





Dear RCPS Families,

Each new school year brings fresh opportunities, new goals, and excitement about what lies ahead. While we begin a new chapter together, one thing remains unchanged: our commitment to providing every student with the support, opportunities, and encouragement they need to succeed. That is

why our theme for this year is New Chapter, Same Mission: Turning the Page Together.

At Roanoke City Public Schools, we are moving forward with purpose, staying focused on what matters most, and working together on behalf of our students. Success does not happen in isolation. It takes all of us, students, teachers, staff, families, and community partners, working as one team. Together, we can help every child reach their full potential.

For your convenience, this year's handbook once again includes our division calendar. Inside, you will find important dates, holidays, School Board meeting schedules, and Central Council PTA events. The back cover also includes helpful contact information for all schools and division offices.

As we begin this school year, we remain committed to knowing every student by name, need, and strength. This commitment guides our work every day and reminds us that every child deserves to be seen, supported, challenged, and celebrated.

We will also continue recognizing the outstanding individuals who make RCPS such a special place through the Superintendent's Challenge Coin program. This recognition honors students, staff members, and community partners who demonstrate excellence, leadership, kindness, and service to others. If you know someone deserving of this honor, I encourage you to submit a nomination at www.rcps.info/ChallengeCoin.

Thank you for partnering with us as we begin this new school year. **We Are One:** one community, one purpose, and one mission, supporting and strengthening the lives of our students.

I know this will be a great year because we are in it together and remembering our why.

Sincerely,

Dr. Verletta White, Superintendent

WELCOME BACK!
IT'S GOING TO BE A
GREAT YEAR!

**Scan the QR Code
to access the
Parent Handbook
online.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
Need Assistance? Find phone numbers for schools, offices, the 24/7 SpeakUp for Safety tipline, and more on the back of this calendar.				July 2026 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		September 2026 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				1
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Load the Bus	Teacher Service Day	Professional Development Day		Professional Development Day	Teacher Service Day	Back to School Extravaganza William Fleming 9am - 12pm																																																																																				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																				
	Teacher Service Day	School Board Meeting: 6:30pm First Day of School																																																																																								
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																				
30	31	School Board Workshop: 5:30pm	Central Council PTA: 5:30pm 40 Douglass Ave.																																																																																							

School Nutrition by Southwest Foodservice Excellence



Scan the QR code to view menus, nutritional information, and allergens.

You can also visit the Apple or Google Play Store to download the WebMenus by Isite Software app and pg. 3 of the Parent Handbook for more info on food service in RCPS.



LUNCH

TIME

August

**K 185
LUCY ADDISON
(1861 - 1937)**

Lucy Addison, a pioneering educator who served Black students in Roanoke for 41 years, was born in Fauquier Co. to enslaved parents. Educated in Philadelphia, she moved here to teach in 1886. She became principal of the Harrison School in 1917 and expanded its curriculum beyond grade eight, creating Roanoke's first four-year Black high school. Accredited in 1925, this was among the largest schools for Black students in VA led by a woman. Addison sat on the board of nearby Burrell Memorial Hospital and of the Industrial Home School for Colored Girls in Hanover Co. In 1928, Roanoke opened the 19-classroom Lucy Addison High School, the city's first public building named for a resident.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, 2025



The RCPS Community Empowerment Center at Booker T. Washington is a place where families can receive support, ask questions, and get started with Roanoke City Public Schools — all in one spot. Whether you're new to the area or looking for continued support, we are here to help your family feel confident and connected. From enrollment assistance to family workshops, the Center supports every stage of your child's school journey.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	August 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5
					Non-Student/ Non-Teacher Day	
6	7 Labor Day	8 International Literacy Day Joint Council/School Board Meeting: 9am School Board Meeting: 6:30pm	9	10	11 Interim Grading Period	12
13 Grandparents’ Day National Suicide Prevention Week (13-19) National Arts in Education Week (13-19)	14	15 National IT Professionals Day	16 Central Council PTA: 5:30pm 40 Douglass Ave.	17 Constitution/Citizenship Day	18 Mayor’s Cup (PH vs WF) PHHS 5:30pm	19
20	21 International Day of Peace	22 School Board Workshop: 5:30pm	23	24	25	26 HR Professional Appreciation Day
27	28	29	30	October 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH: • Attendance Awareness Month • Library Card Sign-Up Month • Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15)	



Track Your Student’s Bus in Real-Time

Download the Zum App to track the bus, receive automatic notifications, and more!



Visit the Zum website or Apple or Google Play Store to download the app and page 11 of the Parent Handbook for more information on riding the bus.

September



Holiday - No School



The 2025-26 school year boasted 39 student-athletes who signed to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Athletics are part of what Dr. White refers to as the "Triple-A" approach: academics, arts, and athletics that keep students connected and engaged in school.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH: - Cybersecurity Awareness Month - National Arts & Humanities Month - National Farm to School Month - National Principals Month - VSBA Bullying Prevention Month		September 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	2 Maintenance & Custodian Appreciation Day	3
4 Fire Prevention Week (4-10)	5	6 National Coaches Day	7 National Bullying Prevention Awareness Day	8	9 End of 1st Grading Period 2-Hour Early Dismissal (Students Only)	10
11 Indigenous Peoples' Day National School Lunch Week (12-16) Professional Development Day - No School Students	12	13 School Board Meeting: 6:30pm	14 National Bullying Prevention Awareness Day	15	16 National Boss's Day Report Cards Sent Home	17
18 National School Bus Safety Week (19-23) Virginia College Application Week (19-23)	19	20	21 Central Council PTA: 5:30pm 40 Douglass Ave.	22	23	24
25	26	27 World Occupational Therapy Day School Board Workshop: 5:30pm	28	29	30	31 Halloween

Join PTA Today!

Getting involved with your school's PTA/PTSA is a great way to stay engaged with your student's school and what they are learning!

Scan the QR code for more information and to join.

October



William Fleming and Patrick Henry High School students can choose to participate in Air Force Junior ROTC. Offered through Career and Technical Education programming, students participate in local community service events, patriotic ceremonies, competitive drill teams, drill meets, parades, summer leadership school, and local/regional field trips. Students also study aerospace science and are able to earn leadership positions in the cadet corps.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Saving Time Ends	Parent/Teacher Conference Day - No School Students	Election Day				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	National School Psychology Week (9-13) Children's Book Week (9-15)	School Board Meeting: 6:30pm	Veterans Day		Interim Grading Period	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (15-21)	National American Education Week (16-20)		National Education Support Professionals Day	National Parent Involvement Day	Substitute Educators Day	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Non-Student/Non-Teacher Day	Thanksgiving	Holiday	
29	30	October 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH: • Family Engagement in Schools Month • National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month • National Homeless Youth Awareness Month		



RCPS Notify App

RCPS Notify includes many important links and resources, calendars, and menus. Its biggest asset is the ability to receive mass notifications. Once logged in, you will receive notifications of texts, emails, and app alerts to ensure you don't miss any important updates.

Be sure to keep your information up-to-date with your school!



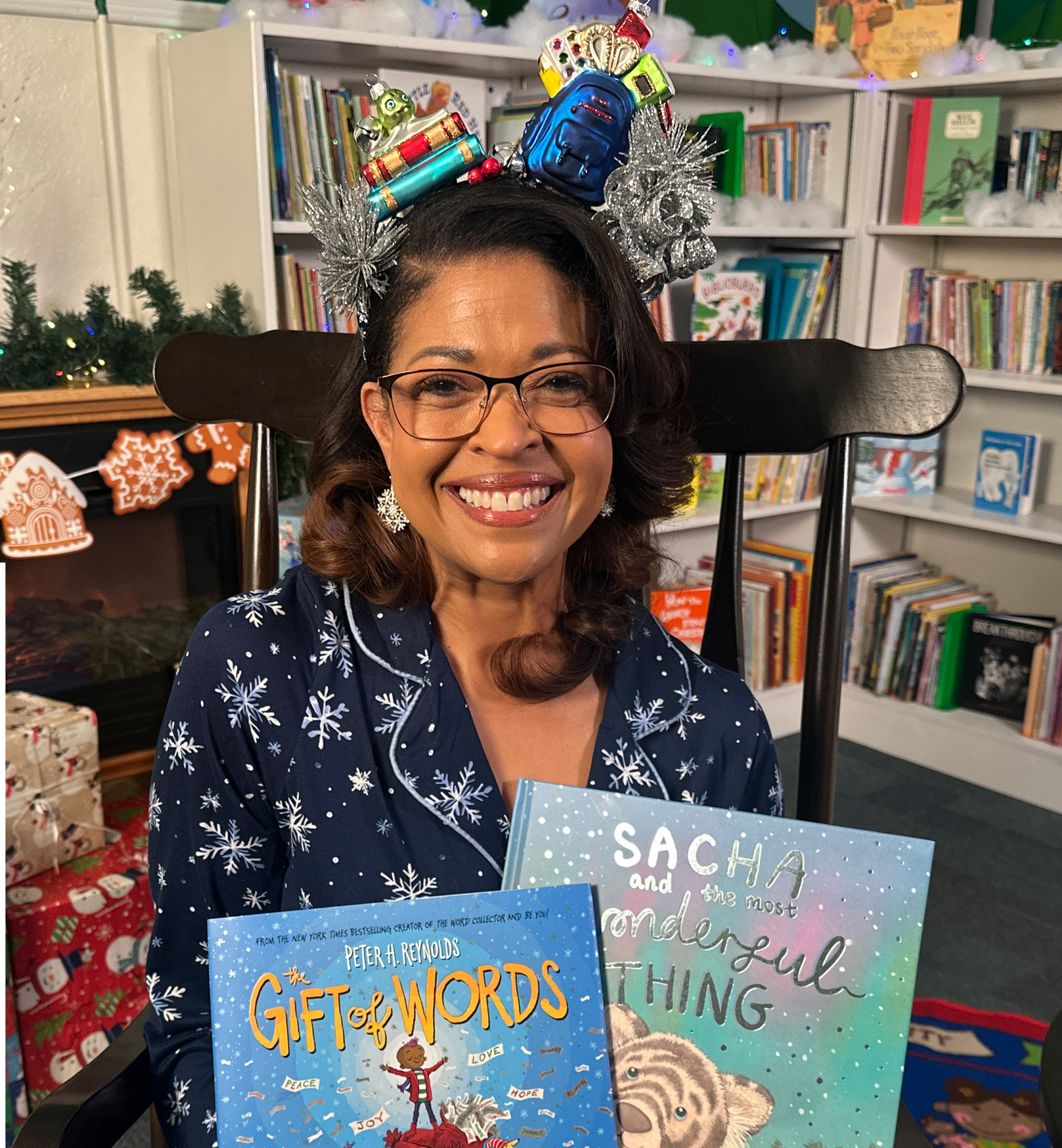
November

 Holiday - No School

**Dr. White's Winter Storytime
returns on December 21!**

Gather the family, get in your pajamas, grab your hot cocoa, and join Dr. White as she reads books the RCPS community will enjoy.

Looking for more storytimes to enjoy as a family? Scan the QR code to watch as more familiar faces read their favorite books on our YouTube channel!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	January 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2 Special Education Day	3	4	5
6	7 National Letter Writing Day National Inclusive Schools Week (7-11)	8 School Board Meeting: 6:30pm	9	10	11	12 Breakfast with Santa William Fleming 9-11am
13	14	15	16	17	18 End of 2nd Grading Period 2-Hour Early Dismissal (Students Only)	19
20	21 Dr. White's Winter Storytime RCPS Youtube Channel 7pm Winter Break	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Christmas Winter Break	26
27	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 New Year's Eve Winter Break	READ READ READ DURING WINTER BREAK!	



Need help resolving an issue that impacts student learning, the school-work environment, or understanding how RCPS works and where to go for assistance?

**The RCPS Constituent Services Office
may be able to help!**

Contact Dr. Alan Seibert to learn more.
aseibert@rcps.info • (540) 853-2007 • rcps.info/csgro



December

 Holiday - No School

Our goal is for all students to read at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade. We want to empower all students to be lifelong learners equipped with the literacy skills needed to make meaning from text. Parents/guardians play an important role in supporting students.

Scan the QR code for literacy resources to support literacy development at home.



Camping

...want to take a camping trip there, the ... pack the van. They invite Jolene and Blake get tent and complete the campsite setup. Jolene brings a mattress to ... inside the tent. It is better if she puts the ... on the grass and go on a hike to see the ... campsite is set, they a path on the map ... to be ... a pancake sandwich and ... while ... in a ... made over an ...

Jo•lene
Blake
es•cape
while
base•ment
in•vite
Jake
pa•rade
lo•cate
com•plete
camp•site
in•flate
in•sit

Underline the **e** and the **e** and connect them with a line. Scoop in the vowel. Color the words. Read the words.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH: - National Mentoring Month - National School Board Appreciation Month			December 2026 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			February 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28							1 New Year's Day	2
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28																																																																																										
3	4 Teacher Service Day (No School for Students)	5	6	7	8 Report Cards Sent Home	9																																																																																				
10	11 Virginia School Principal Appreciation Week (11-15)	12 School Board Meeting: 6:30pm	13	14	15	16																																																																																				
17	18 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21 100th Day of School (Tentative Date)	22	23																																																																																				
24 International Day of Education	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																				
31		School Board Budget Workshop: 5:30pm																																																																																								

Connect with Roanoke City Public Schools

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info@rcps.info • www.rcps.info • (540) 853-2502

January

Holiday - No School

Connect with Roanoke City Public Schools



info@rcps.info • www.rcps.info • (540) 853-2502

January

Holiday - No School

With the opening of the Charles W. Day Technical Education Center (DAYTEC) in 2024, RCPS has two career and technical education (CTE) locations. Whether they attend DAYTEC or the Roanoke Technical Education Center (ROTEC), they will benefit from technical, academic, and career skills giving them a competitive advantage in their chosen field. Students graduate with both a diploma and a resume of rich skills and experiences that will benefit them on their college and career paths, and the Roanoke Valley community benefits from a new generation who is ready, willing, and more than capable of entering today's workforce.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 National School Counseling Week (1-5)	2	3	4	5 Interim Grading Period	6
7	8 Virginia Kindness Week (8-12)	9 School Board Meeting and Budget Public Hearing: 6:30pm	10	11 International Day of Women & Girls in Science RCPS Science Fair	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents Day SRO Appreciation Day School Board Clerk Appreciation Week (15-19) Parent/Teacher Conference Day - No School Students	16	17 National PTA Founders Day Random Acts of Kindness Day Central Council PTA: 5:30pm 40 Douglass Ave.	18	19	20
21	22 Public Schools Week (22-26)	23 School Board Budget Workshop: 5:30pm	24	25	26	27
28	March 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH: • Black History Month • CTE Month • Library Lovers Month • Love the Bus Month • Virginia School Board Appreciation Month				

VIRTUAL MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES

Hazel Health provides students with high-quality healthcare at no out-of-pocket cost to families!

Sessions available Mon. - Fri. from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit my.hazel.co/rcps for details

February

RCPS preschool programs provide students the foundation for academic success. With the help of instructional assistants, certified teachers ensure eligible 3 and 4-year-old students learn the skills and knowledge they need to excel upon entering kindergarten. Applications open March 1.

Scan the QR code learn more
about preschool and the
application process.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 Read Across America Week (1-5) National School Breakfast Week (1-5)	2 Read Across America Day	3	4	5	6
7 National School Social Workers Week (7-13) National Foreign Language Week (7-13)	8 International Women's Day	9 School Board Meeting: 6:30pm	10	11	12 End of 3rd Grading Period 2-Hour Early Dismissal (Students Only)	13
14 Pi Day Daylight Saving Begins	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19 Report Cards Sent Home	20
21 World Down Syndrome Day	22 Spring Break	23 Spring Break	24 Spring Break	25 Spring Break	26 Spring Break	27
28	29 Holiday	30	31	April 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH: - Music in Our Schools Month - National Nutrition Month - National School Social Work - VSBA Equity in Education Month - Women's History Month - Youth Art Month	

2027 - 28 School Year

Kindergarten Registration & Preschool Applications Are Open!

Learn more at www.rcps.info

March

Holiday - No School



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has arrived! In 2026, RCPS and community partners, such as the Junior League of Roanoke Valley and the Roanoke Public Library Foundation, came together to bring the renowned program to the Star City, giving every child from birth to age 5 the opportunity to receive a free book each month. This exciting initiative helps Roanoke's youngest readers build their own libraries and develop a lifelong love of reading. Learn more at imaginationlibrary.com!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OBSERVATIONS THIS MONTH: - Autism Awareness Month - Child Abuse Prevention Month - Math Awareness Month - Occupational Therapy Month			March 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
School Librarian Day	National Assistant Principal Week (5-9)		World Health Day Paraprofessional Appreciation Day			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
National Library Week (11-17)		School Board Meeting: 6:30pm			Professional Development Day - No School Students	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Public School Volunteer Week (19 - 23)		Administrative Professionals & Secretaries Day Central Council PTA: 5:30pm 40 Douglass Ave.	Earth Day	Interim Grading Period	
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
		School Bus Driver Day School Board Workshop: 5:30pm				

RCPS IS HIRING

Work the Same Schedule as Your Student!

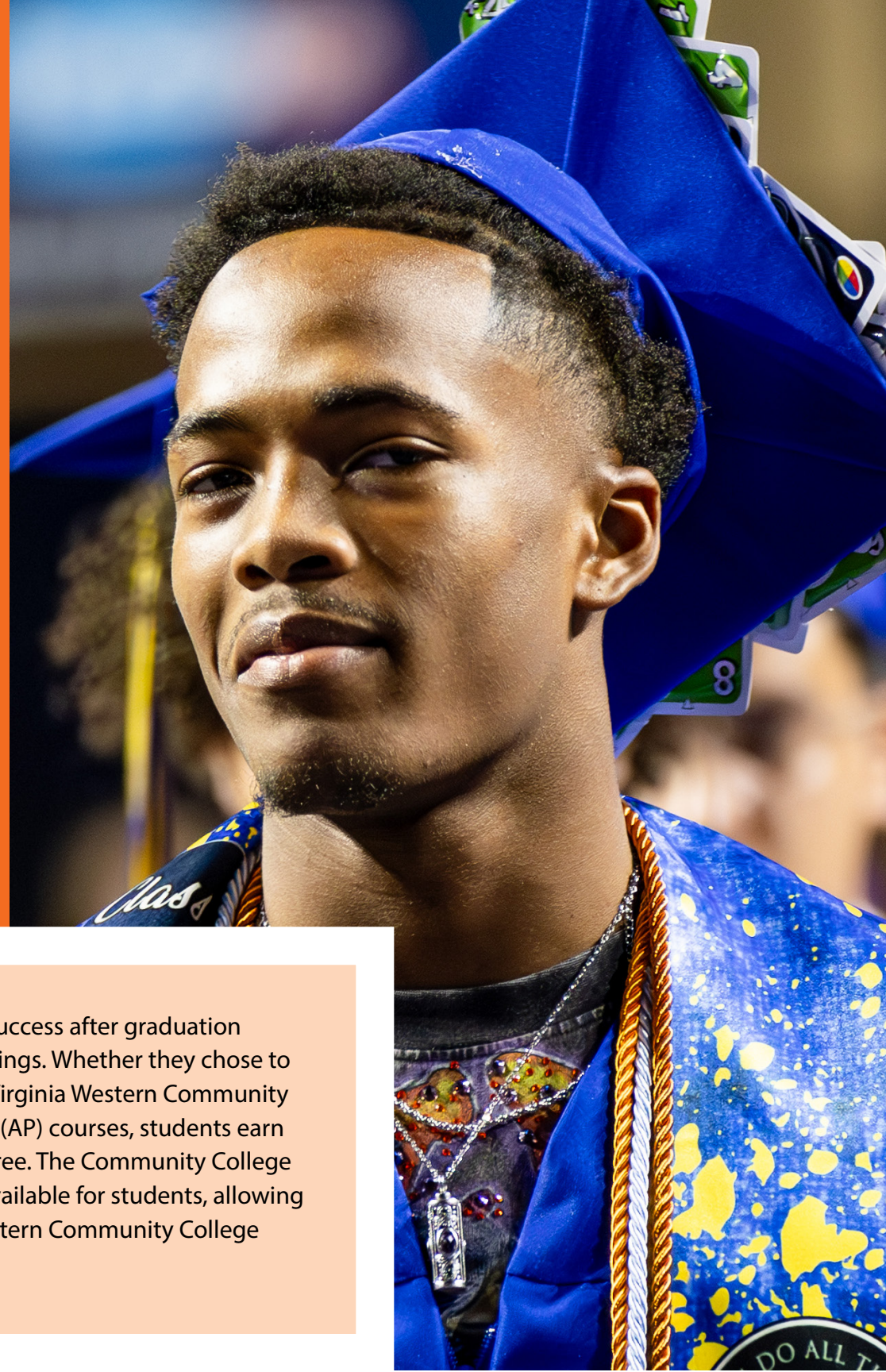
Competitive Pay & Benefits

Apply Today!

www.rcps.info

Holiday - No School

April



RCPS is setting students up for success after graduation through a variety of course offerings. Whether they chose to take dual enrollment classes at Virginia Western Community College or Advanced Placement (AP) courses, students earn credits toward their college degree. The Community College Access Program (CCAP) is also available for students, allowing graduates to attend Virginia Western Community College tuition-free for up to three years.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OBSERVANCES THIS MONTH:				April 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 School Principals' Day Physical Fitness & Sports Week (1 - 7)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Teacher Appreciation Week (3 - 7)	Teacher Appreciation Day	National Nurses Day Bike and Roll to School Day		School Communications Day School Lunch Hero Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		School Board Meeting: 6:30pm				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	National Speech Language Pathologist Day		Central Council PTA: 5:30pm 40 Douglass Ave.			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				Patrick Henry Graduation Berglund Center 10am William Fleming Graduation Berglund Center 3pm		
30	31			Last Student Day - 2-Hour Early Dismissal (Students Only)		
	Memorial Day	School Board Workshop: 5:30pm	End of 4th Grading Period Report Cards Sent Home		Teacher Service Day	



Studies show that students who participate in the arts tend to have better grades, stronger attendance, and a more enjoyable overall school experience. Students who participate in the arts also achieve higher test scores.

Plus, it's fun!

RCPS offers programs in dance and theater, music, and visual arts. Scan the QR code to learn more about arts programming in RCPS.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	May 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	July 2027 S M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!	

School Board Meeting: 6:30pm

School Board Workshop: 5:30pm

Juneteenth (Observed)

Juneteenth

Read, Read, Read!

The Summer Reading program is kicking off soon! Visit the website or watch for information coming home from your school. Families, you can also support your student by visiting the Literacy Resources page on the division website.

Literacy is the foundation for academic and future success. Keep reading this summer!



RCPS offers a wide variety of programming to keep students engaged during the summer. From the STAR Program and career exploration camps with Virginia Western, to Staying Safe by Staying Connected arts and athletic camps and Community Builders, there's something for everyone!

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		June 2027 S M T W T F S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5 Independence Day (Observed)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 School Board Meeting: 6:30pm (Tentative Date)	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 School Board Workshop: 5:30pm (Tentative Date)	28	29 New Teachers Only	30 New Teachers Only Load the Bus (Tentative Date)	31 Load the Bus (Tentative Date)

Questions Before School Starts Next Month?

Find phone numbers for schools and offices on the back of this calendar.



July

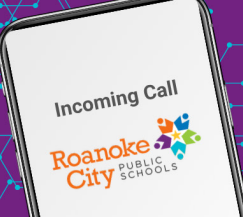
Holiday - No School



Back to School Extravaganza is the Saturday before school starts!

Students and families can receive school supplies, meet their school administrators, connect with community partners and resources, register for school and apply for preschool, receive free, required immunizations through the Virginia Department of Health, and more!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Load the Bus (Tentative Date)	2 Teacher Service Day	3 Professional Development Day	4 Professional Development Day	5 Teacher Service Day	6 Teacher Service Day	7 Back to School Extravaganza William Fleming 9am - 12pm (Tentative Date)
8	9 Teacher Service Day	10 School Board Meeting: 6:30pm (Tentative Date) First Day of School	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 School Board Workshop: 5:30pm (Tentative Date)	25	26	27	28
29	30	July 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2027 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	WELCOME BACK!		



STAY CONNECTED WITH

RCPS MASS NOTIFICATIONS

Don't miss important information and updates for your school!

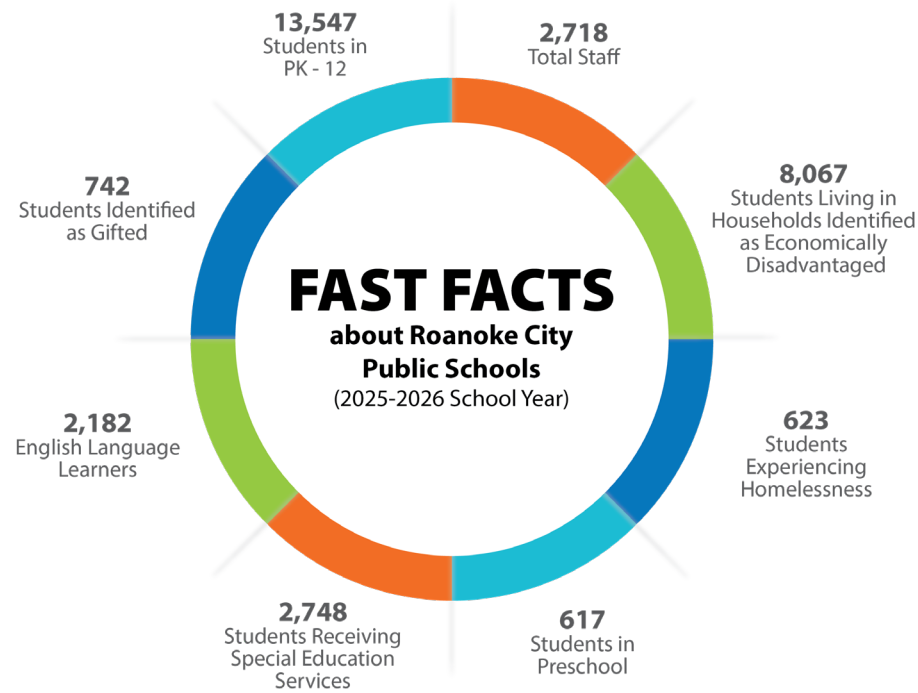
- Save (540) 777-0876 as "RCPS Call"
- Save (540) 217-9134 as "RCPS Text"
- Save short code 532-91 as "RCPS Alert"

LEARN MORE AT [RCPS.INFO/STAYCONNECTED](https://rcps.info/stayconnected)

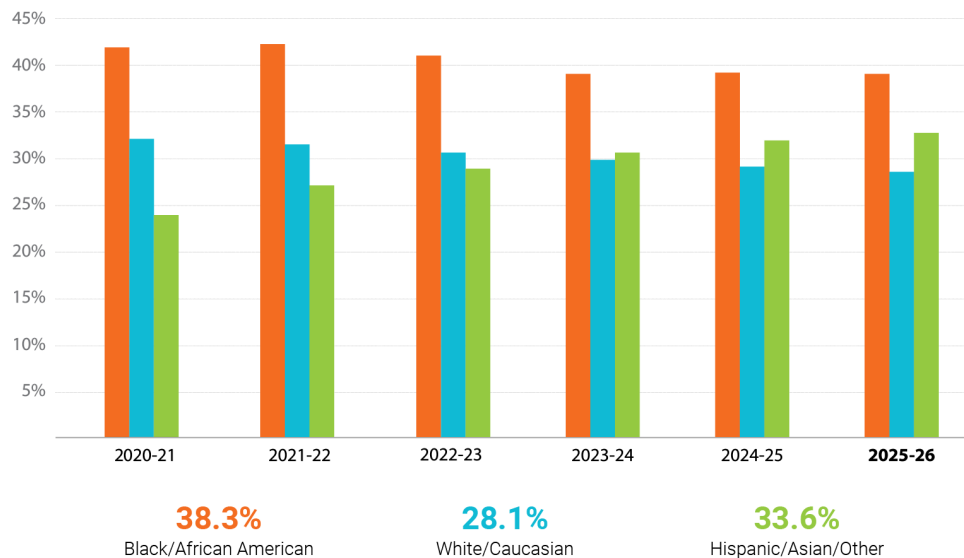
August 2027

Parent Handbook

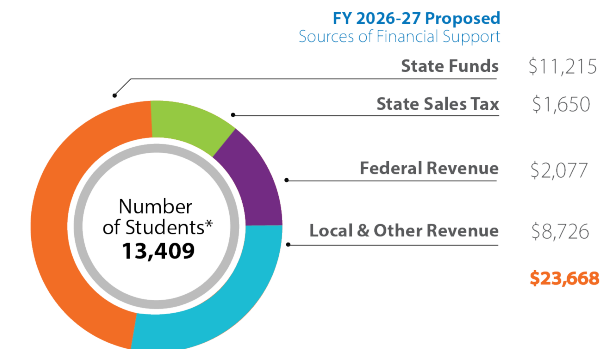
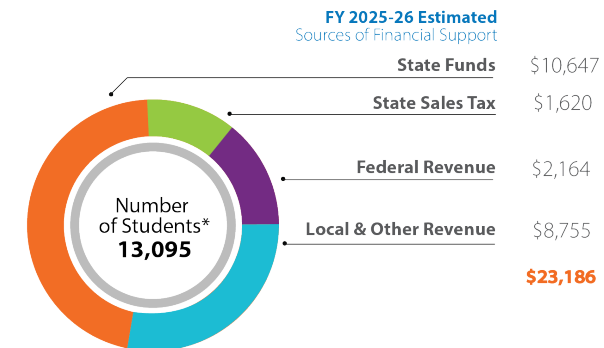
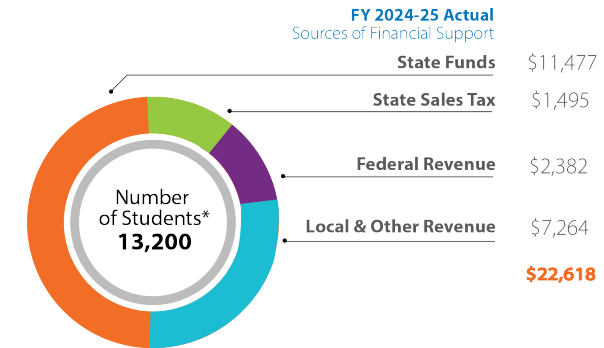
A GLIMPSE AT ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



STUDENT ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION



AVERAGE PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES



*Number of students is based on spring Average Daily Membership (ADM) and projections for grades PK-12.

17 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
5 MIDDLE SCHOOLS
2 HIGH SCHOOLS
5 PROGRAM LOCATIONS

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with law, the School Board prohibits harassment/discrimination against students, employees, or others on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, military status, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, genetic information or any characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists at school or any school-sponsored activity; equal access is provided to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Complaint Procedure is established to meet the requirements of Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA") and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination/harassment in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the School Board of the City of Roanoke (also referred to in this grievance procedure as the "School Board" or "Roanoke City Public Schools.") School Board's Policy GBA governs employment-related complaints of discrimination/harassment.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, and phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the complainant and/or their designee as soon as possible and should be made within fifteen (15) days of the alleged violation.

Questions or concerns regarding compliance with the School Division's nondiscrimination policy JB (including protection under IDEA, ADA, Section 504 and Title IX) should be directed to:

Compliance Officer or Alternate Compliance Officer. Contact information on back of calendar.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the Compliance Officer or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the

meeting, the Compliance Officer or their designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of Roanoke City Public Schools and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the Compliance Officer or their designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or their designee may appeal the decision within five (5) school days after receipt of the response to the School Board. Notice of the appeal must be filed with the Superintendent, who shall forward the record to the School Board.

Within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the record, the School Board shall make a decision, and written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to the complainant and alleged violator. All written complaints received by the Compliance Officer or their designee, appeals to the Superintendent, and responses from these two offices will be retained by Roanoke City Public Schools for at least three years.

The full version of policies for harassment/discrimination can be found in the following documents, available on the Roanoke City Public Schools' website at www.rcps.info:

- School Board Policy GBA/JFHA, Student Code of Conduct, Reporting Harassment Procedures
- RCPS Employee Handbook Complaint Forms can be found in the School Board Policy Manual:
 - School Board Policy JFHA-F (for students)
 - School Board Policy GBA-F (for employees)

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Roanoke City School Division's Department of Career and Technical Education offers a variety of career and technical programs to all students at the middle and high school levels. The program areas include the following:

- Agriculture Education
- Business and Information Technology
- Career Connections
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Health and Medical Sciences
- Marketing

- Technology Education
- Trade and Industrial Education

Tech Prep opportunities are also available for students who are entering the workforce and/or post-secondary education through an articulation agreement with Virginia Western Community College. For more information about Career and Technical Education, call **(540) 853-2803** or **(540) 853-6307**.

Roanoke City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. Students (including protection under IDEA, ADA, Section 504 and Title IX) should contact:

Compliance Officer or Alternate Compliance Officer. Contact information on back of calendar.

BULLYING HOTLINE



Roanoke City Public Schools takes bullying and cyberbullying seriously, and we want to make sure every child feels safe at school. For that reason, we have a Bullying Hotline. The Hotline is open to anyone who experiences or observes bullying that is school

related. Bullying is defined as any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. **Call (540) 853-1700** to report bullying. You can remain anonymous.

SCHOOL SECURITY



Roanoke City Public Schools takes the safety of students and staff seriously. There is no one thing that can be done to create a safe learning and working environment; school safety is made up of many layers and is a never-ending process. The division has engaged in active awareness and partnered

with public safety experts to determine the possible hazards facing our schools. Based on this hazard analysis, we have implemented layers for prevention, preparedness, response,

and recovery through emergency management plans, training, exercises, hardware and software improvements, and a positive school culture. The most important layer is a positive school culture, which is set by the administration and promoted by all employees of Roanoke City Public Schools, along with our students, parents, and guardians. This involves high structure and high support mechanisms designed for students to thrive by knowing there are caring adults. Parents and guardians can promote safe and secure schools through a positive school culture by encouraging students to report things that make them feel uncomfortable or concerned to an adult immediately. For more information, please contact your Principal, the Chief of Staff & Operations at **(540) 853-2382**, or the Superintendent.

SPEAKUP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

SpeakUp for Safety is a 24/7 safety tip line that is available for students, parents, and the community. Roanoke City Public Schools encourages anyone who has a concern about a student's well-being or school safety to utilize the tip line to report:

- Bullying
- Planned fights
- Students in crisis
- Threats of Violence
- Weapons in School
- Other urgent situations

The tip line may be accessed by calling or texting to report your concern to **(540) 200-1999**.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

AGE/ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

All children who will be five years old on or before September 30 are eligible for kindergarten. Children who are six years old by September 30 must be enrolled in school. Students who will enter kindergarten and children attending Roanoke City Public Schools for the first time must register.

There are four documents that must be presented to school officials when registering a student: an original certificate of birth, a report of physical examination that took place within 12 months of the date of entry and proof of residency.



Questions should be directed to: Office of Academics, (540) 853-2877.

STANDARDS OF LEARNING

RCPS develops and implements a program of instruction for grades kindergarten through 12 that is aligned to the Standards of Learning established by the Virginia Board of Education. Expectations for student learning and achievement, relating to both grade-level and content, can be found at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction>.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Roanoke City Public Schools awards graduation diplomas and certificates of program completion, which meet the regulations of the Virginia Department of Education and comply with Virginia's Standards of Accreditation.

Detailed information regarding diploma types, graduation requirements, and program completion requirements may be found in the high schools' Programs of Studies. These documents are available at high school counseling offices and on the division's website www.rcps.info/parents. Graduation information may be found on the Virginia Department of Education's website, www.doe.virginia.gov, under Graduation Requirements. The most commonly awarded diplomas are the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas.

Standard Diploma Requirements:

Students entering the 9th grade must earn 22 credits in the required courses and must pass five SOL assessments: two End-of-Course English Tests (Reading and Writing), one test in mathematics, one in history/social science, and one in science. One of the 22 credits must be Economics and Personal Finance. Students seeking the Standard Diploma must also earn elective credits in at least two sequential elective courses. All students seeking the standard diploma must earn a board-approved career and technical education credential and successfully complete one virtual course, which may be non-credit bearing.

Advanced Studies Diploma Requirements:

Students entering the 9th grade who are seeking the Advanced Studies Diploma must

successfully complete one virtual course (which may be non-credit bearing); at least 26 credits, one of which must be Economics or Personal Finance; and five verified credits from SOL testing: two English (Reading and Writing); one in mathematics; one in science; and one in history and social science. Verified credits are awarded when the student passes a course to earn a standard unit of credit and achieves a passing score on the related End-of-Course SOL test. Students who have an A or B grade average are strongly encouraged to enroll in advanced courses. The student must also either take three years of one foreign language or two years of two languages.

For any high school credit-bearing course taken in middle school, parents may request that the grades be omitted from the student's transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course in accordance with policies adopted by the local school board. Notice of this provision must be provided to the parents with a deadline and format for making such a request. The student may be required to retake the course in the future.

STUDENT TRANSFERS

Students shall attend the school in the zone where they legally reside. A transfer may be approved for a student if the reason for the request meets one of the criteria established by the school board for a transfer. Requests for transfers will be accepted only from March 15, 2027 through April 15, 2027.

Every effort will be made to notify parents and guardians no later than June 15, 2027. After March 1, 2027, transfer request forms will be posted at www.rcps.info/transfer or can be obtained from any school office. For additional information, call the Department of Student Services at (540) 853-1393.

DIVISION REPORT CARDS

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires divisions that receive Title I funds to make an annual division report card showing specified information available to parents. The Virginia Department of Education posts the information required by ESSA on its website and has stated this posting satisfies the requirements of ESSA. This information may be found at www.doe.virginia.gov.

THE RCPS GRADING SCALE		
100	–	90 = A
89	–	80 = B
79	–	70 = C
69	–	60 = D
59	–	0 = F

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

All schools in the division will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Enrolled students will be provided a nutritious meal for breakfast and lunch each day at no charge to the household. Households will not be required to submit a meal application form to receive meals at no charge. Any questions can be directed to:

Ellen Craddock, Director of Food and Nutrition
Roanoke City Public Schools
P.O. Box 13145, NW • Roanoke, VA 24012
(540) 853-2863 • ecraddock@rcps.info

All meals served must meet standards established by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). However, if a student has been determined by a doctor to have a disability that prevents the student from eating the regular school meal, the school will make reasonable substitutions prescribed by the doctor. If a substitution is prescribed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. If your student needs substitutions because of a disability, please call (540) 853-2863.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

FEES AND FORMS

Visit us at www.rcps.info for important medical forms, transfer forms, student privacy forms, etc. Forms are also available at the main office of your child's school.

TEXTBOOK FEES

Textbooks will be provided at no charge. At the end of the school year, a fee will be

charged for any damaged or lost textbooks.

SCHOOL FEES

Additional fees may apply depending on the grade level and course requirements. A list of fees for physical education, lockers, and any other necessary school activities will be provided for parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year by the individual school.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AT RCPS

POLICIES

Policies are general statements of intent adopted by the School Board to guide the operation of the schools. Policies are reviewed by the School Board Attorney to ensure appropriate legal consideration. School Board Policies are available online at www.rcps.info/boarddocs. Copies are available to citizens who don't have online access by calling (540) 853-1655. Employees, school patrons, and the general public may review the policies at any time.

ATTENDANCE

Student attendance on a regular and punctual basis is a must for a student's academic success. Parents and guardians are encouraged to notify the school when their child will be absent. Attendance regulations are described in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is a vital part of your child's success in school. If your student maintains good attendance, please encourage them to continue. Parents are expected to cooperate with school officials to remedy a student's attendance problem. Unexcused absences are a violation of the Code of Virginia, Sections 22.1-78, 22.1-254 through 22.1-269 and can have serious sanctions ordered by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

School officials monitor student attendance to facilitate interventions for students who demonstrate difficulty maintaining regular and punctual school attendance. Please contact the student support specialist at your child's school for additional information regarding attendance questions and concerns.

Every parent, guardian, or other person in the Commonwealth having control or charge of any child who will have reached

the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the eighteenth birthday shall, during the period of each year the public schools are in session and for the same number of days and hours per day as the public schools, send such child to a public school or to a private, denominational, or parochial school or have such child taught by a tutor or teacher of qualifications prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the division superintendent, or provide for home instruction of such child as described in section 22.1-254.1.

As prescribed in the regulations of the Board of Education, the requirements of this section may also be satisfied by sending a child to an alternative program of study or work/study offered by a public, private, denominational, or parochial school or by a public or private degree-granting institution of higher education. Further, in the case of any five-year-old child who is subject to the provisions of this subsection, the requirements of this section may be alternatively satisfied by sending the child to any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or a private, denominational, or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program.

In-home instruction of a child or children, by the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such child or children, shall not be classified or defined as a private, denominational, or parochial school.

Each parent must sign and return to the student's school a statement acknowledging the receipt of the compulsory attendance law and the enforcement procedures and policies adopted by the School Board. This statement of acknowledgment is located in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook. Each school must maintain records of such signed statements. For additional information, refer to School Board policies JEA and JED.

INDUCING CHILDREN TO ABSENT THEMSELVES

Any person who induces or attempts to induce any child to be absent unlawfully from school or who knowingly employs or harbors, while a school is in session, any child absent unlawfully shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and may be subject to penalties. Upon a finding that

a person knowingly and willfully violated the provisions of this section and that such person has been convicted previously of a violation of this section, such person shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. 22.1-265 of the Code of Virginia.

CODE OF CONDUCT K-12

Parents and students have the right to expect a quality education, a safe environment for students and their teachers, and protection of their investment in school property. In a partnership with parents, teachers, students, and other members of the community, we have developed the Code of Conduct K-12. To help keep our schools safe, students are strongly encouraged to report instances of bullying, threats, and other conduct infractions to an adult at school. It is important to remember, it is about reporting and telling, not snitching or tattling.

We believe schools are for the benefit of all people. This document defines the standards and expectations for student behavior and provides school administrators with ideas for administering consequences for infractions. The document is also intended to be a guide for parents and students.

In Roanoke City Public Schools, we are committed to fostering a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment where each child will be challenged academically and will learn and grow.

It should be understood that students do not divest themselves of their constitutional rights upon entering school. As long as they do not disrupt the educational process by imposing upon, endangering, or depriving others of their rights; students will enjoy their freedoms of expression, orderly assembly, privacy of person, and freedom from discrimination. There are certain offenses that will not be tolerated and will carry a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. They include violations related to illegal substances, possession of a gun, assault and battery on a teacher or other school employee or person acting on behalf of the school system, assault and battery cases on students, acts of terrorism, and threats of a serious nature. Fair and reasonable procedures will be followed to assure students of their rights. Students must recognize that to maintain an educational environment in which they can strive

to achieve their intellectual potential, the reasonable exercise of authority by school officials is necessary. Parents are required by law to assist their child's school in disciplinary matters necessary to maintain order. School personnel, along with parental and community support, are obligated to maintain an environment that is favorable to the learning process and free from disruptions. Teachers have the right to instruct free from verbal intimidation, physical abuse, or outside interference.

It is the intent of the School Board and administration that all persons connected with our schools demonstrate respect for the rights of students and that our schools require students to accept their responsibilities toward others and the school system.

Each parent must sign and return to the student's school a statement acknowledging the receipt of the Standards and Expectations for Student Behavior Code of Conduct K-12 handbook, as each school must maintain records of such signed statement (VA Code 22.1-279.3.C). For additional information, refer to School Board policy JFC-SR.

REMOVAL OF STUDENTS

Roanoke City Public Schools believes schools are for the benefit of all people. Parents or legal guardians of any student who poses a threat to the health and safety of the school community will be notified of the student's violation. Teachers shall have the initial authority to remove students from the class for disruptive behavior as defined by the Student Code of Conduct. The administrator/principal shall ensure students removed from class receive an education in accordance with School Board policies and administrative procedures.

STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

Access to the Student Wellness Policy JHCF is available through BoardDocs, located at www.rcps.info/boarddocs. The public is encouraged to participate in the development, implementation, review, and updates of this policy by attending School Health Advisory Board committee meetings. Committee Meeting Schedules are also posted under BoardDocs.

REFUSAL TO RELEASE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Federal law permits schools to disclose certain categories of information, known as directory

information, without prior written consent unless a parent, guardian, or eligible student requests that such information not be disclosed.

Directory information is information generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. It may be used in school publications, recognition programs, yearbooks, athletic programs, graduation materials, and other school-sponsored activities.

Directory information may include the following types of information:

- Student name
- Grade level
- School attended
- Dates of attendance
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Height/weight of athletic team members
- Degrees, honors, awards, and recognitions received

Directory information may also be shared with organizations that provide services or activities for students or schools, such as yearbook publishers, class ring vendors, libraries, scholarship organizations, or similar educational and school-related organizations.

Parents, guardians, and eligible students may request that directory information not be disclosed by submitting a written request in accordance with division procedures.

Questions regarding directory information, student records, or opt-out requests may be directed to the student's school principal.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO RECORDINGS, AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Student photographs, video recordings, interviews, and similar media uses are governed by the school division's media release procedures.

From time to time, the school division, news media, or other authorized organizations may wish to photograph, video record, or interview students in connection with school activities, student recognition, educational programs, or public information efforts. These uses may include division and school publications, websites, social media accounts, yearbooks, videos, recognition programs, news media coverage, and division-operated or division-affiliated educational

programs.

Parents, guardians, and eligible students may exercise media-release choices through the division's media release process. Questions regarding media releases may be directed to the student's school principal.

MILITARY RECRUITER NOTIFICATION

Federal law requires school divisions serving secondary school students to provide certain student contact information to military recruiters upon request unless a parent, guardian, or eligible student submits a written request that such information not be disclosed.

Parents, guardians, and eligible students will receive annual notice of this right. The school division will honor all timely opt-out requests in accordance with applicable law.

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or emancipated minors (eligible students) certain rights regarding conducting surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams by Roanoke City Public Schools. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (protected information survey) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family.
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding.
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a child, except for hearing, vision or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or for selling, or otherwise distributing the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students.
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum. Roanoke City Public Schools will develop policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect child privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The school division will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The school division will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U.S. mail or e-mail, at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in the following:
 - Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
 - Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of

Education.

- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-5920

FERPA

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 educational records. They are as follows:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the division 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 principal will make arrangements 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 educational records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask Roanoke City Public Schools to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the division decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the division will notify the parent and/or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request of amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a

statement with the record setting forth their view about the contested information.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent includes school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the division 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 division has contracted to perform a special task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a person assisting another school official in performing their tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

The division discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school division or educational agency in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. According to FERPA and Every Student Succeeds (ESSA), this disclosure includes disciplinary records (with respect to suspensions and expulsions).
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the division to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920
5. The Uninterrupted Scholars Act permits a school division to disclose the educational records of students, with or without parental permission, to an agency caseworker or representative of the state or local child welfare agency or a tribal authority if the agency or authority is responsible for the care and protection of the student.

Those agencies cannot further disclose the records except as authorized by FERPA.

CITY OF ROANOKE SCHOOL BOARD ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Roanoke City Public Schools Non-Discrimination Statement

Roanoke City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, military status, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Students who have questions or concerns regarding compliance with the school division's nondiscrimination policy JB (including protection under IDEA, ADA, Section 504 and Title IX) should contact:

Compliance Officer or Alternate Compliance Officer. *Contact information on back of calendar.*

HOMELESS STUDENTS/MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

The School Board of the City of Roanoke is committed to educating homeless children and youth. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. The school division will coordinate the identification and provision of services to such students with relevant local social services agencies and other agencies and programs providing services to such students and with other school divisions as may be necessary to resolve inter-divisional issues. Homeless children and youth includes students living in a hotel, on the street, in a shelter, or in some cases, living with others until stable housing can be obtained. Questions and inquiries regarding the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness should contact:

Malora Horn, McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Roanoke City Public Schools
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SECTION 504/AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Persons who believe the school division has discriminated against someone on the basis of disability and thus violated Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can file a written grievance with the school division's Section 504 Coordinator. Once a written grievance is received, the school division will investigate the allegations contained in the written grievance in an effort to reach a prompt and equitable resolution.

A grievance must meet the following requirements:

The grievance must be in writing. At a minimum, it must contain: 1) the nature of the grievance; 2) the facts upon which the grievance is based, including a list of all witnesses; 3) the remedy requested; and 4) the complainant's signature and the date the grievance is filed. The written grievance must be filed with:

Section 504 Coordinator or Alternate Section 504 Coordinator. *Contact information on back of calendar.*

The grievance should be reported as soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) school days after the occurrence. This time frame may be lengthened for extraordinary circumstances.

The complainant must have the opportunity to present verbal and written evidence.

The coordinator or designee will independently investigate the allegations to determine whether the school division is in compliance with Section 504 and the ADA. The coordinator or designee will provide a written report of the investigation to the complainant within thirty (30) school days of receipt of the complaint. The report should include the following information:

1. A statement of the complainant's allegations and the remedy sought;
2. A statement of facts as contended by each party;
3. A narrative describing attempts to resolve the grievance;
4. A list of the witnesses interviewed and the documents reviewed during the investigation;
5. A statement of facts as determined by the coordinator or designee with reference to the evidence to support each fact;
6. The coordinator or designee's conclusion

as to whether the allegations are valid; and,

7. If the coordinator or designee does determine the allegations are valid, the report should include any corrective action determined by the coordinator or designee.

An extension of the thirty (30) school day time limit for submitting the written report may occur if necessary, as determined by the coordinator or designee. The complainant will be notified in writing of the extended time limit.

The complainant shall have an opportunity to make a written appeal to the school division's superintendent within ten (10) school days of receiving the coordinator's report. Following an appeal, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee will review the complainant's appeal along with the coordinator's report and then respond in writing to the complainant within thirty (30) school days of receiving the appeal. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall either confirm or disapprove the coordinator or designee's decision.

An extension of the thirty (30) school day time limit may occur if necessary, as determined by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. The complainant will be notified in writing of the extended time limit.

Retaliation against a complainant or anyone who reports discrimination or participates in a grievance investigation is prohibited. If this occurs, the individual may file a complaint with the school division. If assistance is needed, please contact the school division's Section 504 Coordinator:

Section 504 Coordinator or Alternate Section 504 Coordinator. *Contact information on back of calendar.*

The full version of policies related to discrimination or harassment can be found in the School Board Policy Manual available in the School Libraries and on the division website at www.rcps.info/schoolboard. Reference **Policies GB, GBA, JB, JBA, and JFHA**. Complaint forms are found in the Policy Manual JFHA-F (students) and GBA-F (employees).

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- Student Code of Conduct
- Reporting Harassment Procedures

- Division Employee Handbook

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Roanoke School Board (also referred to in this notice as "Roanoke City Public Schools") will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The City of Roanoke School Board does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The City of Roanoke School Board will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in all Roanoke City Public Schools' programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures:

The City of Roanoke School Board will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcome in all Roanoke City Public Schools' offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE

A person who has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment, has a right to equal access and/or accommodation to benefit from their education.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of all policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Roanoke City Public Schools should contact

the division's Section 504 Coordinator, as listed below, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Section 504 Coordinator or Alternate Section 504 Coordinator. *Contact information on back of calendar.*

The ADA does not require Roanoke City Public Schools to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Roanoke City Public Schools is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to:

Section 504 Coordinator or Alternate Section 504 Coordinator. *Contact information on back of calendar.*

Roanoke City Public Schools will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Roanoke City Public Schools maintains a comprehensive Asbestos Management Plan for each school building. These plans document the location and condition of known asbestos-containing building materials and are updated following inspections, response actions, post-response actions, and periodic surveillance.

The required six-month periodic surveillance and three-year reinspection program is conducted by accredited personnel in accordance with AHERA requirements. Copies of each school's Asbestos Management Plan, including information regarding inspections, response actions, and post-response actions that are planned or in progress, are available for review in the school administrative office and through the Department of Operations upon request. Roanoke City Public Schools is committed to protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors through the ongoing

management of asbestos-containing materials in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ACT

Roanoke City Public Schools is committed to providing a drug-free workplace for students and employees. Our school division communicates a clear anti-drug message through policies and procedures. Information is sent to all employees to explain our position regarding the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

In addition to criminal offenses, which may result in imprisonment and fines, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing or use of alcohol and illicit drugs – including anabolic steroids – is prohibited by employees engaged in School Board business in the community or at any time the employee is involved in any activity involving students. The School Board will not tolerate the handling or use of illegal drugs by its employees in any situation, whether in or out of the workplace.

The Drug-Free Workplace Act requires that employees notify the school division of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days of such conviction. Information about an employee's conviction should be provided to the Executive Director of Human Resources at **(540) 853-2382**. This requirement and those set forth above constitute conditions of employment for school employees.

School Board policy GBEA-BR requires that employees notify the Superintendent in writing within 24 hours or the next business day if charged with an offense involving illegal or prescription drugs. The policy also requires notification if the employee has been charged with a felony or with a misdemeanor for certain crimes. This notification must be delivered to the Superintendent as soon as practicable, and no later than the first working day following receipt of the legal notice. Please check the policy for more specific information. Failure to notify the Superintendent in accordance with the policy may result in termination.

School division employees occupy a special position of trust and responsibility, which is affected by actions occurring at school locations as well as off school premises or off the job. Any employee who violates the

prohibitions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE

The many serious dangers of drug abuse are well documented and should be recognized by all employees:

- May cause accidents involving self or others when impaired by alcohol or other drugs or when suffering withdrawal symptoms
- Negatively affects health of abuser, damages pancreas and liver, increases heart rate and blood pressure
- May adversely affect kidneys, lungs, stomach, small intestines, and nervous system, depending upon type of drug used, frequency, and amount of drug use
- May contribute to violence or other behavioral problems
- Impairs judgment
- Reduces productivity

There are many resources available in the Roanoke Valley to assist persons who have drug dependency problems, including Child and Family Services Counseling and Crisis Service and the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare Assessment Center. The Employee Health Clinic was opened to RCPS employees beginning in the 1995-1996 school year. The school division can also provide confidential referrals for employees who have personal problems, including problems related to drugs. For more information, or to learn about our Employee Assistance Program (EAP), please contact the Human Resources Office at **(540) 853-2382**.

ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. If you would like to receive information about this topic, please contact the Office of Division Accountability and Strategic Initiatives either by phone at **(540) 853-2101**, or in writing at Roanoke City Public Schools 201 Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24011.

RIGHT TO REVIEW TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(1)(A) states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers instructing students. Federal law requires the school division to provide this information in a timely manner if requested. Specifically, parents/guardians have the right to request the following information about each of a student's classroom teachers:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status because of special circumstances.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification or degree they received.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to the requester's students and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive information, please contact the Human Resources Department at **(540) 853-2382** or in writing to 201 Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke VA, 24011

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES NOTICE OF RECORDS DESTRUCTION

The division retains records of students with disabilities for a period of five (5) years after the student graduates, completes a Board of Education program, transfers, or withdraws from school. Roanoke City Public Schools makes a reasonable effort to notify parents of children with disabilities prior to the destruction of any records in accordance with federal code 34 CFR300.624. Notification will be made fifteen (15) working days prior to records destruction through The Roanoke Times. Prior to destruction, notification is also provided on the division's website.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Each school board shall annually post information distributed by the Department of Education describing the educational and other services available through the Virginia Department of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and the Virginia

Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired to the parents of those students who are identified as deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired. School boards must also inform the parents of the availability of the information and ensure that packets of the information are available in an accessible format for review by parents who do not have Internet access. VA Code 22.1-217.01.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Roanoke City Public Schools' Child Find process helps to identify potential special education needs and educate the community about Child Find. The importance of Child Find in early intervention for children who may need services is critical. Roanoke City Public Schools will maintain an active and continuing child find program designed to identify. Locate and evaluate children residing in this jurisdiction who are two through 21 years of age, inclusively, who are in need of special education and related services. These shall include the following:

- Children who are highly mobile, such as migrant and homeless
 - Children who attend private schools, including children who are home instructed or home-tutored
 - Children who are suspected of being in need of special education and related services though they are advancing from grade to grade; and
 - Children who are under age 18 who are suspected of having a disability
 - Children who under age 18 and need special education and related services
 - Children who are incarcerated in a regional or local jail in this jurisdiction for 10 or more days
 - Children who are living in nursing homes
- Roanoke City Public Schools will coordinate Child Find activities for infants and toddlers birth to age two, inclusively) with the Part C local inter-agency coordinating council. Roanoke City Public Schools conducts a public awareness campaign to inform the community of all persons, ages birth to 21 inclusively, rights to a free and appropriate public education and the availability of special education services.

Please refer children that may need to be considered for special education services to the Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator at (540) 853-1438. Contact may also be made to the principal of the school

your child attends or the Executive Director of Special Education & Exceptional Learners at (540) 853-2468. The name of the school in your school zone area is listed in the telephone book. You may also access www.rcps.info for more information on Special Education programs.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH INFORMATION

MEDICATION POLICY

Roanoke City Public Schools encourages medication to be administered at home, if possible. When medication is needed during school hours, the following procedures must be followed:

- Prescription medication must be in the pharmacy labeled container with the student's name and dosing instructions. There must also be a completed Medication Permission Form with the doctor's orders, doctor's signature, and written parental permission. If the medication is not in the pharmacy labeled container, the Medication Permission Form is incomplete or there is a discrepancy, medication cannot be given.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications must be in an unopened, sealed, original labeled container. The parent must complete a Medication Permission Form with specific dosing instructions. OTC medications may not be given outside the manufacturer's label directions or on a routine basis without a doctor's order. OTC medications include not only oral medicines, but also preparations that may be applied to the outside of the body.
- Medications are usually kept in the school office or clinic. Medications must be brought to and from school by an adult, not the student.
- Medication Permission Forms are only good for one school year and must be completed at the beginning of each school year.
- Due to the lack of standards for preparation, dosage, potency, and use, alternative or herbal preparations and nutritional supplements will be treated as prescription medications.
- Only the school nurse, principal or principal's trained designee may administer medication at school.
- Verbal orders cannot be accepted by school personnel.

- Medication orders will be reviewed by the school nurse. If there is a discrepancy or reason to suspect a child may be compromised by a medication, the medication will be held until there is a resolution.
- If your child has a health condition and needs to carry and self-administer a medication such as an inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, please contact the school or school nurse for further instructions.
- Medications not picked up at the end of the school year will be destroyed.

Information for parents explaining the medication procedure and the Medication Administration Permission Form may be found on the Roanoke City Public Schools website at www.rcps.info/studenthealth on the Student Health Services page. These documents are also available at each school.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

In accordance with state requirements, students new to Roanoke City Public Schools and students at specified grade levels receive health screenings. Screenings may include one or more of the following: hearing, vision, speech, voice, language, dental, height, weight, fine/gross motor function. Student Support Teams may also request screenings.

POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO VIRAL INFECTIONS

Whenever any School Board employee is directly exposed to or exposes other persons to body fluids in a manner which may, according to current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control, transmit HIV or the Hepatitis B or C virus, the person whose body fluids were involved in the exposure shall be deemed to have consented to testing for infection with HIV or Hepatitis B or C. Such persons will also be deemed to have consented to the release of such test results to the persons exposed.

Upon notification by a school employee who believes he/she has been involved in a possible exposure-prone incident, which may have exposed the employee to the blood or body fluids of a student, the Superintendent shall contact the local health director who, upon immediate investigation of the incident, shall determine if a potentially harmful exposure has occurred and make recommendations based upon all information available to him or her regarding how the employee can reduce any

risks from such exposure. The Superintendent shall share these recommendations with the school employee.

The Superintendent and the school employee shall not divulge any information provided by the local health director regarding the student involved except as described below. The information provided by the local health director shall be subject to any applicable confidentiality requirements set forth in Section 32.1-35 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

If the person is a minor, consent for testing shall be obtained from the parent, guardian, or person standing 'in loco parentis' (meaning in the place of a parent) of such minor prior to initiating such testing. If the parent or guardian or person standing in the place of a parent withholds such consent, the school board may petition the juvenile and domestic relations district court in the county or city where the minor resides for an order requiring such testing.

Except if the person to be tested is a minor, if the person whose blood specimen is sought for testing refuses to provide such specimen, any person potentially exposed to the human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses, or the employer of such person, may petition the general district court of the county or city in which the person whose specimen is sought resides or resided, or, in the case of a nonresident, the county or city where the school board has its principal office, for any order requiring the person to provide a blood specimen or to submit to testing and to disclose the test results in accordance with this section.

At any hearing before the court, the person whose specimen is sought or his counsel may appear. The court shall be advised by the Commissioner or his designee prior to entering any testing order. If a testing order is issued, both the petitioner and the person from whom the blood specimen is sought shall receive counseling and opportunity for face-to-face disclosure of any test results by a licensed practitioner or trained counselor (*from School Board Policy EBAB Adopted: January 11, 2020, Revised May 12, 2020*).

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?

We want to support your child's school attendance. School nurses and trained personnel are available to help meet the needs of your child.

For the health of your child, other students, and school staff, it is important to know when your child needs to stay home due to illness.

Please keep your child at home if you recognize any of the following:

- fever of 100 or higher in the last 24 hours: Your child may return to school once his/her temperature has been normal for 24 hours WITHOUT THE USE OF FEVER-REDUCING MEDICATIONS.
- undiagnosed rash that is accompanied by fever or itching
- bad cough or difficulty breathing
- vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- sore throat, with fever or swollen glands in the neck
- symptoms of being sick such as being unusually tired, fussy, pale, or had difficulty waking

If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, please keep your child at home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 12 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider's recommendations about returning to school and other social activities. For the current Return to School Health Plan, including COVID-19 mitigation strategies, visit www.rcps.info.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school. We ask that you maintain communication with school personnel if the absence is for an extended period of time. Should your child be under a doctor's care, upon returning to school, please notify the school nurse prior to your child's return so the school can plan to meet your child's needs.

To help keep your child healthy and ready to learn, teach your child good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. This includes covering coughs and sneezes with tissues, coughing and sneezing into the inside of the elbow, and discarding used tissues. Hands should

be washed frequently with soap and water, and hand-washing should last for at least 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself. If hands are not visibly soiled, hand sanitizers containing at least 60 percent alcohol are also effective.

HEAD LICE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Head lice are a common problem in school-age children. It can take up to two weeks for head lice infestation to become apparent. This information may help decrease the risk of your child becoming infested or give you the information you need to treat head lice in your child.

Head lice are small, light to dark brown insects about the size of a grain of rice or smaller. The female head louse lays eggs, called nits, on the hair shaft close to the scalp. These nits, which look like tiny whitish ovals, are firmly glued to the hair shaft and usually hatch within two weeks. Nits are most often found in the hair behind the ears and at the back of the head and neck. Nits should not be confused with dandruff. Dandruff can be easily flicked off the hair, nits cannot.

FACT: All humans, regardless of race or age, can get lice. They are not a sign of being dirty and should not be considered a sign of an unclean house or neglect.

FACT: It can take up to two weeks for a head lice infestation to become apparent.

FACT: Lice have no wings and do not jump. They spread from one person to another through close contact with someone who is infested or by sharing combs, brushes, towels, headphones, hoodies, etc., with someone who has lice.

FACT: Research shows only 5% of children with lice actually get the lice at school.

FACT: Lice need human blood to survive and therefore do not live more than a couple of days away from a human.

FACT: Head lice are a nuisance but they DO NOT transmit disease.

FACT: Your school nurse and teachers are available to support you and to teach you what to do to treat your family and your home, **BUT THEY CANNOT STOP THE SPREAD OF LICE IN YOUR SCHOOL.** Treatment must be done effectively and completely at home to stop the spread of lice in the schools.

FACT: Students found to have head lice will finish the school day, then must be treated before they can return to school. Your school nurse will contact you if your child has lice and will send information to you regarding treatment and home procedures to complete. In keeping with recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, RCPS **DOES NOT** have a "no-nit" policy. Upon completion of treatment and return to school, the school nurse should assess for appropriate treatment before being allowed to return to the classroom.

FACT: The secret to stopping the spread of lice is good HOMEWORK! Proper treatment for the live lice followed by DAILY nit removal is what it takes! Re-infestation can occur if the nits are not removed, so check for nits every day.

WHAT TO DO: Be alert for the signs and symptoms, which include intense head scratching and, of course, the presence of the live lice on the scalp or nits on the hair shaft(s). If you suspect head lice, check your child's head closely under a good light source. Head lice may be hard to locate because they move to avoid light. Nits may be easier to find. If left untreated, head lice will quickly increase in number, so you have to be sure to treat it as soon as it is detected. If you find lice or nits in your child's hair, comb out as many of the nits as possible using a fine-tooth comb or tweezers and then use a special medicated shampoo that contains either pyrethrin or permethrin.

These products can be purchased without a prescription at any pharmacy and at most grocery stores. The medication should be used exactly as directed in the package instructions. Do not shampoo your child's hair with regular shampoo for several days after the application of the medicated shampoo. This will allow the medication to work and continue to kill the lice and nits. Use the medicated shampoo again in one week, if needed. None of the treatments are 100% effective, and it is very common for it to take a few weeks to completely resolve a head lice infestation. **DO** continue to check for and remove nits from the hair daily.

Remember to check all family members and treat those with any signs of head lice. Contact your health care provider for persistent cases that do not respond to

2 or 3 consecutive weekly treatments of the over-the-counter shampoo.

At home, the best thing to do is to check your entire family for lice and nits regularly, especially after sleepovers. It is also important to wash bedding, towels, clothes and coats in hot, soapy water. Drying these items in a hot dryer is recommended. Items which cannot be washed can be sealed in a plastic bag for two weeks. Carpets, upholstery and car seats should be vacuumed. Head lice do not live off of their hosts for more than a day or two, so excessive cleaning is not needed.

Please know that we share your concern about head lice. If you detect head lice in your child, please let the school nurse know. Your school nurse and your principal will alert parents and guardians when there is any unusual clustering of head lice cases, while still seeking to protect the privacy of individual students. Together, we can successfully eliminate head lice. Please feel free to contact your school nurse if you have any questions.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://ris.dls.virginia.gov/uploads/8VAC20/DIBR/cad18002536-2.pdf>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/epidemiology-fact-sheets/pediculosis-head-lice-infestation/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice>

DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS INTERVENTIONS

A comprehensive K-12 Prevention and Intervention Program exists in Roanoke City Public Schools. The program is a cooperative effort of Roanoke City Public Schools, the Roanoke City Police Department, and many other community agencies in the Roanoke Valley. The prevention program helps students develop the skills and knowledge to resist negative pressures to use alcohol or other drugs. Notification of school-connected overdoses is also required as described in School Board Policy KGD. More information is available at www.rcps.info/health.

PROHIBITION OF TOBACCO/NICOTINE PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Due to the health dangers of tobacco and nicotine vapor products, no persons – staff, students, visitors, or contractors – are permitted to use or distribute any tobacco product or nicotine vapor product on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school sponsored activity at any time.

No student is permitted to possess a tobacco or nicotine product under the circumstances described above.

In addition, the use or distribution of any tobacco product or nicotine vapor product on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school sponsored activity is prohibited at all times.

Educational information on the health dangers of tobacco and nicotine vapor products are available on the RCPS website by visiting the Annual Required Notices or by visiting rcps.info/annualnotices.

SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS

The mission of the Department of School Counseling is to recognize the uniqueness and personal worth of each child and to assist each student in acquiring the academic, career and person/social competencies necessary to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to become successful lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and productive workers.

The Roanoke City Public Schools' counseling program emphasizes academic success for every student, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. School counselors work with students, parents, school staff, and members of the community as an integral part of the educational process.

REVIEW OF MATERIALS

Materials used in the school counseling program are available for parent review in each school. Interested parents should schedule an appointment with the school counselor for this purpose.

OPT-OUT

It shall be the policy of the Roanoke City School Board, with respect to academic, career, and personal/social counseling, that parents will notify the school division in writing if the student is not to participate in any part of the counseling program.

The Roanoke City School Board affirms parents are the student's first teachers and public schools should serve to strengthen family and parental support. No student will be required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object.

COUNSELING LIMITATIONS

Counseling techniques, which are beyond the scope of the professional certification or training of professional school counselors, including hypnosis or other psychotherapeutic techniques, are prohibited.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

Roanoke City Public Schools recognizes the danger sex offenders pose to student safety; therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, attend school, or attend school-related activities, each school principal in the school division receives electronic notification of the registration or re-registration of any sex offenders in the same or contiguous zip codes as the school. For additional information, refer to School Board policies KN and KN-BR (VA Code 22.1-79.3.C). The Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry may be accessed at www.vspso.com.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

All school personnel are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse and/or neglect. School personnel are required by the commonwealth of Virginia to report any such suspicion within 24 hours.

CELL PHONE PROCEDURES

We want all students to be engaged and feel safe every day. Student cell phone use can lead to disruptions, distractions, and affect our students' mental health. In compliance with Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.3, students may not use their cell phone during the school day. Please www.rcps.info/cellphones for complete details.

KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

Families play a key role in helping keep our schools safe. Virginia law requires us to share safety information with you each year, including how to recognize warning signs of violence or self-harm, and how to safely

store prescription drugs and firearms at home, locked and out of a child's reach.

RECOGNIZING WARNING SIGNS

Section 18.2-56.2 of the Code of Virginia and School Board Policy EBB require us to share information on recognizing warning signs of violence or self-harm, safe firearm storage, and limiting access to lethal means. Visit www.rcps.info/familyresources to learn more.

SECURE STORAGE

Section 22.1-79.3(F) of the Code of Virginia and School Board Policy KPA require us to remind you each year about safely storing prescription drugs and firearms at home. Visit www.rcps.info/securestorage for safe storage steps, warning signs, and free local resources.

FAMILY SAFETY PLEDGE

School staff and teachers have been asked to secure our children's safety in impossible circumstances. We honor and appreciate efforts the school system has made for student safety. Teachers and school staff across the country have died protecting our children from gunmen. Countless deaths are attributed to prescription drug overdoses. The growing epidemic of gun violence and prescription drug abuse is both terrifying and soul wrenching.

We must acknowledge that most gun violence to children and teens happens in their homes and communities, outside their schools. Additionally, a Secret Service report and a Washington Post investigation found that a majority of guns brought to school by students come from their home or the home of a relative or close friend.

While the schools have and continue to make every effort, our community is equally accountable and must take all measures possible to prevent both intentional and accidental deaths associated with the use of unsecured prescription drugs and firearms within the home.

The goal of this Pledge is to reduce the likelihood any student in this district - including those who may feel temporarily angry or suicidal - has access to firearms or prescription drugs. In taking this collective responsibility, we as a community are upholding our part to keep our children from being victims of gun violence and prescription drug overdose at school, at home, and in the wider community.



THIS IS OUR PLEDGE ...

In acknowledgment of our shared community responsibility to keep any child in the Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) division from endangering themselves or other children, we the parents and guardians of RCPS students pledge:

To keep all firearms in our possession under lock and key and inaccessible to thieves and curious children. Guns will be locked and stored unloaded with ammunition locked and stored separately. This is in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatric recommendation.

To ensure that children will not have unsupervised access to firearms in our home. Unlocking mechanisms will only be available to parents and guardians. Any access to firearms in this household by children will be directly supervised by a trusted and responsible adult.

To keep any prescription opioid or stimulant drug stored in a locked cabinet/container. Unlocking mechanisms will only be available to the parents and guardians of the children in our home.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

SCHOOL BUS

TRANSPORTATION RULES



1. The driver and bus assistant are in charge of the bus and all pupils aboard. Obey the driver and bus assistant promptly and cheerfully.
2. Obey and respect the directions of authorized school officials.
3. Be on time. The driver cannot wait beyond their regular schedule for those who are tardy. Be at your stop five minutes before the bus stop time.
4. Wait in an orderly line off the street or road.
5. Cross in front of the bus only when the road is clear and at a safe distance in front of the bus in order to be seen by the driver (minimum 10 feet). Wait for driver to signal you across.
6. Do not run toward a school bus while it is in motion.
7. Ride only the bus assigned by school officials.
8. Occupy the seat assigned by the bus driver or school officials and remain seated while the bus is moving. Ride three in a seat, if necessary, and do not exchange seats unless given permission by the driver.
9. Behave on the bus as you are expected to behave in the classroom. Insolence, disobedience, vulgarity, foul language, fighting, pushing, and similar offensive acts will not be tolerated.
10. Do not engage in any activity which might divert the driver's attention and cause an accident, such as:
 - a. Loud talking, laughing, or unnecessary confusion.
 - b. Unnecessary conversation with the driver.
 - c. Extending any part of the body out of the bus windows or doors or riding outside the bus.
11. Do not open or close bus windows without permission of the driver or regulate or operate any part of the bus.
12. Do not engage in any activity which may litter, damage, or cause excessive wear to the bus or other property. The following activities are prohibited at all times:
 - a. Smoking/vaping or eating on the bus.
 - b. Spitting or throwing anything in or from the bus.
 - c. Possessing knives or sharp objects on the bus.
 - d. Bringing animals on the bus.
 - e. Tampering with mechanical equipment, accessories, or controls on the bus.
13. Do not leave the bus on the way to school or home without permission of the driver. The driver will not give permission except upon approval of the school administration.
14. Be courteous to the driver, to fellow students, and to passers-by at all times.
15. Report any damage done to the bus promptly to the driver. Persons causing damage shall be expected to defray the full cost of the damages. (For example: cutting and vandalizing seats, etc.)
16. Do not bully or harass other students.
17. Do not touch the handle on the emergency door unless instructed to do so by an adult.
18. No skateboards, balls, or other athletic equipment will be allowed on a school bus unless enclosed in a sports bag.
19. All kindergarten/preschool/students with disabilities who utilize special transportation are to be accompanied by a parent or guardian (on the emergency

contact card), or a sibling who is at least 14 years old at the bus stop visible to the bus driver. Parent or guardian must have photo ID available. If a parent/guardian or sibling is not at the bus stop, the student will be taken back to the school. Anyone other than a parent/guardian or sibling who meets the bus must be on the home school emergency contact card and be at least 18 years old or older and present a photo ID.

20. The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1 – 176, permits school boards to provide transportation to pupils, but does not require them to do so. Students eligible for transportation may be required to walk up to one mile to reach their regular bus stop. Except for kindergarten/preschool students, a student living within a school's established walking boundary will walk to school.
21. Parents or guardians of special needs students are required to provide transportation with a written signed statement to permit their child being released without supervision at the bus stop.

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-ADHERENCE TO STATED RULES

The following guidelines have been prepared to deal with discipline problems on school buses:

1. If a student is found guilty of misbehavior involving bus safety rules, insubordination to the bus driver, or any act that endangers the safety of other children, a bus conduct report will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Should the student be reported to the principal, the principal will be responsible for disciplinary action, which may include the loss of the privilege of all school bus transportation until the parent/guardian, the bus driver, the principal, (and in some instances, a Transportation Department representative) can arrive at an understanding, which will correct the problem. The parent or guardian will be responsible for the transportation of students who have lost school bus privileges.

3. If a disciplinary action should occur in the afternoon, and the problem is such that, in the judgment of the driver, it is unsafe to proceed, the driver may return to the school to seek immediate disciplinary action and/or assistance. Bus drivers are instructed to report any infractions to the school principal/designee, and the student may be removed from the bus.
4. Students who are returned to a school three times after not being met by a parent or guardian at the bus stop will not be permitted to ride the bus in the afternoon for the remainder of the nine weeks.

SERIOUS OFFENSES

First Offense: Bus riding privilege suspended for no more than two (2) weeks.

Second Offense: For a second offense in a school year, bus riding privileges will be suspended for no more than three (3) months.

Third Offense: Students found guilty of breaking rules for the third time in a school year will lose all bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

The following violations are considered extremely serious, and if the student is found guilty, they may be suspended for up to six (6) months on the first charge:

- Smoking/Vaping
- Fighting
- Destroying bus property
- Assault
- Throwing objects on or from the bus
- Using abusive or vulgar language to the bus driver
- Threatening or endangering the lives of others

Offenses will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Oral or written threats to cause harm on school buses shall result in the loss of transportation for the remainder of the school year, in addition to other disciplinary action.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER

RCPS offers summer programs for all ages to provide students with a way to remain connected to their school over the summer. Make plans for your students to attend one or more of the opportunities.

STAR PROGRAM

The STAR (Students Thriving and Rising) Program is a rich instructional program for elementary and middle school students designed to provide motivational, engaging, and hands-on activities in a supportive environment. The program engages students in relevant, problem-solving activities that promote critical thinking and creativity to enrich the learning experiences of all students.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL

Credit recovery and summer enrichment opportunities are available for high school students.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Students who read 600 minutes over six weeks and submit a reading log receive free prizes! The Summer Reading Program is open to students in all grades.



STAYING SAFE BY STAYING CONNECTED

Roanoke City Public Schools launched Staying Safe by Staying Connected programming in the spring of 2022, with a goal to provide students with a way to remain connected to school and productive activities during the summer break. Staying Safe by Staying Connected includes programming for students who are currently in 5th – 8th grades to participate in a fine arts academy and/or weekly athletic camps. These programs supplement RCPS' existing summer programs.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Community Builders is a program that launched in 2024 to provide rising 8th graders with an opportunity to make friends, learn new skills, and prepare for their future through fun, hands-on experiences outside of the traditional classroom.

RCPS is excited for another exciting program in summer 2027. Visit www.rcps.info/summerprograms to learn more!



MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD



M. Franny Apel
CHAIR



Michael L. Cherry, II
VICE CHAIR



Derek A. Kaknes



Donna M. Littlepage



Liz C. Quintana



Deidre E. Trigg



Joyce W. Watkins

BOARD POLICY MANUAL

As the governing body of the Roanoke City Public Schools, the School Board shall be guided by written policies that are readily accessible to the Board, division employees, students, and citizens. The policy manual shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

A current copy of the School Board policy manual is available in the library of each school and on the division website at www.rcps.info/schoolboard.

P.O. Box 13145 • Roanoke, VA 24031 • (540) 853-1655 • boardclerk@rcps.info.

Royalty Affirmation

My name is _____ and I am an extraordinary person,
created and designed for success.

I believe that everyone who existed before me existed for me and I owe them the honor of
being the best I can be at all times.

Therefore, I will always reverence and respect my elders. I will protect and become an
example for those younger than I, and I will cultivate a good reputation with all humanity as
much as possible.

I am talented, skilled, and intelligent, and with hard work
and discipline, I will accomplish great things.

I Am Royalty.



SCHOOL AND PRINCIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION 2026-27

Crystal Spring Elementary	Jason Rooney, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2976
Fairview Elementary	Kurrai Thompson, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2978
Fallon Park Elementary	Dr. Natosha Weddle, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2535
Fishburn Park Elementary	Timothy Moeller, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2931
Garden City Elementary	Caroline Williams, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2971
Grandin Court Elementary	Will Krause, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2867
Highland Park Elementary	Laura Kelly, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2963
Hurt Park Elementary	Danielle Allen, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2986
Lincoln Terrace Elementary	Kirsten Mills, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2994
Monterey Elementary	Lezlie Yaeger, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2933
Morningside Elementary	Stephanie Davis, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2991
Preston Park Elementary	Dr. Tracey Hoffman, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2996
Roanoke Academy	Toni Belton, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2751
Round Hill Elementary	Steven Sizemore, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2756
Virginia Heights Elementary	Dana Witt, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2937
Wasena Elementary	Marina Seal, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2914
Westside Elementary	Krystal Paitsel, <i>Interim Principal</i>	(540) 853-2967
Lucy Addison Middle	Dr. Jonathan Rosser, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2681
James Breckinridge Middle	Dr. Joshua Dowdy, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2251
John P. Fishwick Middle	Ryan Loose, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-6040
James Madison Middle	Katherine Duncan, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2351
Woodrow Wilson Middle	Bradley Jenkins, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2358
Patrick Henry High	Reyhan Deskins, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2255
William Fleming High	Tracey Anderson, <i>Principal</i>	(540) 853-2781
Governor's School	Mark Levy, <i>Director</i>	(540) 853-2116
Forest Park Academy	Patricia Maxey, <i>Director</i>	(540) 853-2923
Noel C. Taylor Academy at Oakland	Dr. Sauntasha Austin, <i>Director</i>	(540) 853-1461
ROTEC	Bridgette Bentley, <i>Site Director</i>	(540) 853-2803
DAYTEC	Eric Lear, <i>Site Director</i>	(540) 853-6307
RVJDC-Coyner Springs	Mason King, <i>Director</i>	(540) 561-3856

BULLYING HOTLINE: (540) 853-1700 • SECURITY CONCERNS: (540) 853-6230

SPEAKUP FOR SAFETY: (540) 200-1999

DIVISION CONTACT INFORMATION

Information pertaining to individual schools is often best addressed first with that school's administration. For general information or departments not listed, please call the Central Administration receptionist at (540) 853-2502. **All numbers have a prefix of (540) 853 unless noted.**

Superintendent — Dr. Verletta White	2381
Superintendent's Executive Assistant/Deputy School Board Clerk — Dawn Winter-Ware	2381
School Board Clerk — Kim Tresky	1655
Chief Student Support & Organizational Engagement Officer — Archie Freeman, III	6113
Chief Financial Officer — Kathleen Jackson	1347
Chief of Staff & Operations — Chris Perkins	2382
Chief Academic Officer — Dr. Cyndi Williams	6114

Academics	6114	English Language Learners	1394
Accountability & Strategic Initiatives	2101	Facilities	2851
Accounting	2551	Family Life Education	6075
Adult and Continuing Education (GED)	2151	Fiscal Services	1347
Alternative Programs	2300	Food and Nutrition Services	2863
Athletics	6075	Gifted Education	2468/6114
Attendance Services	1393	Government Relations	2007
Attendance Zones	2816	Health Services - Employee	1436
Benefit Services	2502	Health Services - Student	1430
Building Rental	6302	Human Resources	2502
Career & Technical Education		Homeschooling	1393
ROTEC	2803	McKinney-Vento Program	(540) 400-9787
DAYTEC	6307	Library/Media Services	1652
Certification/Licensure	1551	Maintenance	2851
Communications & Marketing	2816	Payroll	2370
Community Empowerment Center	1359	Preschool	1438
Community Engagement	1359	Printing	1413
Constituent Services	2007	Psychological Services	2468
Counseling	1393	Purchasing	1348
Curriculum	2090	School Board	1655
Curriculum Development	2090	Security	2557
Instruction/Schools	6114	Special Education	2468
English/Language Arts	1747	Student Support Services	1393
Fine Arts	1797	Student Transcripts/Student Records	1464
Health/PE	6075	Summer School	2090
Mathematics	6052	Technology	6070
Science	6050	Instructional Technology	1641
Social Studies	2878	Title I	2957
World Languages	1394	Transfers, Student	1393
Driver Education	6075	Transportation	2807
Early Childhood Special Education	1900	ZUM	1-855-RIDEZUM
Education Partnerships	2816	Volunteers	1359, or call school
Employee Assistance	2502		

Compliance Officer & Section 504 Coordinator: Dr. Jesse Mazur

Executive Director of Alternative Programs & Student Accountability
Roanoke City Public Schools
201 Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke VA 24011 | (540) 853-1749

Alternate Compliance Officer & Section 504 Coordinator: Archie Freeman, III

Chief Student Support & Organizational Engagement Officer
Roanoke City Public Schools
201 Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke VA 24011 | (540) 853-6113