consistently demonstrate Raider PRIDE and follow school expectations are recognized through a variety of PBIS incentives, celebrations, and leadership opportunities.

School-wide behavior expectations are reinforced through the **Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix,** which provides a consistent framework for addressing student behavior. The Discipline Matrix establishes clear expectations, promotes fairness and consistency, and outlines appropriate interventions and consequences while emphasizing opportunities for students to learn from their choices, restore relationships, and grow as responsible members of the school community.

By consistently teaching expectations, recognizing positive choices, and partnering with families, we empower every student to contribute to a respectful, responsible, and successful school community.

EXPENSES, FEES, and FINES

School supplies---Please check the Rawlinson Road Middle School **Student's Supply List** and with your child's teacher regarding needed supplies.

Additional student expenses include, but are not limited to, School Pictures in the fall, Athletic events, Special Treats at lunch, school dances, and yearbooks.

Athletic Fee----$60 per school year for eligibility for athletic team membership. More information can be found under **Interscholastic Activities**.

Information about the $20 technology usage fee is in the **Technology** section below.

Students owing fees and/or fines may be excluded from participating in extracurricular activities until the fine is satisfied. No student is exempt from charges for books, lockers, materials, supplies, technology, and equipment that are lost or damaged (*Policy JQ*).

FIELD STUDIES/TRIPS

By law, students who travel with the school to participate in any school-sponsored program are the responsibility of and are under the jurisdiction of the school while at the activity and are governed by the rules and regulations of the school. For any school-sponsored trip, each student must provide written permission signed by his/her parent/guardian.

FOOD

Due to the rising number of food allergies, parents are asked **NOT** to bring outside food for students. Furthermore, **students are not allowed to share snacks with others** due to the possibility of students being highly allergic to ingredients in food products.

FUNDRAISING

Policy JJE Student Fundraising Activities

Schools will keep fundraising campaigns to a minimum so as not to impair the efficiency and effectiveness of the education program. In addition, schools may undertake such campaigns only under the following circumstances:

- No one may solicit monetary contributions from students at any time.
- Students in grades kindergarten through eight will not participate in fundraising activities that involve selling items or soliciting contributions, pledges, or orders. However, schools may use these students as couriers between school and home for information, order blanks, and materials about fundraising activities sponsored by the school and school related organizations such as the PTO/PTA.
- Fundraising campaigns sponsored within the school must be spent in support of specific student activities or projects that will contribute to the improvement of the school's program.
- The principal will approve and supervise each campaign.
- Students may not participate in fundraising activities during school hours without the express approval of the principal.
- Students will not solicit personal contributions to meet the basic needs of the school or to finance extracurricular activities.

No student or organization may sell, distribute, or advertise services, written materials, or items from private sources on school premises or in the school or school district without the permission of the principal of the school involved and the superintendent.

Organizations or students seeking to distribute materials to students unrelated to the individual school or school district must have the permission of the superintendent.

Fundraisers for the sale of food or beverages on the school campus during school hours must meet the competitive food standards (see administrative rule EFE-R, also known as Smart Snacks Exempt Fundraisers). Food or beverages that do not meet the standards may only be sold in the occasional fundraisers if that were not sold in competition with school meals in the food serving area during the meal service. The standards do not apply to items sold during non-school hours, weekends, or off-campus fundraising events. The number of fundraisers exempt from the competitive food standards will be determined by the South Carolina State Board of Education.

Issued 8/18

GIFTS AT SCHOOL

Students are discouraged from exchanging gifts between themselves and giving gifts to teachers while at school. There will be no deliveries for students.

HEALTH ROOM

A student who becomes ill while at school will obtain a permit called a health room pass from his/her teacher or other adult to go to the health room. A health room pass is required to enter the health room so that the teacher and school nurse will know where the student is always. The school nurse will contact the parent of an ill or injured

student. **It is extremely important for parents to provide the school with accurate telephone numbers where they may be reached in case of an illness, injury, or emergency.**

Rock Hill School District Three follows DHEC guidelines for excluding students with illness or disease. See also The South Carolina Department of Public Health 2026-2027 School and Childcare Exclusion List / 2026-2027 School and Childcare Exclusion List Spanish for more information. In the best interests of the students and staff, sick students should not return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication.

Parents should inform the school nurse of **any** health concern including diabetes, severe allergies, asthma, seizure disorder, or anything the parent feels may impact learning at school. This information will be shared with teachers who will be with the student during the day and with coaches who will be with the student in after-school activities. Information should be accurate and updated yearly.

If a student becomes injured at school, he/she should inform a supervising adult who will either send the student to the health room or call for the school nurse or school designee to come to the student.

Student Medication at School

The school does not supply medication to students. Prescription **and** nonprescription medication must be stored in the health room. Middle School students are not allowed to carry nonprescription medication such as Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, and cold medicine in their belongings. All medication in the health room must be in the original container and properly labeled and no medication will be given to the student unless it is brought by the parent/guardian. Before the school nurse or school designee can give any medication, the parent/guardian must submit a completed Rock Hill School District medication permission form. **Prescription** medication (including herbal and homeopathic medications) at school requires both the prescriber's signature along with the parent/guardian's signature. **Nonprescription** medication requires the parent/guardian's signature. One signed form per medicine is required for each school year. These permission forms for medication administration as school are found on the school district's website. You may also contact the school nurse for the permission forms to administer medication.

New permission forms for medication administration are required each school year. Medication must be picked up at the end of the school year. Any medication that is not picked up at the end of the school year will be destroyed.

Students may be authorized to carry, monitor, and self-administer lifesaving medications such as inhalers, insulin pumps, glucometers and epi-pens, with a completed Rock Hill School District permission form from the student's health care provider and parent/legal guardian. The parent/legal guardian will sign a statement acknowledging that the district will incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from taking or using medications or self-monitoring devices by the pupil and that the parent/legal guardian will indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees and agents against any claims arising out of the self-monitoring or self-administration of medication by the pupil.

Receipt of the written permission form will authorize a student to possess and administer medication while in the classroom or on school grounds, at a school sponsored activity, in transit to and from school or school sponsored activities, or during, before, or after school activities on school operated property.

Neither the school district nor its personnel will be responsible for the occurrence of any adverse drug reactions when the medication has been given in the manner prescribed. The district may revoke a student's permission to self-administer medication if the student endangers him/herself or others through misuse of the monitoring device or medication.

Any medication found in a student's possession during the school day (other than a student who has proper permission to possess the medication on file in the health room) will be confiscated by school personnel and students will be disciplined for the possession of, use of, or distribution of medication at school.

If you have any questions about the health room or medications at school, please refer to *Policy JLCD and AR JLCD-R Assisting Students with Medicines* or contact the school nurse. Additional information regarding school nursing services can be found on the school website (link).

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Students who are unable to attend school due to a long-term illness or disability may be eligible for Homebound Instruction. Parents should contact their child's grade-level administrator to request information and applications for homebound instruction.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

Interscholastic Athletics

The following sports are offered at RRMS: There is a $60 fee ($50 fee plus $10 insurance fee) to participate in athletics.

Fall Season - 7th grade football, 8th grade football, cheerleading (7th/8th grade combined squad), 7th grade volleyball, and 8th grade volleyball

Winter Season - 7th grade boys' basketball, 7th grade girls' basketball, 8th grade girls' basketball, 8th grade boys' basketball, 7th/8th grade wrestling, cheerleading (7th/8th grade combined squad).

Spring Season - 7th/ 8th grade girl's track, 7th/ 8th grade boy's track, 7th/ 8th grade girls' softball, and 7th/8th grade girls' Flag Football.

Athletes may participate in one sport per season for a maximum of three within a school year.

Football and volleyball practices begin at the coaches' discretion. Wrestling and basketball practices begin around the first day of November. Flag football, track, and softball seasons begin after the conclusion of the winter sports seasons. Exact dates and times for each of these will be announced at school and on social media for several days before the first practice.

Practices are approximately one and a half hours in length and are every weekday unless otherwise noted. Practice times vary depending on the sport. Proper dress for practice includes a T-shirt, athletic shorts (no jean shorts or short shorts), socks, and tennis shoes. Student-athletes will be provided with all the necessary equipment and uniforms needed to play a game. Practice is **mandatory,** and students who have numerous unexcused absences will be removed from the team. Parents are expected to be prompt in picking up their child(ren) after practices and games.

To be a member of an athletic team(s) at RRMS, your son/daughter must:

- have a physical form filled out and signed by a doctor (not a Nurse Practitioner) sometime on or after April 1, 2026
- turn in a parent's permission slip (on the same form as physical) signed by a parent or legal guardian
- present an original (not duplicate) birth certificate (the coach will make a copy and return the original to you)
- have met academic promotion requirements for the current grade
- not turn 15 years of age before July 1, 2026
- enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade at RRMS
- meet any other criteria specified by the South Carolina High School League
- Upload appropriate documents to Arbiter Sports

These are the requirements of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL), which is the governing body of interscholastic athletics in South Carolina.

Students or parents who act inappropriately during school activities may be suspended or removed from interscholastic activities at the discretion of school administration.

Physicals are **REQUIRED** to try-out for or participate in a sport. Any athlete who does not have a physical will not be allowed to try-out or participate. Students need to be present and participate in try-outs if he/she wishes to be considered for membership on a team. Proper paperwork for the physical, medical history and parent's permission may be obtained from any of the coaches at RRMS or from the front office at RRMS.

LEAVING CLASS FOR OTHER AREAS OF THE SCHOOL

Any student who goes from a classroom to any other area of the school must have a timed and signed hall pass from a teacher granting the permission. Students must go directly and return promptly, returning the hall pass to the teacher who issued it.

Students should not loiter in the following areas (but not limited to):

- all areas where cars are parked
- the stairwells
- other grade level hallways
- the gym, the front of the school, B-building, undesignated restrooms during lunch
- areas to the left (facing football field) of the yellow line during lunch
- football field and track except during P.E. class
- hallways/restrooms on second or first floor during lunch
- inside any buildings before school starts or after school ends without permission
- other school campuses

LIBRARY/ MEDIA CENTER

The Rawlinson Road Middle School Library Media Center is maintained for the use of all students and staff of RRMS. Library hours are 8:15-3:15pm weekdays. During the first weeks of school all students will participate in library orientation with their ELA teacher. Any staff member may provide students a pass to visit the library from class during the day.

With nearly 10,000 print and e-books in circulation the library has something to offer all readers! Students have access to the Follett Destiny app via Launchpad to explore the collection. All books are loaned out for 14 days with one time renewal. Overdue notices are printed twice a quarter and given to the ELA teacher for distribution. Books not returned by the end of the school year will be considered lost and the student will receive a replacement fine in their report card. This fine follows the student through high school.

If a student loses or damages a library book, there are several ways to handle the fine during the school year: students may pay the replacement cost; work off the cost in the media center; purchase a replacement copy (must be same binding as the lost/damaged copy). Fines payments are refunded if the book is returned in good condition by the last day of school.

LOCKERS

Each student will be issued a locker during the opening days of school. Students will be given a combination lock in homebase. Students will be required to keep lockers always closed and locked with the lock engaged and spun. Students must not give their locker combination to others or share lockers with other students. The school cannot assume responsibility for the loss of student property left in the locker. The school can inspect student lockers at any time. A replacement lock will cost $10.

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT

Students with lost clothing, books, etc., should check in the media center. Parents are encouraged to label coats, sweaters, and other materials with your child's name. All unclaimed items will be given to a worthy organization once a month.

MEAL PROGRAM

Both breakfast and lunch are provided to all Rawlinson Road students at no cost in the school cafeteria. All school meals meet the Federal Guidelines for the school meal program. A student's PIN is still necessary to keep account of which students are getting breakfast and lunch. Any misuse of the free meal program is fraud and is subject to disciplinary action for theft.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND DANCE

To benefit fully from physical education and dance classes, students must bring proper attire to class and participate in class activities. All students are required to bring their own workout clothes to change into for PE and/or Dance, which they may carry in a small drawstring bag. Additional guidelines will be shared by the teachers, Coach Lawson, Coach Bryant, and Ms. Miller.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

The guidance program is an integral part of the total educational process. Focusing on the needs of young adolescents, guidance services include individual and small group counseling, classroom guidance, and crisis intervention.

Rawlinson Road Middle School has grade-level school counselors. **Dr. Jenkins** will serve as the school counselor for students in sixth grade. **Ms. Atkinson** will serve as the school counselor for students in seventh grade. **Ms. Cunningham** will serve as the school counselor for students in eighth grade.

School Counselors are here to help you in any of the following ways:

- getting along better with others
- problems you are having at home or outside school
- problems you are having at school
- educational and vocational tests and plans for your future
- any time you feel that you need to talk with someone about anything that concerns you

Students must always have a pass to see a counselor. You can see your counselor by sending your school counselor a message in Canvas. Be sure to include your name and a brief description of your reason for seeing the counselor.

Support Services

The well-being of our students is a priority at Rawlinson Road Middle School and Rock Hill School District. While school counselors provide academic, social-emotional, and behavioral support, some students may benefit from additional services. Rock Hill School District offers a variety of support resources designed to meet students' individual needs, including mental health services, behavioral interventions, crisis support, and referrals to community-based agencies when appropriate.

Parents and guardians who have concerns about their child's academic, emotional, behavioral, or mental health are encouraged to contact their child's school counselor or grade-level administrator to discuss available supports. More information about student support services and community resources is available on our school website (link).

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS/ CLUBS/ ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to join and participate in clubs and organizations. Students who participate in extracurricular activities have fun, enjoy a feeling of belonging, school pride, and unity. Involvement is a key to a successful school experience. Three times a month on Wednesdays during Raider Time, students will participate in a chosen club for the semester that peaks their personal interest.

SMOKE-FREE, TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

Rock Hill Schools prohibits the use and/or possession of all tobacco products or paraphernalia including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco (Juuls and vapes) and snuff by all students, staff, and visitors. Rock Hill Schools is a 100% tobacco-free, smoke-free environment for all students, staff, and visitors within all district facilities, vehicles, and grounds and at all district-sponsored events or when district facilities are being used.

SNACK MACHINES

The snack machines and drink machines are in the lobby outside the media center. The machines are for use during designated times. Administration can prohibit the use of the machines if it is deemed necessary.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Supervision will be provided for students who ride a bus upon their arrival and until such time as the bus departs after classes are dismissed. Supervision of students begins at 7:45 am and continues until all bus and car riders are picked up in the afternoon. Students who are repeatedly on school premises without special permission will be subject to disciplinary action and/or cited for loitering.

School officials are not required to maintain direct supervision of spectators before or after an extracurricular activity. Students are expected to be picked up within 15 minutes after the conclusion of the activity. School officials will always provide reasonable supervision for crowd control during all extracurricular activities.

TARDY TO SCHOOL AND CLASS

All Students are expected to be in their homebase class promptly at 8:15 a.m. Students arriving after 8:15 must sign in through the office and receive a pass to enter class. A student may be excused for being tardy to school three (3) times per nine weeks with a note from a parent or guardian. **After this, all tardies except those with documentation from a doctor or legal agency will result in disciplinary action.**

Students are expected to be in class on time. Students should be given a pass to the next class when they have been held by a teacher. When a student arrives to class late without a pass, the teacher will admit the student to class and assign a tardy. A referral will be written after three tardies. Consequences for tardies are outlined in the **Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix.**

TECHNOLOGY

During the school year, laptops will be available for use by students. Students will be assigned an individual laptop, charger and carrying case or protective case for use at school. Laptops are always kept in the carrying/protective case.

To ensure devices are available for daily instruction and remain in good working condition, **Rock Hill Schools middle school students do not take their assigned laptops home each day**.

If a student needs a laptop at home to complete an extended assignment or long-term project, a parent or guardian may request to check out the device for up to **five (5) school days** by completing the district's **Laptop Release Form.** All requests are reviewed and approved or denied by the student's grade-level administrator based on the educational need and availability of devices.

Parents are required to pay a $20 technology fee for the use of district technology. This does not cover any damages or the loss of the mobile computing device. Please view the **Rock Hill Schools Mobile Computing Guide** for additional information on costs of damages incurred.

Students must meet the guidelines of good digital citizenship, student safety, and effective use of technology during the school day to avoid disciplinary consequences. The laptops have been restricted so that they are most effective for student use.

Although it is not our goal to disallow the use of a device that may serve as a support to learning and to academic achievement, it may be necessary to remove a device from a student's use while an incident is being investigated or until the issue of a student's serious or repeated violation is resolved.

The Rock Hill Schools Mobile Computing Guide has a great deal of information about the use of technology in our schools. Violations of appropriate use will be addressed by administration through district policy and the student code of conduct.

AI-Enabled Smart Glasses

To protect the privacy, safety, and security of all students and staff, **AI-enabled smart glasses and other wearable devices capable of recording, photographing, livestreaming, or using artificial intelligence features are prohibited on campus during the school day and at all school-sponsored activities**, unless specifically authorized by school administration for an approved educational purpose.

These devices have the potential to record individuals without their knowledge, access unauthorized information, and disrupt the learning environment. Students who bring AI-enabled smart glasses to school must keep them powered off and stored in their backpack or leave them at home. The use of these devices at any time during the school day is prohibited.

Students found using AI-enabled smart glasses in violation of this expectation may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the **Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix**.

Internet Safety and Usage

Rock Hill Schools is committed to providing students with a safe, secure, and academically focused digital learning environment. Through district-wide internet access, students have the opportunity to explore a vast collection of worldwide information and digital resources that enhance classroom instruction, support research, and extend learning beyond traditional library materials.

To promote safe and appropriate use, the district employs internet filtering systems that help prevent access to non-educational, inappropriate, and distracting websites while students are using school-issued devices and district networks. In addition, teachers actively supervise students' online activity and use **Aristotle**, the district's classroom monitoring platform, to monitor student computer use, reinforce responsible digital citizenship, and keep students focused on instructional tasks.

While these safeguards significantly reduce access to inappropriate content, no filtering system can eliminate every risk. Students are expected to use technology responsibly and follow staff directions at all times. Any attempt to access inappropriate or unauthorized content is a violation of school and district expectations and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the **Rock Hill School District Acceptable Use Policy** **and** the **Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix**.

Student Assurances for Internet usage must be signed by both the student and parent before the start of the school year. This can be found in **The Rock Hill Schools Mobile Computing Guide** and in the Parent Portal.

TELEPHONE PRIVILEGES

Students who wish to make telephone calls must obtain a permit from their teacher and/or an administrator to use the office phone. Students are not permitted to use their personal devices during the school day. Refer to the **Cell Phone Usage Policy** in this handbook.

TEXTBOOKS

In some subjects, all students will be issued a consumable textbook to use in class. In other subjects, teachers may also be issued a classroom set of textbooks. The classroom set is the responsibility of the teacher and MUST remain in the classroom. Any damage incurred to a textbook (including removal of the state bar code) may be subject to a fine and/or disciplinary action. **Textbook fees are assessed and calculated according to the State Department of Education.**

TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS

Any student who is transferring to another school will need to report to the school registrar for the necessary withdrawal forms on the last day of attendance. All fines/fees should be paid, and all schoolbooks, district-owned technology (if leaving the district), and materials turned in.

STUDENT ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

We believe in recognizing and rewarding excellence. Each year we try to increase our efforts in making awards and opportunities for recognizing our top students and students who make great strides of improvement. Some of our efforts include the following:

Honor Roll

To qualify for "A" Honor Roll, a student must have earned a 3.5 GPA or above for the nine-week grading period. His/her name is posted in the hallway.

To qualify for "B" Honor Roll, a student must have earned a GPA of 3.0 - 3.4999 for the nine-week grading period. His/her name is posted in the hallway.

Principal Scholars

To qualify for Principal's Scholar a student must have earned an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.00 by making an "A" in all classes for that grading period. His/her name is posted in the hallway.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Middle School Grading Scale

A 90-100	Excellent work	**D** 69-60	Below average
B 89-80	Above average	**F** 59-0	Unsatisfactory
C 79-70	Average work		

Grade Reporting and Report Cards

Rawlinson Road Middle School issues report cards at the end of each nine-week grading period. There are four marking periods in the school year. Numerical grades are reported on report cards and permanent records. Subject teachers use numerical grades when averaging student grades.

Progress reports are available at the 4½ week mark in each nine-week quarter through Parent Portal. Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week period. Quarterly grades are computed, including all formative and summative assessments from the nine weeks in accordance with each teacher's syllabus.

Assignments in Middle School

It is expected that major middle school assignments should align clearly with South Carolina state standards and course outcomes at a high or appropriate depth of knowledge (DOK). Grades should be updated in Canvas weekly. Parents can view their child(ren)'s grades through either Canvas or Parent Portal. See the District's "Grading Policy for Middle Schools" for more information on assignments and grades.

Curriculum

Sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students will be enrolled in a program of studies that complies with the state regulations. This includes, as a minimum, the following:

- Two semesters of Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science
- One semester of Health/PE

Seventh and eighth-grade students have the opportunity to take select courses for high school credit.

- **7th Grade:** Students may take the first half of *Fundamentals of Computing* and *Spanish 1*.
- **8th Grade:** Students may take the second half of *Fundamentals of Computing* and *Spanish 1*, as well as *English 1* and *Geometry with Statistics*. Additionally, *Spanish 1* is offered as a full-year course for high school credit in eighth grade.

In addition to these academic options, students may also choose from a variety of curriculum enrichment courses, including: *Band, Chorus, Dance, Drama, Art, Family and Consumer Science, Strings, General Music, Google Basics, and Introduction to Career Clusters.*

No elective changes will be made after August 7, 2026 and January 11, 2027. A parent and teacher signature are required before a change occurs. Elective changes will be made based on course availability.

End of Course Exams

Geometry and Statistics, English I, and Spanish 1 students must take a district end-of-course (EOC) exam at the end of the year. EOC exams count as 20% of the final grade.

State and District Assessments

Throughout the school year, students participate in **district (MAP)** and **state (SC READY)** assessments to measure academic growth, monitor progress, and evaluate mastery of South Carolina grade-level standards. Assessment results provide valuable information that helps teachers plan instruction, identify student strengths and areas for growth, and ensure students are on track for success.

A calendar of district and state assessment dates is available on the **Rawlinson Road Middle School website**. Because these assessments measure each student's individual growth and achievement, **daily attendance is essential**. Students should arrive at school on time, well rested, and prepared to do their best so they can accurately demonstrate their learning throughout the school year.

Gifted and Talented Programs

Students identified as academically gifted/talented are served through participation in the advanced classes in the areas of math, language arts, science, and social studies. Students qualifying as gifted/talented on the SC State Department of Education guidelines are encouraged to participate in these academically advanced classes in grades 6-8 if qualified.

Grading Policy for Middle Schools

Finalized 7/02/2026

Grading Practices

Rock Hill Schools' grading guidelines are designed to ensure all students in the district are evaluated using a consistent, fair, and equitable grading system across classrooms and schools. Grading procedures in Rock Hill Schools should reflect the following beliefs:

- Grades should reflect student proficiency on grade level standards and competencies, as well as clear learning targets.
- Grades should be balanced and reflect quality over quantity.
- Feedback is critical to student learning and grades alone are not a sufficient form of feedback.

Middle School Grade Distribution

- The purpose of homework is to provide students independent practice on skills or previously taught content. When homework is assigned, teachers should consider students' instructional levels and ensure homework is purposeful. At the middle school level, homework is not graded. Teachers may reward students for homework completion but not penalize them.
- Per district policy, all high school credit-bearing courses in middle school (including Geometry w/Statistics, English 1, Spanish 1, French 1, Fundamentals of Computing 1 and Fundamentals of Computing 2) will give a final exam at the end of the full course which counts 20% of a student's overall grade in the course.
- Major and minor grade weightings below may not be further subdivided.

	Major Grades	**Minor Grades**
Weighting	60% of final quarter grade	40% of final quarter grade
Minimum/Maximum Number of Grades	Minimum 3 to maximum 5 per quarter	Minimum 9 to maximum 27 per quarter
Types of assignments and assessments	Tests Culminating projects Papers (research, lab reports) Performances	Quizzes Classwork including, but not limited to: • journal entries • warm-ups

	Portfolios	• digital class activities • problematic tasks • demonstration of skills measured by rubrics (teamwork, participation, etc.) • independent reading

Re-teaching/Reassessment

This policy applies to major assessments or assignments only.
The goal of retaking tests or assessments in middle school is for students to obtain and demonstrate mastery of course content. Students will be provided an opportunity for reassessments only after re-teaching. Re-teaching occurs when the teacher or student determines that the student is not meeting learning goals. Re-teaching can occur with a teacher's face-to-face instruction, computer-based instruction, or additional practice opportunities at home.

Reassessment opportunities are only available to students who score below a 75 and have completed all missing assignments. If a student wishes to retake a major assignment, he/she will have five days from when the initial score is posted in Canvas to request the reassessment from his/her teacher. The qualifier for reassessment must be completed and all missing assignments must be submitted prior to administering the reassessment. Students who are offered the opportunity to retake an assessment must complete it by a date communicated by the teacher. The following assessments/tasks indicate a final measure of learning and may not be reassessed:

- End of course or semester exam;
- An assessment that ends an instructional period such as cumulative assessment;
- Benchmark or midterm exam;
- Final research paper, report, or essay; or
- Culminating project or performance.

When reassessment is offered, students scoring below the standard will have one opportunity to retake for a maximum grade of 75. In middle schools, this rule applies to all courses, including those taken for high school credit.

All reassessments must be completed prior to the next grading period. For example, Quarter 1 reassessments must be completed prior to progress report distribution for Quarter 2.

Make-up Work

Per South Carolina compulsory attendance guidelines, students are expected to attend school for the required instructional days within the 180-day school year. No late penalty is assessed if a graded assignment is due to a lawful absence. It is the student's responsibility to contact their teachers about make-up work upon return to school and within three days of return at maximum. The number of days allowed to submit late work is equal to the number of days the student was absent plus one additional day. If the student has prior knowledge of the assignment, he/she is responsible for making up the assignment immediately upon return unless arrangements have been made with the teacher. Parents and students may also access Canvas from the school's home page. Canvas provides access to class work and assignments, as well as due dates via the calendar. Students may ask teachers questions through their inbox.

For unlawful absences, students will have two days to make up the assignment or assessment for a maximum grade of 75.

Retention is required when a student misses a significant portion of instructional time and/or re-enrolls without sufficient academic documentation to verify successful completion of prior grade-level standards and instructional requirements. SCDE Guidelines for chronic absenteeism will be used as a standard to determine placement for students who re-enroll without sufficient academic documentation. The guidelines state that a student is chronically absent if they miss 50% of more of the instructional day, for any reason, for 10% (or more) of the enrollment period.

Transfer Grades
Accurate handling and reporting of transfer grades are essential to maintaining the integrity of student academic records and ensuring compliance with district and state requirements. Transfer grades can impact GPA and promotion. School personnel are responsible for reviewing and recording transfer grades in accordance with district procedures. For specific guidance regarding in-district and out-of-district transfer grades, refer to the Secondary Grading & Reporting Playbook.

Extra Credit
Extra credit must extend learning, enrich understanding or allow students to demonstrate the mastery of standards. Extra credit may not be used to artificially increase grades or compensate for missing assignments. All Extra Credit opportunities must receive prior approval from the principal before they are assigned to students.

High School Credit Courses
Middle school students may enroll in the following high school credit courses: English 1, Geometry w/Statistics, Fundamentals of Computing 1, Fundamentals of Computing 2, French 1 and Spanish 1. These courses follow high school attendance rules, which are different from middle school guidelines.

The Spanish course is a two-part course. The second part of the course occurs in a semester format and can result in a "Failure due to Attendance (FA)" if the student misses more than ten absences. Five absences are permitted for a semester course and absences 6-10 must be recovered. Failure to recover absences 6-10 will result in a grade of FA and students will be required to retake the course to earn the high school credit. The FA will remain on the transcript and negatively impact the high school GPA until it is successfully retaken and passed. This may affect future academic standing, course placement and/or graduation requirements if students do not retake the course.

For Fundamentals of Computing, each course (1 and 2) will count as a 0.5 elective credit. When students enroll and successfully complete both Fundamentals of Computing 1 and 2, it will satisfy the Computer Literacy graduation requirement. However, a grade of FA may be earned for either part as each course is a stand-alone semester course.

State policy requires a minimum amount of seat time to earn high school credit according to the following guidelines:

- Students are allotted 10 absences during yearlong courses, without penalty.
- Students who have more than 10 absences in a yearlong course may recover absences 11-20.
- Students who have more than 20 absences for a yearlong course will not earn high school credit and will need to retake the course in high school.
- Students are allotted five absences for semester courses, without penalty.
- Students who have more than five absences in a semester course may recover absences 6-10.
- Students who have more than 10 absences in a semester course will not earn high school credit and will need to retake the course in high school.

Even if credit is not awarded, students who earn a grade of 60 or higher in the course will still be promoted to the next middle school grade level.

All high school credit courses must administer a final exam to count for 20% of the final grade.

Withdrawing from a High School Credit Course
Per the SC Uniform Grading Policy, students enrolled in high school credit courses may withdraw from a course without academic penalty during the designated withdrawal period:

- Within 3 school days for a quarter (45-day) course
- Within 5 school days for a semester (90-day) course
- Within 10 school days for a yearlong (180-day) course

If a student withdraws after the designated withdrawal period, a WF (Withdrawal Failing) will be assigned. A WF is recorded as a 50 and will be included in the calculation of the student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

Multilingual Learner Education

A multilingual learner brings diverse cultural identities and new perspectives to strengthen our classrooms and communities. Multilingual learners achieve the South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards while navigating between native and instructional languages. Modifications are not appropriate for most multilingual learners as they could invalidate instruction or assessment results. Multilingual learners are placed age appropriately to provide meaningful access to meet grade-level standards. They may require additional time to complete assignments and assessments. Reducing the number of assignments or test items is not typically considered a modification as long as all standards are met. Changing the depth or complexity of the content or materials is a modification. It is also not allowable to provide modifications during state accountability assessments.

Temporary modifications can be appropriate for a student with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE) and a newcomer. *"Districts may use a curriculum that temporarily emphasizes English language acquisition over other subjects but any interim academic deficits in other subjects must be remedied within a reasonable length of time."*

Traditional procedures of assigning grades to students may not be appropriate for multilingual learners dependent on English proficiency. For multilingual students to progress, teachers must maintain high expectations for student learning despite an English proficiency level. Therefore, teachers of multilingual students must accommodate lessons and assignments based on individual student's English proficiency level and needs. A student may not be assigned a failing grade in a content area or be retained at grade level based on English language proficiency. The key to appropriate grading of multilingual learners is reasonable accommodations. When grading multilingual learners, assignments and assessments must be adapted to their proficiency level as they work towards academic achievement. Teachers of multilingual learners must provide students with appropriate accommodations for instruction and assessment based on both the ELD Standards and the multilingual learners' English proficiency level.
(Adapted directly from Title III Multilingual Learner and Immigrant Children and Youth Program Guiding Principles 2022-2023)

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

All students who participate in Exceptional Student Education programs should follow the secondary grading procedures unless the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicates otherwise. It should be noted that a student with an IEP is required to receive documented accommodations.

There is no grading floor for ESE students provided accommodations have been put in place While students with 504s receive accommodations, grading practices follow that of a general education student. For additional clarification on ESE grading procedures, please contact the student's case manager or the ESE Coach.

Students accessing instruction through the South Carolina Alternative Standards will be assessed through their IEP goals, and numerical grades will be assigned based on this progress. Teachers should include the "modified curriculum" comment on all report cards.

South Carolina Grading Law Update

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, South Carolina law requires that grades reflect a student's actual academic performance. No public school district or public school may adopt any type of grading system that requires a teacher to assign a minimum grade or score that exceeds the student's actual performance on required assignments.

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in a district-approved content recovery program as defined in the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy, a student must have completed all *required* assignments for the relevant subset of the course. Content recovery provides students with opportunities to demonstrate mastery of missed content within a unit of study.

In accordance with South Carolina's Grading Floor Ban legislation, districts must define *required assignments* for content recovery eligibility. Required Assignments are assignments originally assigned to all students in a course section as part of a unit of study and assigned for a grade. Assignments may not be designated as required after they are assigned or assigned only to individual students for the purpose of determining eligibility.

Students who need academic support are encouraged to seek assistance from teachers, attend tutoring opportunities and complete assignments on time. Parents

should regularly monitor grades, attendance, and missing assignments through Canvas and Power School. Early communication with teachers and school staff is encouraged whenever academic concerns arise.

Parent Communication and Grade Monitoring

With the SC Grading Law Update, it is more important than ever that teachers, students, and parents work together to monitor academic progress throughout the school year. Early communication can help prevent minor concerns from becoming significant academic challenges.

Teachers should input student grades into Canvas weekly so that students and parents have access to current and accurate information regarding academic performance. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to monitor grades regularly through Canvas and the Parent Portal.

Teachers should have a documented contact with parents/guardians when students have missing assignments, low or failing grades, attendance concerns, or when additional academic support, such as tutoring or intervention, may be beneficial. Communication should occur early enough to provide students and families an opportunity to address concerns and improve performance.

To ensure a clear record of communication and support efforts, all parent contacts should be documented with a log entry in PowerSchool. Maintaining accurate documentation allows teachers, counselors, administrators, and district leaders to access communication records when needed for conferences or other student support efforts.

Consistent, timely communication between home and school is one of the most effective ways to support student success and ensure that students receive the assistance they need before academic difficulties become barriers to achievement.

Academic Honesty

All middle school students are expected to maintain academic honesty and integrity in their schoolwork and learning. Grades should accurately reflect a student's own knowledge, understanding, and effort.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, copying another person's work, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying information, and the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or technologies to complete assignments, assessments, projects, or other graded work. The use of AI is permitted only when specifically authorized by the teacher and used in accordance with teacher-provided guidelines.

When a student commits an act of academic dishonesty in a given course for the first time, the student will receive a grade of zero (0) on the assignment, assessment, or activity. The student may be provided an opportunity to redo or retake the assignment at the teacher's or principal's discretion, with a maximum possible score of 75. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned in alignment with the district discipline matrix.

A second in the same course will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment, assessment, or activity, with an opportunity to redo or retake the work for a maximum possible score of 50. Additional disciplinary consequences may be assigned. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned in alignment with the district discipline matrix.

A third or subsequent offense in the same course will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment or assessment. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned in alignment with the district discipline matrix.

Academic dishonesty includes any behavior that compromises the integrity of a graded assignment or assessment. Examples include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, copying another person's work, using resources that are not permitted by the teacher, or submitting work generated in whole or in part by artificial intelligence (AI) when such use has not been authorized. Unless specifically approved by the teacher, students are expected to complete individual assignments independently and without assistance from other individuals, online resources, or AI tools.

When a student is suspected of engaging in academic dishonesty, the teacher will notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and submit a disciplinary referral to the appropriate assistant principal for review. If a violation is confirmed, consequences will be assigned in accordance with the district discipline matrix..

Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) have the right to appeal a finding of academic dishonesty to the school administration.

Promotion and Retention of Middle School Students *(Board Policy IKE)*
During the three years of middle school, students are required to satisfactorily complete the following core classes with a final grade of 60 (D) or higher.

- three classes of language arts
- three classes of mathematics
- three classes of social studies
- three classes of science

Students who do not earn a passing grade during the school year in a core subject may be promoted to the next grade by satisfactorily completing a required summer school program. Students may take up to two core subject classes in summer school. Failure of three or more core subject classes will result in retention. Failure to complete the required summer school courses will result in the student being retained in that grade level.

A conference with the parent/legal guardian and a letter documenting the retention recommendation will be sent home if retention becomes necessary.

Late Work Guidelines

- Missing assignments should be coded as “Missing,” and a zero is in place of the grade.
- Students will make up a missing assignment without penalty for up to one week following the original due date.
- Two weeks following the original due date, if a student submits the missing assignment, the highest grade given is a 50. *Be mindful of end-of-the-quarter dates
- No assignment will be accepted after two weeks, and the grade stands as a zero. *Be mindful of end-of-the-quarter

Lunch and Learn

Students are assigned to *Learn and Learn* each week to complete missing assignments in one or more of their classes. *Lunch and Learn* is a school-wide effort encouraging students to complete all missing assignments and understand that “Failure is Not an Option.” Each week, a missing assignment report is printed from PowerSchool, from which teachers assign students on a specific day. Students will receive a pass indicating the assignment to be completed, and report to the *Lunch and Learn* classroom. The *Lunch and Learn* classroom is monitored by faculty to keep the students on task. Students will use their lunch period to eat and work. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher, grade-level counselor, or grade-level administrator.

Intervention/Homework Help

Any student who wishes to receive further help with their schoolwork should seek assistance from team teachers. There may be opportunities for additional support and to complete missing assignments before and after school during the school year. The York County Library has resources they offer and suggestions for tutoring and homework help on their website: https://www.yclibrary.org/homework-help.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on themselves, others, and the school community. The **Rock Hill School District Middle School Discipline Matrix** provides a consistent framework for addressing student behavior and classifies incidents as either **minor** or **major**. Minor incidents are typically addressed by the classroom teacher through reteaching expectations, restorative practices, and other classroom interventions. Major incidents involve more serious or repeated behaviors that require administrative involvement.

When student behavior does not meet school expectations, disciplinary interventions and consequences are implemented in a progressive manner based on the nature, severity, and frequency of the behavior. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, **In-School Suspension (ISS), a Student Behavior Contract, Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), placement at Raven Academy, or exclusion from school pending a District Expulsion Hearing**. Throughout the disciplinary process, the goal is to promote accountability, restore relationships when appropriate, and support students in making positive behavioral choices.

In School Suspension (ISS)

Students may be assigned to ISS by an administrator as a consequence for an office referral (major offenses). An assignment to ISS may range from a class period to a whole day. Students will receive their class assignments to complete while in ISS. Any student who does not comply with the rules and expectations of ISS may be removed and assigned Out of School Suspension the following day.

Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Students are expected to always conduct themselves in a manner that will be in the best interest of the school. Students may be assigned an Out-of-School Suspension for 1–10 days. For serious or criminal matters, such as the use of a weapon or threats made against another student, staff member, or the school, a first offense may result in expulsion. While suspended, students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity. This includes sports, band, strings, dance, drama, and chorus. They may not ride a bus, enter the school, attend any day/night functions, or enter the campus without previous permission from the principal.

Student Behavior Contract

Students who have severe behavioral problems may be placed on a behavior contract by an Administrator. A meeting should be attended by the students, parents/guardians, and school officials. The purpose of this meeting is to determine goals and interventions under which the student may be allowed to remain in school. If the contract is not upheld by the student, the student may be recommended for Raven Academy or expulsion from school.

Middle School Aspire Academy

Aspire Academy is an alternative school placement for at-risk youth ages 11-15. When the school believes it is in the best interest of the student and the school to remove the student from the regular school environment for a period of time, the school can assign the student to Aspire. Aspire offers a highly structured learning environment that fosters social and academic development as well as neutralizing anti-authority behavior. If it becomes necessary to assign a student to Aspire, district transportation is provided for the student to attend. Students who **successfully complete** the Aspire program will become eligible to return to school on a behavior contract. Students who do not complete Aspire are candidates for expulsion.

Expulsion

Students who have repeatedly violated school rules or have committed serious acts of misconduct, including the sale of drugs, possession of weapons, or acts of violence (verbal or physical), will be recommended for expulsion from school. If a student is recommended for expulsion, a hearing is provided with a District Hearing Officer. In attendance are the students, parents, and the school officials. In this hearing, the school will explain the reasons for the recommendation of expulsion, and the parents and students will talk with the Hearing Officer about these reasons. The Hearing Officer will make a decision regarding the expulsion and notify the parents/guardians in writing of his decision. The Hearing Officer may decide one of the following outcomes: the student be readmitted to school immediately, the student be readmitted on probation, the student be excluded from the home school and assigned to Aspire Academy, or the student be expelled from the school district for the remainder of the school year. If a student is expelled from school, they cannot enter onto any school property for any reason without previous consent

granted by the principal. The parents must petition the school board in writing and be granted permission by the board before the next school year for the expulsion student to return to school.

Suspension or expulsion in no way precludes the right of the principal to have the student arrested when the conduct of the student has violated the law or poses a threat to the property or well-being of other students or staff. Students who violate any state or federal laws will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency, and all suspected illegal substances will be confiscated and turned over to the proper authorities. A School Resource Officer is available at school to assist students and administrators with concerns.

Searches and Interrogations

School officials may search school property, including technology, lockers, vehicles, personal belongings, etc., with or without probable cause. Random searches may occur with or without reasonable suspicion (State Law 16-3-1040). While students do not lose their constitutional rights upon entering school premises, a search may be conducted when administrators have a belief, reasonable under the circumstances, that a student committed a crime or a violation of a school rule and that such a search will reveal contraband or evidence of a violation of a school rule or a criminal law. Furthermore, any search must be reasonable in scope given the age and sex of the student and the nature of the alleged infraction.

Students are provided with lockers and desks to use during the school year. However, the school retains ownership of both, and school officials may conduct unannounced searches at any time to maintain health and safety standards.

Refer to the "Code of Conduct, *Policy AR JICDA-R*" and "Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, *Policy JICFAA,*" both located at the end of this handbook under "Rock Hill School District Policies", for additional details regarding behavior and discipline.

ROCK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

Code of Conduct

Policy **JICDA-R** *Issued* **6/23**

Level I – Disorderly Conduct

Disorderly conduct includes any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school, or the frequency or seriousness of which disturb the classroom or school.

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- acting in a manner so as to interfere with the instructional process
- abusive or profane language between or among students
- failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
- use of forged notes or excuses
- cutting class
- leaving school without permission
- school tardiness
- truancy
- excessive unexcused absences
- cell phone violation
- dress code violation

- failure to display ID when one is required
- internet violations
- unauthorized or inappropriate use of electronic devices
- unauthorized distribution or presentation of a publication or material

The staff will follow these basic enforcement procedures in instances of disorderly conduct:

- When the staff member observes (or is notified about and verifies) an offense, the staff member will take immediate action to correct the misconduct. The staff member will use an appropriate sanction and maintain a record of the misconduct and the sanction.

- If a particular misconduct is not immediately correctable, the staff member should refer the problem to the appropriate administrator for action specified under this administrative rule.

- The administrator should meet with the reporting staff member, and, if necessary, the student and the parent/legal guardian, and should apply the appropriate disciplinary action.

- The administrator will maintain a complete record of the procedures.

The staff may apply sanctions in cases of disorderly conduct that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- verbal reprimand
- withdrawal of privileges
- detention
- in-school suspension/recovery room
- out-of-school suspension
- confiscate item
- academic penalty (cheating)

Level II - Disruptive Conduct

Disruptive conduct includes those activities in which students engage that are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings.

The administration may reclassify disorderly conduct (Level I) as disruptive conduct (Level II) if the student frequently engages in (Level I) disorderly conduct offenses.

Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- use of an intoxicant
- use or possession of tobacco products or materials
- fighting – Elementary Schools
- inciting others to violence or provoking a fight
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- threats against others
- harassment, intimidation, hazing, or bullying
- trespassing
- profane or abusive language to staff
- refusal to obey school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aides or chaperones) whose responsibilities include supervision of students
- possession or use of unauthorized substances

- possession or use of a controlled substance or paraphernalia associated with the use of controlled substances, as defined by law or local school board policy
- illegally occupying or blocking school property in any way with the intent to deprive others of its use
- noncompliance of administrative direction during a school emergency
- unlawful assembly
- failure to cooperate fully with school officials in the investigation of a Level II offense
- disrupting lawful assembly
- bus misconduct
- horseplay, hitting, tripping, or pushing that could cause injuries or damage to property
- gambling

The staff will follow these basic enforcement procedures in instances of disruptive conduct:

- When the administrator observes (or is notified and verifies) an offense, he/she will investigate the circumstances of the misconduct and confer with staff on the extent of the consequences.

- The administrator will notify the parent/legal guardian of the student's misconduct and related proceedings. The administrator will meet with the student and, if necessary, the parent/legal guardian, confer with them about the student's misconduct, and apply the appropriate disciplinary action.

- The administrator will keep a complete record of the procedures.

- If appropriate, school officials should notify law enforcement authorities.

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disruptive conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- temporary removal from class
- temporary or permanent removal from bus
- alternative education program
- in-school suspension
- out-of-school suspension
- transfer
- referral to outside agency
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities

Level III - Criminal Conduct

Criminal conduct includes those activities in which students engage that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of themselves or others in the school. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the board.

Acts of criminal conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- assault and battery
- extortion
- bomb threat
- false fire alarms
- fighting – Middle and High Schools
- possession/use of fireworks or explosive devices
- failure to report knowledge of weapons or explosive devices to school authorities
- possession, use, or transfer of dangerous weapons
- possession or transfer of look-a-like weapons
- sexual offenses

- sextortion
- vandalism (major)
- theft, possession, or sale of stolen property
- arson
- furnishing or selling unauthorized substances, as defined by board policy
- furnishing, selling, or possession of controlled substances (drugs, narcotics, or poisons)
- distribution, sale, purchase, manufacture, or unlawful possession of a controlled substance while in or within a radius of one-half mile of school grounds
- threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a teacher, principal, or members of their immediate family

The staff will follow these basic enforcement procedures in instances of criminal conduct:

- The administrator will contact law enforcement.

- When an administrator observes (or is notified of and verifies) an offense the administrator will confer with the staff involved, apply the appropriate disciplinary action, and if appropriate, meet with the student.

- If warranted, the administrator should immediately remove the student from the school environment. The administrator will notify a parent/legal guardian as soon as possible.

- The first offense by a student of Level III criminal conduct at a middle or high school shall result in an automatic five-day suspension and possible criminal charges. A second offense by a student of Level III criminal conduct shall result in referral to the district's alternative learning program, possible criminal charges, or possible expulsion. The student must complete two consecutive semesters without Level II or III offenses before returning to his/her home school.

- Staff will follow established due process procedures when applicable.

- The administrator will keep a complete record of the procedures.

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of criminal conduct that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- out-of-school suspension
- assignment to alternative schools
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate (should be sought by local school authorities)

Extenuating, Mitigating, or Aggravating Circumstances

Administrators are to take appropriate action when student misconduct away from school grounds or school activities has a detrimental effect on the educational environment, safety, or general welfare of students or staff of the district. Student misconduct includes any action performed in person, in writing, or electronically. The administrator should take into consideration the protection of students and staff from the effects of violence, drugs, and/or disruptions. At a minimum, administrators or their designees should meet with the student upon his/her arrival at school, give the student notice of the concerns, and allow the student an opportunity to present his/her side of the story. The administration may either permit the student to attend classes as usual or may take appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension in order to conduct an investigation into the matter. The parents/legal guardians of students will be notified of any action taken by the administration and offered the opportunity for a conference with the administration.

In the event the student is incarcerated based on his/her out-of-school conduct, the principal or his/her designee will notify the student that he/she is to meet with the administration prior to returning to school. At the conclusion of

the inquiries to obtain more information on the matter, the administrator or his/her designee should take appropriate action which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- returning the student to his/her normal class schedule and removing all evidence of suspension
- placing the student on probation and allowing the student to resume his/her normal class schedule
- placing the student on probation, allowing the student to continue classwork, but restricting the student's participation in extracurricular activities and/or designated school activities; for example, clubs, study halls, pep rallies, student government activities, and so forth
- suspending the student
- recommending expulsion of the student from regular school and placement in the district's alternative school
- recommending expulsion but allowing access to virtual school programs through the district's alternative school (these students are only allowed on alternative school campus for coursework and exams that require a proctor in a virtual school accessed through our district's alternative school); students not able to successfully enroll will be expelled for the remainder of the school year
- recommending expulsion of the student for the remainder of the year

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Disciplinary process

Students with disabilities as identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are not exempt from school disciplinary processes, nor are they entitled to remain in a particular educational program when their conduct substantially impairs the education of other children in the program. However, federal and state laws and regulations require the public schools to meet the individual educational needs of a student with a disability to the extent that current educational expertise permits.

Program prescriptions

A staffing committee for students with disabilities as identified under the IDEA may prescribe or prohibit specified disciplinary measures for an individual student by including appropriate provisions in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The committee must take into consideration the student's disabling condition when deciding whether or not staff may use a particular form of discipline. Administrative authorities should observe any such provisions contained in a student with disabilities' individual education plan, except that a staffing committee may not prohibit the initiation of proceedings for suspension or expulsion that are conducted in accordance with regulation.

Suspensions

The administration may suspend a student with disabilities unless a suspension is prohibited by the student's individual education plan. At the end of the suspension, the school should return the student to the same educational placement, if appropriate. The school may suspend students for up to 10 days during the regular school year for a disciplinary infraction.

However, students who bring weapons to school or a school function, knowingly possess or use illegal drugs or solicit the sale of controlled substances while at school or a school function or inflict substantial physical injury to another individual in the school environment may be removed for up to 45 days at a time. If the principal and IEP

team believe that a child with a disability is substantially likely to injure self or others in the child's regular placement, he/she may petition an impartial due process hearing officer or get a court injunction to order that the child be removed to an interim alternative educational setting for a period up to 45 days.

Expulsions

Expulsion of a student with disabilities is equivalent to a change in educational placement and, therefore, requires special procedures. Before a student with disabilities may be expelled, an IEP team must determine whether or not there is a connection or causal relationship between the disabling condition and the misconduct. If it is determined that there is a causal relationship between the student's misconduct and the student's disability, the student would continue to receive services in the regular school setting. If the behavior is not related to the disability then the student is subject to regular discipline. However, provisions must be made to allow the student to continue to progress in the regular curriculum and meet the goals of the IEP.

The district will continue to provide a free and appropriate education as set forth in a student's IEP to expelled students with disabilities.

Nothing contained in this administrative rule will be construed as limiting an administrator's ability to remove a student with disabilities from school immediately under emergency conditions.

Issued 5/28/90; Revised 8/26/91, 5/29/07, 4/15/11, 2/27/12, 5/23/16, 6/13/2

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

*Policy **JICFAA** Issued **1/16***

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for maintaining a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student by students, staff, and third parties that interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment whether in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

For purposes of this policy, harassment, intimidation, or bullying is defined as a gesture, electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act reasonably perceived to have the effect of either of the following:

- harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage
- insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school
- demonstrates motivation by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression or a mental, physical, or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristic

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or employees may be made anonymously.

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The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a complaint or report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful manner. Students and employees have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules, and regulations of the school and district. Any student or employee who is found to have engaged in the prohibited actions as outlined in this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion in the case of a student or termination in the case of an employee. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The district will take all other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

Students, parents/legal guardians, teachers, and staff members should be aware that the district may take disciplinary actions for conduct initiated and/or created off-campus involving the inappropriate use of the Internet or web-based resources if such conduct poses a threat or substantially interferes with or disrupts the work and discipline of the schools, including discipline for student harassment and bullying.

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for ensuring notice of this policy is provided to students, staff, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and members of the community, including its applicability to all areas of the school environment as outlined in this policy.

The superintendent or his/her designee will also ensure that a process is established for discussing the district policy with students.

Reporting:

Staff: Members are asked to send an email to both their Administrator and Counselor to report suspected cases of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

Students: Students may complete an incident report form in the Guidance Office.

Consequences:

1st Offense: Identified student(s) will have a conversation with their grade level Counselor about the incident.

Parents will be contacted to inform them that the student has allegedly been involved in bullying type behaviors.

Counselor will work with the alleged bully or bullies on anti-bullying strategies.

2nd Offense: Identified student(s) will have a conversation with their grade level Counselor about the incident.

Student(s) will be referred to grade level Principal to determine if consequences will be given. Student will participate in Restorative practice to identify behaviors and consequences.

Parents will be notified by the grade level Principal to inform them of consequences.

3rd Offense: Student(s) will be referred to grade level Principal for a referral to Behavior Intervention Program.

Parents will be notified by grade level Counselor about the training.

Depending on the nature and the severity of the infraction, corrective actions may be imposed at any time, before the third offense is reached.

Identification: Bullying, harassment, and intimidation are illegal. It this type of infraction continues after the third offense, student(s) will be identified as a bully or bullies and will be referred to our School Resource Officer (SRO) for a conversation. Continued violations after that conversation may result in a formal charge being made.

Nondiscrimination/Title IX Notice

Rock Hill Schools is committed to providing equal access to educational and employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy, age, sex (including gender identity), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or any other protected trait or characteristic, as may be required by law. As required by Title IX and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, Rock Hill Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities. In addition, the District is committed to providing a work and student environment which is free of sexual harassment and will not tolerate sexual harassment activity by any District employee, substitute employee, student or third party. We will act quickly and impartially to address claims of sexual harassment and discrimination and remedy discriminatory effects of inappropriate acts of discrimination.

Possession/Use of Personal Electronic Devices or District-Owned Devices

*Policy **JICJ** Issued **6/23***

Purpose: To establish the basic rules for the board's permission of personal electronic devices or district-owned devices on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school on or off the school grounds.

Personal Electronic Device

For purposes of this policy, "personal electronic device" includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, pagers, gaming devices, or other devices that emit an audible signal, vibrate, display a message, display or record an image, or otherwise summon or deliver a communication to the possessor. Personal electronic devices are not permitted to be on or visible during the school day and should be stored in lockers or backpacks while on campus between student arrival and dismissal bell.

Unauthorized use of a personal electronic device may include, but is not limited to, taking pictures or recording without permission, cheating, harassment or bullying, use during any emergency drill, use during unauthorized times, or use for unlawful activities.

A student in possession of a personal electronic device in conflict with this policy will be subject to discipline as provided under administrative rule JICJ-R.

Violations of this policy may result in the confiscation of the device and all its components. Students are not allowed to erase the history or remove the battery, SIM card or any other part of the device before giving it to the school official. Students will receive the phone at the end of the school day.

The district is not responsible for the loss or damage of any personal electronic device brought on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off school grounds.

District-Owned Device

The district may provide students with electronic devices including, but not limited to, tablets or laptop computers in an effort to enhance students' learning experience. The district will determine the device that best suits the needs of the students.

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Students will have no exceptions of privacy with respect to any information contained on these devices. District-owned devices may contain tracking software to recover lost or stolen devices. Students are not allowed to erase the history or remove the battery, SIM card, or any other part of the device. Students will abide by the district's acceptable use policy (UNDB) established for the use of technology resources. Students who violate the acceptable use policy or do not follow instructions for the proper use of the device on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off the school grounds, will be subject to discipline according to administrative rule JICJ-R.

Students are responsible for the care of the district-owned device. Parents/Legal guardians will cover the cost of damage to or loss of the device. Students will return the device at the end of school year or when directed by an administrator.

Adopted 7/28/03; Revised 6/28/12, 8/27/12, 5/23/16, 8/22/16, 6/13/23

Legal References: SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended: Section 59-63-280- Requires board to adopt a policy on student use of electronic devices.

Policy JICFB Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Student)
Issued **12/23**

The district is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from intimidating or harassing behavior of any kind, including sexual extortion. In keeping with this commitment, the district prohibits any student, staff, or third parties from engaging in any behavior that would satisfy the definition of sexual extortion or aggravated sexual extortion as described in state law. Further, the district will not tolerate retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging sexual extortion or who has participated as a witness in an investigation.

Definitions

Adult means a person 18 years or older.

Minor means any person under 18 years of age at the time of the alleged offense.

Great bodily injury means bodily injury which causes a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.

Private image means an image depicting sexually explicit nudity, sexual activity, or sexual conduct as defined in state law.

Image means a photograph, film, videotape, recording, live transmission, digital or computer-generated visual depiction, or any other reproduction made by electronic, mechanical, or other means.

Disclose means exhibit, transfer, publicize, distribute, or reproduce.

Sexual extortion means intentionally and maliciously threatening to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any act or refrain

from doing an act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value.

The following information provides descriptions of the different sexual extortion offenses and includes the applicable criminal penalties. The district's authority does not extend to enforcement of criminal penalties. However, the district will assist with the process by notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency of violations as is anticipated by state regulation governing minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.

Felony Sexual Extortion

A person commits felony sexual extortion if the actor intentionally and maliciously threatens to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value.

A person convicted of felony sexual extortion is subject to the following:

- imprisonment for not more than five years for a first offense
- imprisonment for not more than ten years for a second offense; or
- imprisonment for not more than twenty years for a third or subsequent offense

Aggravated Felony Sexual Extortion

A person commits aggravated felony sexual extortion if the actor intentionally or maliciously threatens to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value and either: the victim is a minor or a vulnerable adult and the person convicted of sexual extortion is an adult; or the victim suffers great bodily injury or death and the finder of fact finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the sexual extortion of the victim was the proximate cause of the great bodily injury or death.

A person convicted of aggravated felony sexual extortion is subject to imprisonment for not more than twenty years.

Misdemeanor Sexual Extortion

A minor convicted of sexual extortion is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be sentenced by the family court. As a condition of sentencing the family court may order behavioral health counseling from an appropriate agency or provider.

Notification

This policy and information regarding Gavin's Law will be communicated through a variety of efforts to educate students, staff, parents/legal guardians, contract and other workers, volunteers, visitors, and other members of the public.

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Reporting

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual extortion is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. All staff members are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or staff may be made anonymously but formal disciplinary action by the district will not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or staff member who has filed a complaint or report of sexual extortion. The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of intimidation, bullying, or harassment.

District Level Discipline

Students, staff, parents/legal guardians, contract and other workers, volunteers, visitors, and other members of the public are required to comply with this policy. The district will enforce this policy through appropriate disciplinary actions for violators.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline and graduated consequences, up to and including expulsion, and will be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate, consistent with policy JICDA, *Code of Conduct*.

Staff members found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and will be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate, consistent with district policy, including GBEB, *Staff Conduct* and GBEBB, *Staff Conduct with Students.*

Visitors or volunteers found in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions and will be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate.

Adopted 12/12/23 Legal References: S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended: Section 16-15-305 Disseminating, procuring, or promoting obscenity unlawful; definitions; penalties; obscene material designated contraband.
Section 16-15-375 Applicable definitions. Section 16-15-430 - Gavin's Law. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:
R43-279 - Minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.

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Middle School Attendance Guidelines

Guidelines for Implementing Student Attendance Regulations

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by a parent/guardian, or a medical excuse. If this excuse is not turned in within *three* days after the student is back in school, this absence will be unexcused. The maximum number of days that will be recorded as lawfully excuses absences with parent notes will be *five*.

A tardy is only excused when a medical note is presented at the time of arrival to school or approves by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

Students will be considered lawfully excuses absent when:

- They are ill and their attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
- There is a death or serious illness in their immediate family—with proper documentation (bulletin, death notice, etc.).
- There is a recognized religious holiday of their faith.
- Activities approved in advance by the principal.
- There is a necessary medical or legal appointment that cannot be scheduled during non-school time.
- Absences associated with Covid-19.

Students will be considered unlawfully absent when:

- Willfully absent from school without the knowledge of their parent or guardian.
- Absent without acceptable cause with the knowledge of their parent or guardian.
- Sports, sporting events, family vacations, or any personal reason not associated with the school will not be excused. This is part of SC State Compulsory Attendance Law.

Documentation for All Absences:

- All students are to provide official documentation for any absence to the home school.
- A written excuse (signed by a parent/guardian) OR a medical excuse should be provided within three days after returning to school.
- Documentation may also be submitted electronically by using the email link located on each School's website under *Quick Links* or submitted directly to the home school Attendance Office.

Student Attendance Plan Intervention Plans

After three consecutive or a total of five unlawful absences, regulations require that school officials contact you and your child for a conference. The purpose of this conference is to identify reasons for your student's absences and to complete a Student Attendance Intervention Plan. Students who exceed the maximum number of absences allowed may be referred to the Family Court for truancy if under the age of seventeen.

Citation: South Carolina Code of Laws 59-65-50, 60 & 70 and South Carolina Board of Education Regulations.

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Directrices de Asistencia En La Escuela Intermedia

Directrices para la implementación del reglamento de asistencia estudiantil

Cualquier estudiante que falte a la escuela debe presentar una excusa por escrito, firmada por un padre/tutor, o una excusa médica. Si esta excusa no se entrega dentro *de los tres* días posteriores al regreso del estudiante a la escuela, esta ausencia será sin excusa. El número máximo de días que se registrarán como ausencias justificadas legalmente con notas de *los padres será cinco.*

Una tardanza solo se justifica cuando se presenta una nota médica al momento de la llegada a la escuela o cuando el director la aprueba por circunstancias atenuantes.

Los estudiantes serán considerados legalmente justificados como ausentes cuando:

- Están enfermos y su asistencia a la escuela pondría en peligro su salud o la salud de los demás.
- Hay una muerte o enfermedad grave en su familia inmediata, con la documentación adecuada (boletín, notificación de defunción, etc.).
- Hay una fiesta religiosa reconocida de su fe.
- Actividades aprobadas de antemano por el director.
- El estudiante es suspendido de la escuela.
- Hay una cita médica o legal necesaria que no se puede programar fuera del horario escolar.
- Ausencias asociadas al Covid-19.

Los estudiantes serán considerados ilegalmente ausentes cuando:

- intencionalmente de la escuela sin el conocimiento de sus padres o tutores.
- Ausente sin causa aceptable con el conocimiento de su padre o tutor.
- No se justificarán deportes, eventos deportivos, vacaciones familiares o cualquier motivo personal no asociado con la escuela. Esto es parte de la Ley de Asistencia Obligatoria del Estado de SC

Documentación para todas las ausencias

- Todos los estudiantes deben proporcionar la documentación oficial de cualquier ausencia a la escuela de origen.
- Se debe proporcionar una excusa por escrito (firmada por un padre/tutor) O una excusa médica dentro de los tres días posteriores al regreso a la escuela.
- La documentación también se puede enviar electrónicamente mediante el enlace de correo electrónico que se encuentra en el sitio web de cada escuela en *Enlaces rápidos* o se puede enviar directamente a la Oficina de Asistencia de la escuela de origen.

Planes de intervención de asistencia estudiantil

Después de tres ausencias consecutivas o un total de cinco ausencias ilegales, las normas exigen que los funcionarios escolares se comuniquen con usted y su hijo para una reunión. El propósito de esta conferencia es identificar las razones de las ausencias de su estudiante y completar un Plan de Intervención de Asistencia Estudiantil. Los estudiantes que excedan el número máximo de ausencias permitidas pueden ser remitidos a la corte de familia por absentismo escolar si son menores de diecisiete años.

Cita: Código de Leyes de Carolina del Sur 59-65-50, 60 y 70 y Reglamentos de la Junta de Educación de Carolina del Sur.

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Bus Transportation Agreement & Common Disallowable Items

TRANSPORTATION COMPLEX 803-980-2022
ROCK HILL SCHOOLS
PO BOX 10072 RHSC 29731

"A Safe Child – A Safe Trip"
Is OUR Goal

59-67-245 INTERFERENCE WITH OPERATION OF SCHOOL BUS
No person shall willfully and wrongfully, either public or private, by boarding, restricting movement or using threats, either physical or verbal, to the driver or any passenger while the bus is engaged in the transportation of pupils to and from school or any lawful school activity or while passengers are entering and leaving the bus nor shall any person willfully fail or refuse to obey a lawful order of a school bus driver relating to the occupancy of a school bus. The use of threatening, obscene, or profane language, leaving or waiting for a school bus, is disorderly conduct, and any person convicted of the use of such language shall be punished as provided in 16-17-530. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted to infringe upon the power and duties of duly constituted authorities. (Fine up to $200 – First Offense)

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

School bus transportation is authorized only for pupils regularly enrolled in public school in grades K-12. This is a privilege to enjoy rather than a right.

The transportation division of Rock Hill School District Three will do everything within its power to provide the best equipment, drivers, and the safest program possible. We ask for cooperation in making this possible.

WHILE WAITING TO BOARD A BUS

1. Students should arrive at the bus stop only minutes ahead of the bus. The driver will not wait for children not at the bus stop.
2. While waiting for the bus, books, clothing, or other articles should not be placed in the roadway.
3. The roadway should be clear at all times, and students should not play in the path of traffic while waiting for the bus.
4. Students should stand well away from the road when the bus approaches.
5. Students should not damage property such as flowers, shrubbery, windows, fences, and other items while waiting for a bus.
6. Making excessive noise distracts the driver.
7. Bothering others at bus stops or on the way to and from school bus stops is not allowed.
8. Students should never run alongside the bus but should wait until it stops and then walk to the door.

WHILE RIDING ON THE BUS

1. The driver of a school bus is in complete charge of the passengers while they are aboard. Please do as the driver asks. If you have a complaint, contact your principal.
2. Seats can be assigned or re-assigned upon a moment's notice, by the driver or principal.
3. Do not sit on books; hold them in your lap. Keep the aisles clear.
4. Passengers should be seated immediately and remain seated while the bus is in motion. If it is necessary to stand, be sure to hold onto the back of a seat.
5. Never extend arms, legs, or head out of the bus.
6. Refrain from talking to the driver except in an emergency.
7. Do not tamper with the emergency door, fire extinguisher, or other equipment on the bus.
8. Passengers must not mar or deface the bus and seat coverings must not be damaged. Any damage to the bus or seats should be reported to the driver as soon as possible.

9. Only the driver or other authorized person should remove first aid equipment, which is to be used only for emergency treatment.
10. Passengers are not permitted to open bus windows. This should be done only by the driver when necessary or with the driver's permission.
11. Passengers must not fight, scuffle in the bus, or create loud disturbances.
12. Passengers must not shout on the bus.
13. Wastepaper, gum wrappers, etc., should not be thrown on the floor. Place trash in the receptacle as provided near the entrance to the bus.
14. Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted on school buses.
15. The use of profanity on the school bus is prohibited, as well as obscene gestures.
16. Never throw objects on or from the bus.
17. The bus driver is the manager of the bus.
18. Proper school dress code is enforced.

PERSONAL PROPERTY & PRIVATE ITEMS

We will confiscate any personal property and/or private items that cause commotion and/or distraction. Leave personal property and private items at home. We will not be responsible for the loss or return of such items either before or after such are confiscated.

Glass, pressurized cans, and/or large school/project items are not allowed on the bus. Transport such by your family vehicle to and from school. No balloon or party items.

Book bags. small band instruments must be kept in the "student's space," on the lap or between the legs. These items cannot be shown above the seat line of sight. No animals, insects, hard board, or sharp objects, personalized containers, or objects can be stored under seats, in aisles, or other bus nook areas. No balloons or non-academic items. No flammable items/substances or explosive items/materials. All carry-on items require approval prior to approaching the bus.

ON THE TRIP HOME

1. Passengers a permitted to leave the bus only at regular designated stops. Any change must be made with the parents' request in writing and approved by a school official.
2. The student, after alighting from the bus (if he must cross the highway), should go around to the front of the bus and wait until the bus driver or school bus safety patrol directs him to cross.
3. NEVER cross the road at the rear of a stopped school bus.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Students are expected to ride buses that make stops closest to their homes.
2. Students are not permitted to switch buses just for fun or to catch an earlier or later bus.
3. During inclement weather, bus stop locations must remain the same.
4. Complaints regarding the bus driver should be directed to the Assistant Director or Director of Transportation.
5. Each eligible rider is afforded one seat area of space for self and legal carry-ons.
6. All bus students are to obey the principals and teachers at each school their bus serves. Any student who, in any manner of conduct, disobeys any school official on any school ground could forfeit transportation privileges.
7. Regulations are for the protection of students, school officials, and school equipment. If a bus student has no regard for the transportation privileges and creates problems on or off the school bus, the student will lose the privilege of riding any school bus in Rock Hill Schools.
8. While the transportation Department of Rock Hill Schools wishes to conduct student affairs in a friendly, influential manner, students are obligated to respect school officials and the bus driver. If a bus student shows disrespect for school officials or property and equipment, the transportation department will take such action as necessary.
9. Your transportation is valuable to your personal needs. Protect it. Don't Lose It!

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WEAPONS, VIOLENCE, AND GROSS MISBEHAVIOR
The possession of any weapon or object that can be used as a weapon…any act of violence at of violence at or upon another person on the way to a bus stop or at any bus stop or on any school bus on the way home from a bus stop…any other acts of gross misbehavior will result in loss of bus riding privileges.

CARRY-OVER POLICIES
1. Any student who earns a suspension during the last day of the school year will be subject to serving the remainder of such suspension the following school year.
2. When, in the judgment of the Director of Transportation, any bus student's behavior endangers the lives of bus students, the Director of Transportation may expel that student immediately for the remainder of that school year.
3. Misbehavior on the last day of school on the home trip will be addressed the following year and/or by legal actions.
4. A student shall be subject to transportation laws, rules, and regulations from the time that he/she steps onto a school bus until the school bus route is completed or until the student arrives at his normal destination. Normal destinations shall either be home or school unless otherwise specified by the Assistant Director or the Director of Transportation.
5. All appeals must be made to the Director of Transportation.
6. The Director of Transportation may delegate his authority to any administrator.
7. Riding any bus when under bus suspension can result in indefinite bus suspension.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS
1. Parents should report all misconduct on school buses to the principal.
2. Parents should report all traffic hazards, carelessness on the part of the bus driver, etc., to the principal or Director of transportation (803-980-2022).
3. Parents should encourage students to observe all safety and conduct regulations established for the efficient operation of the school bus.
4. Parents should observe extreme caution when approaching bus stops, moving buses, or stopped buses.
5. Parents should help supervise large numbers of students at bus stops.
6. Parents should see that their children are at the bus stop at the appropriate time.
7. The transportation Department has the power to deny students the privilege of school bus transportation whose parents refuse to cooperate and comply with SC State Laws and the regulations of Rock Hill School District Three.

SUSPENSIONS

The proper conduct of students will govern their success or failure in life. With the great potential dangers involved in school bus transportation, behavior on the bus must be the best possible. The following procedures have been adopted to both instill and maintain acceptable behavior at its optimum while students are riding our school buses. It is the responsibility of each student riding a school bus to learn quickly and follow effective behavior guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY STATUS

1. Minor Violations
   a. 1st and 2nd – Warning
   b. 3rd – One day off bus
   c. 4th- One day off bus
   d. 5th – Two days off bus
   e. 6th – Two days off bus
   f. 7th and more- Three days off bus for each incident
2. Major Violations
   a. 1. Warning
   b. 1st suspension conditional (1 week)
   c. 2nd suspension (1 week)
   d. 3rd suspension (2 weeks)
   e. 4th suspension (all year)

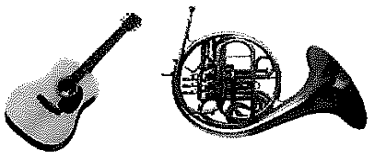
Common Disallowed Items On School Buses

Carry-on items: Compliance with federal standards is mandatory by the State Department of Education. No animals, insects, weapons, balloons, glass or pressurized containers or class projects that are large, wooden, etc.-**none of these** are to be carried on busses by drivers, teachers or students. Up to 22x28 paper posters are allowed if driver vision is not obstructed. Band instruments or other items carried on the bus must be of such size that all must be carried in the students lap and cannot be above the seat top. Items on the seats, floor- (projectiles) or obstructing the isles endanger all passengers on the bus. Class projects and large band instruments must be transported to/from school via private vehicle. Secured oxygen tanks are approved for use on Special Needs buses only. Unsecured objects become projectiles upon sudden stops.

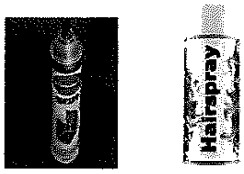
School bus drivers are instructed to stop such items from being brought onto the bus. Every item/object must be scrutinized. Students/parents must present items to the school principal for a principal's signature-note, which must be given to the bus driver prior to approaching the bus.

Some examples of disallowed items are:

Over Sized band Instruments



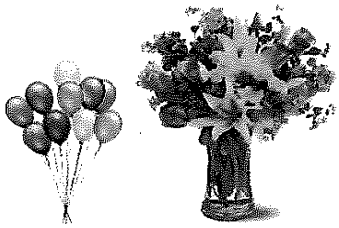
Pressurized/Flammable Items



Possible Projectiles

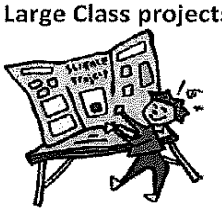
All Glass Items

Balloons/Flower Bouqets



Possible Weapons

Large Class projects



Traveling/Camping Items

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Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school Board; a person or company with whom the school has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Directory Information

The following information is releasable upon request at the discretion of the principal of each school: the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photo, subjects' study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight, and height of members of athletics teams, dates of attendance (on both an annual and daily basis), diplomas and awards received, and the most recent/previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. Any parent or guardian of a student attending Rock Hill Schools who would prefer that any of the information designated above not be released without the parent's or guardians' prior consent should notify in writing the Office of the Superintendent, Rock Hill Schools P.O. Drawer 10072, Rock Hill SC 29731 by the Tuesday following Labor Day. If such notice is given, the school attended by the student will be notified.

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Notificación de derechos según FERPA para Escuelas de Educación Primaria y Secundaria

La Ley de Derechos Educativos de la Familia y la Privacidad (FERPA, por sus siglas en inglés)) otorga a los padres y a los estudiantes mayores de 18 años de edad ("estudiantes elegibles") ciertos derechos con respecto a los registros educativos del estudiante. Estos derechos son:

1. El derecho a inspeccionar y revisar los registros educativos del estudiante dentro de los 45 días a partir del día en que la escuela recibe una solicitud de acceso. Los padres o estudiantes elegibles deben presentar al director de la escuela [u otro funcionario escolar apropiado] una solicitud por escrito que identifique el registro o los registros que desean inspeccionar. El funcionario escolar organizará el acceso y notificará al padre o al estudiante elegible sobre el momento y el lugar en el que los registros podrán ser inspeccionados.

2. El derecho a solicitar la modificación de los registros educativos del estudiante que el padre o el estudiante elegible consideren inexactos, engañosos o que de otro modo violen los derechos de privacidad del estudiante según FERPA. Los padres o estudiantes elegibles que deseen solicitar a la escuela que modifique un registro deben escribir al director de la escuela [u otro funcionario escolar apropiado], identificar claramente la parte del registro que desean cambiar y especificar por qué debe cambiarse. Si la escuela decide no modificar el registro según lo solicitado por el padre o el estudiante elegible, la escuela notificará al padre o al estudiante elegible sobre la decisión y les informará sobre su derecho a una audiencia en relación con la solicitud de modificación. Información adicional sobre los procedimientos de la audiencia se proporcionará al padre o al estudiante elegible cuando se les notifique sobre el derecho a una audiencia.

3. El derecho a la privacidad de la información personalmente identificable en los registros educativos del estudiante, excepto en la medida en que FERPA autorice la divulgación sin consentimiento. "Una excepción, que permite la divulgación sin consentimiento, es la divulgación a funcionarios escolares con intereses educativos legítimos." "Un funcionario escolar es una persona empleada por la escuela como administrador, supervisor, instructor o miembro del personal de apoyo (incluyendo personal de salud o médico y personal de la unidad de policía escolar); una persona que sirve en la Junta Escolar; una persona o empresa con la cual la escuela ha subcontratado servicios o funciones que de otra manera realizaría con su propio personal (como un abogado, auditor, consultor médico o terapeuta); un padre o estudiante que sirve en un comité oficial, como un comité disciplinario o de quejas; o un padre, estudiante u otro voluntario que ayuda a otro funcionario escolar a realizar sus tareas." Un funcionario escolar tiene un interés educativo legítimo si el funcionario necesita revisar un registro educativo para cumplir con su responsabilidad profesional.

4. Bajo solicitud, la escuela divulga registros educativos sin consentimiento a funcionarios de otro distrito escolar en el cual un estudiante busca o tiene la intención de inscribirse o ya está inscrito, si la divulgación es con fines de inscripción o transferencia del estudiante. [NOTA: FERPA requiere que un distrito escolar haga un intento razonable de notificar al padre o al estudiante sobre la solicitud de registros a menos que indique en su notificación anual que tiene la intención de remitir los registros cuando se soliciten].

5. El derecho de presentar una queja ante el Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos en relación con presuntas violaciones por parte de la escuela en el cumplimiento de los requisitos de FERPA. El nombre y la dirección de la Oficina encargada de administrar FERPA son:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Información del directorio

La siguiente información es divulgable a pedido a discreción del director de cada escuela: el nombre del estudiante, dirección, número de teléfono, fecha y lugar de nacimiento, foto, materias de estudio, participación en actividades y deportes oficialmente reconocidos, peso y altura de los miembros de los equipos atléticos,

fechas de asistencia (tanto en una base anual como diaria), diplomas y premios recibidos, y la agencia o institución educativa más reciente/anteriormente asistida por el estudiante. Cualquier padre o tutor de un estudiante que asiste a las Escuelas de Rock Hill que prefiera que cualquiera de la información designada arriba no sea divulgada sin el consentimiento previo del padre o tutor, debe notificar por escrito a la Oficina del Superintendente, Escuelas de Rock Hill, P.O. Drawer 10072, Rock Hill SC 29731, antes del martes siguiente al Día del Trabajo. Si se proporciona dicho aviso, se notificará a la escuela a la que asiste el estudiante.

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ROCK HILL SCHOOLS 2026-2027
DIRECTORY INFORMATION OPT-OUT

Directory Information is releasable upon request at the discretion of the principal of each school for specific and valid reasons. **I understand that directory information includes:**

- Student name
- Student address
- Telephone listing
- Email addresses
- Date and place of birth
- **Photographs (including for individual participation in yearbooks, class pictures, and newspaper articles)**
- Participation in officially recognized activities and athletics teams
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Dates of attendance (both on an annual and daily basis)
- Grade level
- Major field of study
- Degrees received
- Most recent educational agency attended by the student
- Awards received

As the parent/guardian of a student attending Rock Hill Schools, I am requesting to opt my student OUT of the release of any of the directory information listed above and request that my child's directory information is NOT made available to a third party which includes school yearbooks, newspapers, class pictures, etc. I understand that my child will not be allowed to take school pictures and/or pictures for the yearbook.

Student's Name _____ Grade Level _____
First MI Last

Parent's Name _____ Date _____
Print

Parent's Signature _____

Please submit this request to the Office of the Superintendent, Rock Hill Schools, P.O. Drawer 10072, Rock Hill SC 29731 by the Tuesday following Labor Day. If such notice is given, the school attended by the student will be notified.

***This request is valid for the 2026-2027 school year only.**

For School Use Only:

SCHOOL: _____ Date Received: _____

Date of "Alert" in PowerSchool: _____ SIS Clerk Initials: _____

Table of Contents

RAWLINSON ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE Raider Nation

#togetherwelead #changestartswithme #empowered #levelupchallengeaccepted

PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thank you for accessing your Parent/Student Handbook. Please verify in Parent Portal by completing the **eCollect Handbook Verification** in Forms that you have read and understand student expectations.

This handbook can be located on the school website and will be available in your student's Canvas *Homebase* course. A printed or translated copy is available upon request.