

2021-2022



ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY SCHOOLS

Student

HANDBOOK

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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ATHLETICS IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS



It is the mission of athletics in Rockingham County Schools to provide a program of wholesome athletic activities to assist all student athletes to become responsible citizens and demonstrate a spirit of sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork. If you have questions regarding athletics, please contact your school's athletic director.

Athletic Eligibility

To be eligible for tryouts, practice, or participation in athletic contests, a player must meet all North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) and Rockingham County Schools (RCS) eligibility requirements and policies:

- **AGE:** Must not be 19 years of age on or before August 31st of the current school year.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Must not miss more than 13 days per semester.
- **ACADEMIC:** Must meet local promotion standards and pass 3 out of 4 courses each semester.
- **ENROLLMENT:** Must be a properly enrolled student at the assigned high school. Home school students (1) Documentation from the Division of Non-Public Education must be presented upon initial dual enrollment attendance, immunization, transcript, school number, etc. (2) Home school students must communicate athletic intent at a member school in which they are domiciled and follow the enrollment and assignment procedures/policies established by the local board of education. (i) Notice to principal must take place within ten days prior to the first practice date of each sports season.
- **MEDICAL EXAMINATION:** Must receive a medical examination once every 395 days by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. *Please note From 3/01/2019-05/01/20 A Physical Examination Form is granted a temporary extension to participated through the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.
- **OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**
 - Must not participate at the high school level for a period lasting longer than eight consecutive semesters beginning with the student's first entry into the 9th grade or participation on a high school team.
 - Must not participate at the high school level for more than four seasons in that sport.
 - May not play, sit on the bench, or practice if ineligible. Ineligible players are not allowed to participate in out-of-season workouts.
 - Must not accept money or awards having value of more than \$20 per sports season in order to maintain amateur status.
 - Must not participate in an all-star or bowl game unless it is sanctioned by the NCHSAA, and unless the athlete has completed high school eligibility in that sport.
 - May not participate in, practice or play, if assigned to In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension.
 - Must not be convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law, or is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

Athletic Eligibility Standards For High Schools

- Must pass 3 of 4 Units of Credit each semester (Cannot count Lab Assistant, Office Assistant, or PowerSchool Assistant)
- Must not miss more than 13 days per semester (Cannot miss more than 13 days per semester)
- From Grade 8 to Grade 9: Promoted (No specific grades or attendance)
- From Grade 9 to Grade 10: 6 units of credit, including English I or a Language Arts elective
- From Grade 10 to Grade 11: 13 units of credit, including one unit of English and one unit of Math
- From Grade 11 to Grade 12: 20 units of credit, including two units of English
 - **Home school students must be on grade level according to a nationally standardized achievement test indicating grade level.**
 - **Home school student must pass all courses in which he/she is enrolled in (public school).**

Attendance & Residency Information

A student is eligible to participate at the school to which he/she is assigned by the Rockingham County Board of Education. "Residence" as used for athletic eligibility purposes is defined as the equivalent of the term "domicile" as applied by the courts of North Carolina. Under no circumstance can a student have more than one residence for eligibility purposes. It is the obligation of the school to know the residence status of each athlete and to require compliance with these requirements. After initial entry into the 9th grade, and absent a bona fide move a student transferring from one county school to another county school must sit out 365 days for athletic participation. The receiving school may appeal to have the 365 days waived. A student transferring from a school outside of the county to a county school must sit out 365 days for athletic participation. The receiving school may appeal to the NCHSAA to have the 365 days waived.

The residence of any student shall be deemed to be that of his/her parents or the sole surviving parent unless otherwise provided:

- In the event the parents are separated or divorced, the residence of the student shall be that of the parent to whom custody has been awarded by a court of competent jurisdiction. If no custody order has been entered, the residence shall be deemed to be that of the parent who had actual custody immediately upon the separation.
- Any change in residence must be bona fide. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case. If you have questions, contact your school's athletic director.

No non-parental guardianship will be recognized where a student has a living parent unless one of the following requirements is met: 1) There has been a determination of abandonment of the student by such parent(s) or a determination that the student is a dependent juvenile as defined in G.S. 7A-5 17 (13) or comparable statute by a court of competent jurisdiction; 2) The student has been judicially declared a ward of the state or has been identified as an orphan or placed in a foster home by the Division of Social Services (or a comparable agency if out of state) and custody (not guardianship) has been determined by the court or social service agency. A student whose custody has been established by court order or social services agency decision is eligible for participation at the school to which he/she is assigned by the Rockingham County Board of Education.

In no case will any exception be made to the following rules:

- No student may participate at a second school in the same sport during the same sports season except in the event of a bona fide change in residence of the parent(s) or legal custodian; change in schools must be contemporaneous with change in residence.
- Documents purporting to establish guardianship or custody issued by a notary public, an attorney, a clerk of court, or any entity other than a court of record with competent jurisdiction will not be accepted.

Early College students may participate in athletics provided the following criteria are met: 1. Must play for the high school where the parent/student resides. 2. Must have the approval of the Early College principal. 3. Must meet all other athletic eligibility requirements.

Home school students: (1) Must have been enrolled in the registered home school for 365 days prior to being eligible in a member school. (2) Once deemed eligible at a member school, the student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. (i) Unenrollment would render the student ineligible for 365 days. (3) Must participate in a class schedule that is at least one half of the school's instructional day (i) At least one class must be on campus each semester or meet LEA requirements.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES

Attendance

Monitoring/Accounting

Rockingham County Schools Board of Education believes that regular school attendance is of crucial importance to the educational achievement of each student. Further, the board affirms that the primary responsibility for regular attendance resides with the parents/guardians and the individual student. It is the responsibility of all school personnel to promote and encourage regular school attendance and to create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning. To be considered in attendance, a student must be present for one-half school day or at a place other than school with the approval of the appropriate school official for the purpose of attending an authorized school activity.

The following are excused reasons to be absent when satisfactory evidence for the excuse is provided to school officials:

- (1) Illness or Injury
- (2) Quarantine
- (3) Death in the Immediate Family-Includes grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters but is not limited to these family members
- (4) Medical or Dental Appointments
- (5) Court or Administrative Proceedings
- (6) Religious Observance
- (7) Educational Opportunity-Prior approval must be granted by Principal
- (8) absence due to pregnancy and medical related conditions
- (9) Visitation with the Student's Parent or Legal Guardian, (a) student cannot be at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and (b) Parent/Legal Guardian has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting

Procedures for Attendance

The parent shall furnish written verification of absence upon the student's return to school. The principal may require a note from the student's physician after five (5) consecutive or ten (10) accumulated absences in a semester. When a student has a passing grade in a course but receives no credit because of attendance, the grade will be averaged as 59 for that semester.

Forfeiture of Promotion or Course Credit

Grades K-8: Students with more than 20 absences in a year, including out-of-school suspension, will be subject to retention.

Grades 9-12: Students with more than 10 absences in a semester or 20 absences in a year, including out-of-school suspension, will not receive credit for that course.

Appeal Procedure

Parents or students who believe excessive absences causing retention or loss of credit are due to extenuating circumstances may appeal the decision to the principal or his designee.

Board Policy Reference: Policy #4400 Attendance

Unexcused Tardy Procedures

Elementary:

Parents are required to come in upon arrival and sign students in at the office for all tardies / receive pass to class.

- 1-4 tardies / early dismissal – Parents receive reminder note.
- 5 tardies / early dismissal – Tardy Procedures requiring parent signature will be sent home.
- 10 tardies / early dismissal – Contact by principal or designee with agreed upon interventions.
- 12 tardies / early dismissal – Student is ineligible for ANNUAL perfect attendance award; disciplinary actions could be assigned by administration (i.e. ISS, after-school detention, silent lunch, etc. at principal discretion).
- 15 and beyond – Parent interventions agreed upon by principal and school social worker; disciplinary actions may be assigned by administration.

Middle School: Consequences start over at the beginning of grading period

Parent is required to come in upon arrival and sign student in at the office for all tardies.

- 1-2 tardies – Conference/warning.
- 3 tardies – Lunch detention.
- 4-6 tardies – Lunch detention and loss of privilege including athletic & social participation.
- 7 tardies – Social Worker contact and administrator consequences, up to and including possible ISS.
- 12 tardies and beyond – Student is ineligible for annual perfect attendance award, disciplinary actions could be assigned by administration (i.e. ISS, after school detention, silent lunch, etc. at the principal's discretion) and involvement of the school social worker

High School: Consequences start over at the beginning of each grading period

- 1-4 tardies – Warning / Call Home (AlertNow or Personal)
- 5-8 tardies – 1 period of ISS.
- 9-11 tardies – 1 day of ISS.
- 12 tardies and beyond – Up to 2 days OSS and involvement of school social worker
- Behavior Contract after OSS
- Excessive tardiness may result in loss of school privileges to include, but not limited to, the following: driving privileges on campus, attendance at athletic and extra-curricular events, club participation, exam exemptions, lunch detention, after school detention, and prom.
- Schools will encourage students by creating incentives to promote attendance and promptness to class.

Failure to comply with imposed consequences is a violation of Board policy and may result in additional consequences, including loss of privileges and OSS.

BUS TRANSPORTATION



Bus safety is very important. Parents have the responsibility to encourage their students to obey all safety rules of the bus and to respect the authority of the bus driver. Students are to wait at their designated stop and display responsible behaviors at their stop. While on the bus, students shall follow all bus rules. Students must realize that disregarding a safety practice might cause an accident. Rockingham County Schools uses video recordings to monitor activity on buses.

Riding a bus is a privilege that may be revoked if bus rules are not followed. Each school will provide students with a copy of bus rules. The principal or designee has the responsibility of disciplining students for misconduct on the bus. This disciplinary action can include the suspension of bus riding privileges or suspension from school. Parents will be notified of misconduct on the bus. Parents, guardians, or others who are not assigned passengers or have not been approved by the principal or designee are not allowed to board the bus for any reason. (Legal Reference: G.S. 115C-399).

Students are responsible for being at their bus stop on time. Buses can travel only on state and city-maintained roads. Bus stops are determined by the transportation department and do not stop at every house. Unless safety problems are determined by the district, bus stops must be 2/10 of a mile apart.

The Laws & Policies set forth by the state of North Carolina stipulate that every child must be assigned to a bus.

In Rockingham County you must notify the school that your child attends in order to have your child assigned to a bus. In Rockingham County the policy states; that if a child doesn't ride for 5 or more consecutive days the student is taken off the bus roster. To receive funding from the state, students must be assigned to a bus. In an effort to manage buses as efficiently as possible, we strive to run buses with all seats filled. Seats cannot be held for students on a might ride basis. If the student decides they would like to start riding the bus again, they need to contact their school administrator to be reassigned to the bus. If a student shows up at a bus stop and they are not assigned to that bus, they can be refused transportation due to the lack of seating. State Board of Education Policy requires that the capacity of the bus cannot be exceeded. Also, if the bus is involved in an accident, all students must be assigned and a seating chart in place so that all may be accounted for.

Bus Routes

Unless road or other conditions make it inadvisable, public school buses shall be routed on state- maintained highways, municipal streets, or other streets with publicly dedicated right-of-way. G.S. 115C-246(b) also states that, with regard to school buses routed on state-maintained highways, municipal streets and other streets with publicly dedicated right-of-way, "the local board of education shall not be responsible for damage to the roadway. Each public school bus shall be routed so that the bus passes within ONE mile of the residence of each pupil assigned to that bus."

Guidelines for Bus Stop Placement

School bus stop placements are governed by NC State Board of Education Policy as stated in TITLE 16, NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, SUBCHAPTER 6B - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM which states in part: ".0004 (b)A route may not deviate from a general path of direction for a distance of less than one half mile and then return to the original path except for groups of 10 or more pupils, unescorted pupils in grades K-3 or special education pupils." ".0004 (c) Unless safety factors require otherwise, superintendents may not plan bus stops closer together than 0.2 miles. Each student must be at the designated stop at the time of the bus's arrival."

Special Request for Multiple Stops

Requests for multiple stop placements, depending upon the day of the week or other considerations, cannot be accommodated. Students are allowed one stop in the am and one in the pm. The stop cannot change daily.

Processing Time

Except for the beginning of the school year, the Transportation Department will process your transportation request within five days of receipt.

Athletic Equipment & Instruments

Athletic equipment is not allowed on the school bus. Band instruments are not allowed unless they can be held in the student's lap.

Parents who have concerns or questions about transportation should contact the school principal. Rockingham County Schools is committed to maintaining safe and orderly schools in order to enhance educational opportunities for all students and to maintain schools as a safe haven. RCS is also committed to providing fair and equitable programs, sanctions and actions to all students.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT (DISCIPLINE REGULATION GUIDE)

Vision: Rockingham County Schools wants all of our students to acquire the knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes to achieve their learning potential and become responsible citizens.

Mission: Rockingham County Schools are committed to maintaining safe and orderly schools, in a fair and equitable manner to enhance educational opportunities for all students and to maintain schools as a safe haven.

Rockingham County Schools wants all of our students to acquire the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes to achieve their learning potential. Students have a much greater chance of reaching this goal when they attend schools that are safe and free of distractions from learning.

Just as we ask that teachers set clear classroom expectations for student learning, the district has set clear standards for student behavior. Rockingham County Schools is committed to maintaining safe and orderly schools in order to enhance educational opportunities for all students and to maintain schools as a safe haven. RCS is also committed to providing fair and equitable programs, sanctions and actions to all students. In order to maintain a safe school environment, we rely on our student's sense of citizenship and responsibility. Our Board of Education has adopted a guidance document aligned with policies on student behavior. Individual schools have developed school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) teams to set expectations for behavior so that students are aware of permissible behaviors.

Students and parents should review Board Policy 4300 and 4300R to understand the Code of Conduct. Students and parents should discuss this in order to have a clear understanding of the system-wide behavioral expectations.

If in the event that any student that has knowledge of criminal behavior or behavior that would threaten the safety of students at school should report the information to the school principal. You may also report safety concerns to **Crime Stoppers** at **336-349-9683**.

Detailed student behavior standards are established in Board policy series 4300. For complete information on behavior standards, students and parents should consult Board policy and related administrative regulations. These documents are available on the Rockingham County Schools website.

Administrators reserve the right to adjust consequences based on history and circumstances in order to maintain safety. In addition, identified students with special needs may have different sanctions or actions based on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and/or based on special education or disability law. The Code of Conduct provides specific infractions and a recommended consequence for each infraction. If you have specific questions or would like copies of Board discipline policies or administrative regulations, please contact school administration.

The Code of Conduct which is available on the district website at <https://boardpolicyonline.com/?b=rock&s=1014408> is listed under Board Policy 4300-R – 1 Discipline Regulation Reference Guide/Code of Conduct of Student Conduct.

Technology Acceptable Use/ Chromebook Responsibility and Inappropriate Use

All high school students and families signed the Rockingham County Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) prior to receiving a Chromebook. Inappropriate use as described below is a violation of the AUP. These violations may result in severe consequences. If you have questions regarding these violations of appropriate use please contact your school.



Inappropriate/Unacceptable Use

Tier 1: Inappropriate Use (includes but not limited to the following):

- Using any browser other than those approved by the district
- Making unapproved software installs to computers
- Using computers not assigned to you when not approved (Teachers may allow students to look on with another student for instructional purposes only)
- Videoing or recording on school property when not related to a school assignment
- Messaging or chatting during class when not expressly permitted by the teacher or class agreements or when not related to an assignment
- Profanity
- Gaming, if it is not related to an educational, classroom associated use or not expressly allowed otherwise

Offenses	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense	4 th and Beyond
Consequence	Verbal/written warning and/or parent contact	Up to 1 day of ISS	Up to 2 days of ISS	OSS

Tier 2: Unacceptable Use (includes but not limited to the following):

- Pornography (real life or cartoon) - Pornography can be a felony offense and if so will be turned over to authorities
 - Possession
 - Manufacturing – using a camera to create pictures/movies
 - Distributing – sending/sharing with others
- Certain images of weapons
- Gang related files
- Bootleg movies or music or software
- Logging into a computer/application using someone else's login
- Cheating
- Using a computer to plan a fight, cause harm or commit a crime
- Profanity directed to the faculty or staff
- Threats and/or cyber bullying
- Using proxy sites to bypass district filtering
- Using cellular access and hotspots to bypass district filtering
- Hacking or attempting to hack any district computing device
- Capturing network traffic by any means and for any reason
- Viewing network traffic by any means and for any reason

Offenses	1 st Offense and Beyond
Consequence	Up to 10 days OSS, Police Involvement and Restitution

Care and Responsibility

Tier 1: Care and Responsibility: Neglect and Misuse (includes but not limited to the following):

- Closing objects between the lid body of the mobile computer
- Removing labels and identifying stickers on a mobile computer
- Attempting to connect any peripheral device to a port not intended for the peripheral device form factor and/or size
- Using any device charger not specifically designed for the device
- Causing physical damage to the device - device is still useable
- Causing physical damage to the device - device is not useable

Offenses	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense	4 th and Beyond
Consequence	Verbal/written warning and/or parent contact	Up to 1 day of ISS	Up to 2 days of ISS, escalation of insurance premium, restricted day use only	OSS

Tier 2: Care and Responsibility: Intentional Misuse or Abuse (includes but not limited to the following):

- Intentional actions which are harmful or potentially harmful to the computer, charger, network, and/or computer case
- Booting any device from and operating system image not installed by the district on the device
- “Botting” (installing robotic software on any device from any external device or by any external mechanism)
- Attempting to remove any pre-installed hardware or to open any device case
- Performing a hardware factory default reset on any district device
- Turning on Chromebook Developer Mode
- Causing physical damage to the device - device is still useable
- Causing physical damage to the device - device is not useable

Offenses	1 st Offense and Beyond
Consequence	Up to 10 days OSS, restitution, escalation of insurance premium, day use after issuance of 3 rd device

The RCS mobile learning handbook may be obtained at www.rock.k12.nc.us/mobilelearning or contact your child's school.

Discrimination, Harassment, & Bullying



Students are expected to comply with the behavior standards established by the board and the Student Code of Conduct. Any violation of this policy is serious and school officials shall promptly take appropriate action. School administrators respond and investigate claims of discrimination, harassment & bullying. Based on the nature and the severity of the offense and the circumstances surrounding the incident, a student could be subject to appropriate consequences and remedial actions ranging from positive behavior interventions up to, and including, expulsion. Each school has implemented PBIS (Positive Behavior and Interventions and Supports) to establish expectations for behavioral norms.

School counselors work to promote kindness and character education and foster a school culture of acceptance, tolerance and respect. A student experiencing discrimination, harassment or bullying is encouraged to report it to a caring adult. Additionally, accessible through a cell phone or on the district website, will be an anonymous tip line App. This App will allow students and/or adults to report acts or threats of bullying and harassment anonymously and without fear of retaliation. Administrators will have access to that information and will investigate according to Board Policy.

Board Policy References: Policy # 1710/4021/7225/7230

Additionally, accessible through a cell phone or on the website, is an anonymous tip line the “Say Something App”. The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System allows students or anyone to submit secure and anonymous safety concerns to help identify and intervene for at-risk individuals BEFORE they hurt themselves or others. Students and/or adults can do this by reporting observed threats, behaviors, actions and harassment. Administrators at each school have access to the information and will investigate according to Board Policy.

Board Policy Reference 1710/420/7230 Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law; Policy Code 4329/7311 Bullying and Harassment Behavior Prohibited; Policy Code 1742/5060 Responding to Complaints

CURRICULUM – NC STANDARDS

North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS)

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) is a set of shared, Kindergarten through 12th grade state standards in all content subjects. The NCSCOS standards will allow teachers to develop students' understanding of the content on a deeper level by focusing on the most vital concepts. The NCSCOS standards also provide a more logical progression of skills that spiral and build in complexity from one grade level to the next. The content area standards were developed specific to North Carolina. North Carolina has created standards for all subject areas. The standards are aligned with literacy standards and professional development is being provided for teachers in integrating these literacy skills across all content areas including:

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Languages
- Arts Education
- Healthful Living
- Guidance
- Instructional and Technology Skills
- Occupational Course of Study
- English Language Development
- Career and Technical Education

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U. S. Department of Education. The law stipulates that schools may disclose, without parent consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, phone number, date and place of birth, grade level, picture, school activities, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. The law also provides parents with the opportunity to request that the schools not disclose information about their child(ren). Parents may contact the school principal in writing within 15 calendar days of the fall opening of school if they wish to request that the schools not disclose directory information.

FERPA requires that Rockingham County Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain parent written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records except to another public school system if the student moves. However, Rockingham County Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the parent has advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Rockingham County Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your child's role in a drama production
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll or other recognition lists
- Graduation programs
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Rockingham County Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- student's name
- picture
- address
- telephone number
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- weight and height of members of athletic teams
- dates of attendance ("from" and "to" dates of enrollment)
- diplomas, certification and awards received (including A, A/B Honor Roll)
- student work for display, without grade, at the discretion of the teacher
- most recent previous school or education at institution attended by the student
- photographs or videos taken on buses, school grounds, in school buildings and at school activities unless the picture or video may reveal confidential information about a student or is evidence in a disciplinary matter.
- electronic mail address
- grade level
- date and place of birth
- date of graduation

Rockingham County Schools forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. Parental consent is not required before personally identifiable information (including special education records when appropriate) is released to school officials at receiving schools.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

School Nutrition Services

Rockingham County Schools provides breakfast, lunch and after school snacks to students within the system. Rockingham County Schools School Nutrition Services follows Federal Laws and State Statutes to ensure the program continues to be federally funded. Menus meet U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition guidelines to support children's healthy growth and development.



Rockingham County Schools participates in the Community Eligibility Provision in eight schools: Central, Leaksville-Spray, South End, Williamsburg, Holmes Middle, Reidsville Middle, Reidsville High and SCORE. Through this federally funded program, breakfast and lunches are available to all students attending these schools at no cost. All other RCS schools require the application process. You may apply for Free and Reduced price school meals at the beginning of each school year either by filling out a paper application or visiting the following website, lunchapplication.com. As circumstances change you are encouraged to apply for Free or Reduced meals at any time throughout the school year. Applications are available at each school.

Meal Charges

The board understands that students may occasionally forget their lunch money. Students who need to may charge up to \$15.00. Once a student reaches \$15 no further charges will be allowed. Arrangements must be made with the school principal. No Ala Carte or adult charges are allowed.

Diet Orders

Students with special diet needs are also accommodated at the breakfast and lunch meal with a licensed physician's Diet Order. The diet order is available at each school and online.

Lunch Prepay

lunchprepay.com is the one-stop shop for automated school meal account management. For a \$10 fee per family, the lunchprepay.com website can show the student's meal history with enough detail to indicate if extra items outside of a normal meal are purchased (such as cookies, desserts, snacks, extra helpings, etc.). Using this resource as an educational tool, parents should be able to encourage their students to choose proper items at mealtime.

Children with Diabetes and Children with Chronic Health Concerns

Parents of children with identified chronic health conditions should contact the school nurse. The nurse will write a plan of care for the child with input from the parents, school personnel, and the student's physician. Students with diagnosed diabetes may attend school with no penalty.

Concussion/Traumatic Brain Injury

Rockingham County Schools follows State Board of Education policy related to concussions and traumatic brain injury; whether or not the concussion is related to school athletics. The school guidance counselor or school nurse should be contacted any time a student experiences a concussion or traumatic brain injury. Return to Learn guidelines will be followed for academics and for returning the student to the classroom. Student athletes must also inform their coach if they experience a concussion, and Return to Play guidelines will be followed. A student athlete who is suspected of having a concussion will be removed from play and prohibited from participating in athletics until the student receives clearance from their licensed medical provider.

School-Wide Screening

Students in grades K-5 and 8 are screened annually for vision, and students in grades K, 1, 3, 5 and 8 are screened annually for hearing. The screenings are done in the fall, and parents may contact the school to obtain the health screening dates. Dental screenings for selected grade levels are scheduled by the public health dental hygienist. Screening results are reported to the parents/guardian only if a problem is found. Students with identified concerns will be referred for further evaluation.

Head Lice

Parents, especially those of elementary students, are encouraged to frequently check their child's hair for live lice and lice eggs/nits. School staff has the right to inspect the hair of students who are exhibiting signs and symptoms of lice. If the student with lice has siblings in RCS schools, the sibling(s) will be checked prior to parental notification. Parents will be notified if their child is found to have live lice, and they will be asked to come to school to pick up their child. The parent will be given written information about head lice treatment and recommended home/environmental interventions. The parent is expected to accompany the student to school on the first day back after treatment and must wait until the student is checked for live lice. If live lice are still present, the student will be sent home, and the parent must continue to accompany the student to school until the student is free of live bugs. Students with remaining nits will be allowed to

stay at school; however, the parent must continue to work on nit removal at home. The student will continue to be monitored.

When students are sent home after half day, they are considered present for that day. Students are allowed a maximum of two days excused absence per incidence of head lice with additional absences unexcused. Both the school social worker and school nurse may home visit students with unexcused absences due to lice infestation.

It is not necessary for an entire classroom to be checked if a case of lice is found. A letter will be sent home with all class members if 20% or more of the students in the classroom are concurrently found to have live lice.

Health Assessment

All students entering public school in North Carolina for the first time are required by NC General Statute 130A-440 to have a health assessment within 12 months prior to the first day of school attendance and submit the report of the visit on the *North Carolina Health Assessment Transmittal Form (January 2016)*. The completed Health Assessment Transmittal Form must be turned into the school within 30 days of school of the first day of school attendance. Students who have NOT turned in the completed form by the 30th day will NOT be allowed to attend school until the school has the completed form on file.

This law applies to: 1) All students enrolling in Kindergarten for the first time; 2) Any student who enrolls in public school in North Carolina for the first time no matter their grade (grades 1-12).

Immunizations

All students entering public school in North Carolina are required to submit a current and up to date certificate of immunization within 30 days of school attendance. Students who have NOT provided the immunization record to the school within 30 days will NOT be allowed to attend school until the immunization certificate is received. Neither a transcript nor school data management immunization record is the official immunization certificate. Parents are responsible for obtaining the immunization certificate and providing it to the school. Records from previous schools will be requested as a courtesy to parents; however, the 30 day rule will still apply if records are not received within 30 days of the first day of school attendance.

Kindergarten immunization requirements (effective 7/1/2015)

- **5 DTP/DTaP doses:** 5th dose on or after 4th birthday. If 4th dose is after the 4th birthday, 5th dose is not required.
- **4 Polio vaccine doses:** 4th dose on or after 4th birthday. If 3rd dose is after 4th birthday, 4th dose is not required.
- **1-4 Hib doses:** Series is complete if 2nd, 3rd, or 4th doses are given on or after 12 months of age.
If 1st dose is given at 12-15 months of age, two doses are required.
If 1st dose is given on or after 15 months of age, only one dose is required.
- **3 Hepatitis B vaccine doses:** 3rd dose must be given on or after 24 weeks of age.
- **2 Measles vaccine doses:** 1st dose on/after 12 months of age and 2nd dose before entering school.
- **2 Mumps vaccine doses:** 1st dose on/after 12 months of age and 2nd dose before entering school.
- **1 Rubella vaccine dose:** On or after 12 months of age.
- **2 Varicella vaccine doses:** 1st dose on or after 12 months of age, and 2nd dose is required before entering school.

7th grade immunization requirements (effective 7/1/2015)

- **TDaP:** 1 dose
- **Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV):** 1 dose

12th grade immunization requirements (effective 7/1/2015; implemented 8/1/2020)

- **Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV):** 1 dose

Absences for failure to provide Health Assessment and/or Immunization Certificate

Absences will be marked as unexcused for students who fail to turn in the required information by the 30th day; however, students will be allowed to make up their missed work. The parent or student should contact the student's teacher(s) to arrange to obtain missed work.

Administering Medication to Students

The Board of Education recognizes that under certain circumstances, it may be necessary for students to take medication during school hours and after hours while participating in extracurricular activities. To minimize disruptions during the school day, medications should be taken at home whenever feasible, and the school reserves the right to decline to administer medications to students. The North Carolina General Statutes permit school employees, when authorized by the Board of Education, to administer medication prescribed by a licensed health care provider upon the written request of the parent or guardian. Rockingham County School Board authorizes school personnel to administer medication to students in case of chronic health problems or to students with unusual health problems when emergency measures are required.

School personnel may administer prescription and/or over-the-counter medication to students at school only if the licensed health care provider deems it necessary for the medication to be given during school hours, and the parent or guardian and licensed health care provider make a signed request in writing on the RCS Permission to Administer Medication Form. Medication shall be administered in accordance with the licensed health care provider's written instructions and procedures.

Following the RCS medical advisor's protocol, the school nurse is permitted to administer over-the-counter medication to a student with written parental permission. (RCS Permission for School Nurse to Administer Over the Counter Medication per Standing Order Form.)

The school will assume no responsibility for students who self-medicate or for the transportation of medication to and from school. Students who self-medicate must follow the administrative rules regarding self-medication procedures or risk possible violation of the Drug, Alcohol, or Tobacco provision of Student Behavior Policy #4300.

Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injectors on School Property (Epi-Pens)

All schools maintain a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors on school property for use by trained school personnel to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an anaphylactic reaction during the school day and at school sponsored events on school property. Epinephrine auto-injector devices provided by the school are intended for unforeseen emergencies. Students known to have a medical condition requiring the availability of an epinephrine auto injector device are expected to provide such device for their use at school. Parents of students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis should provide the school with written instructions from the students' health care provider for handling anaphylaxis and all necessary medications for implementing the student specific order in accordance to policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students.

COVID-19 Updates

RCS is committed to providing a quality educational experience to all students despite the impact of COVID-19. RCS has been proactive and responsive in developing safety protocols and COVID-19 response for each and every student and staff member in our school district. We are especially thankful to our school nurses, staff, administration, and our COVID-19 RCS Cares About Your Safety Planning Team for all of their support and planning.

We continue to work to provide quality professional development for our teachers and staff in order to maximize learning as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 challenges. RCS will continue to follow the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit and we will continue to make ongoing adjustments and modifications based on information from our local health department, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). We appreciate our partnerships with our local health department and other local medical providers as well as we continue to navigate our way through COVID-19.

Behavioral Health and Social Emotional Support During COVID-19

The Behavioral Health Department supports the social emotional and behavioral health of students within RCS. In addition, we provide psychological services, behavioral health services, and crisis intervention support to our students preschool through 12th grade. RCS behavioral health department also leads our school safety and crisis response. RCS seeks to ensure a comprehensive approach to school safety that includes a balance of physical and psychological safety to promote student wellness. Parents that have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact RCS at 336-627-2705.

Technology During COVID-19

RCS encourages our families and students to take advantage of the technology supports that our RCS Technology Help Desk provides. Students and parents can contact the Help Desk at 336-627-2701 during the day to get any needed help or to ask questions regarding accessing any instructional resource or tool. Help Desk staff are available to troubleshoot and provide the needed support to resolve any issue. RCS also wants to ensure parents and students have the technology to support remote learning. Students can check out a device to help complete remote assignments. RCS has also partnered with the Reidsville Area Foundation to purchase some hotspot devices to promote accessibility to the internet for families that may not have adequate internet access. Please inquire with your school concerning availability, if this is a need.

For more information about our safe return to learn and COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols in Rockingham County Schools, please view the website for our "RCS Cares About Your Safety" COVID-19 Updates! We will continue to provide updates for as long as needed. We appreciate your support and we look forward to a wonderful school year filled with joy, learning, and support for our students!

Rockingham County Student Health Centers

The Rockingham County Student Health Centers are located in each of the four traditional high schools. The mission of the Student Health Centers is to improve the health and school performance of Rockingham County students by providing comprehensive health care through education, treatment, prevention and referral. Support for the centers is provided by the local hospitals, Rockingham County Schools and grants. The Student Health Centers are a United Way of Rockingham County agency. Parental consent is necessary for treatment except in the event of an emergency.

The Student Health Centers offer a wide range of medical services. The centers are open school days from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm and are staffed by a multidisciplinary team of providers that includes: Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, Registered Nurses, Mental Health Counselors, Health Educators and Nutritionists. Physicians volunteer to serve as medical directors and review the charts of students treated.

Together the team can diagnose and treat injuries and illnesses, monitor chronic diseases in conjunction with a student's Primary Care Provider, provide sports physicals, immunizations, nutrition and mental health counseling as well as health education. The staff works together to keep our students healthy so that they can graduate from high school and start their futures with a continued focus on wellness. The Student Health Centers result in improved school attendance thus increasing students' chances for academic success.



Behavioral Health Services and Social Emotional Learning in Rockingham County Schools

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Rockingham County Schools creates opportunities for students to develop social emotional learning skills. In classrooms from early learning through high school, students learn invaluable skills that help them navigate their way through school as well as their community.

In addition to social emotional learning and support, RCS is building a full continuum of social emotional and mental health supports. Mentally healthy children are more successful in school and life. Good mental health is critical to children's success in school and life. Research demonstrates that students who receive social-emotional and mental health support achieve better academically. School climate, classroom behavior, on-task learning, and students' sense of connectedness and well-being all improve as well. The Behavioral Health Department supports the social emotional and behavioral health of students within RCS. In addition, we provide psychological services, behavioral health services, and crisis intervention support to our students early learning/preschool through 12th grade. RCS behavioral health department also leads our school safety and crisis response. RCS seeks to ensure a comprehensive approach to school safety that includes a balance of physical and psychological safety to promote student wellness. For more information about this plan or if you are in need of resources, please contact the Executive Director for Behavioral Health, Crisis Intervention, and Student Safety, Dr. Stephanie Ellis, at 336-627-2705 or at stellis@rock.k12.nc.us.

Day Treatment Program

Day Treatment (Rockingham County Schools' Day Treatment Program) The RCS' Day Treatment Program provides intensive mental health services in a public school setting. The program focuses on integrating students back into traditional school by assisting students in developing behavior management skills, social skills and strategies to help them achieve social, behavioral and academic success. The program offers a team approach to treatment and education by serving small numbers of students with Qualified Mental Health Professionals, Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals. Licensed mental health professional staff also serve students in this program. Students are determined eligible for and in need of this specialized program based on joint efforts by Mental Health professionals and school personnel. The program is located at the Booker T. Washington Learning Center. For more information, please contact Day Treatment Health Director, Serena Hooker at 336-634-3984.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

College Admission Tests

The ACT Test



The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has entered into a partnership with the American College Testing Program (ACT®), a not-for-profit organization that provides educational assessment, research, information, and program management services. North Carolina 11th graders will take the ACT® test. Some students will also take the WorkKeys assessment. These assessments will measure what students have learned in their courses and help educators identify the information that students still need to learn to succeed in college or a career. For additional information regarding, North Carolina's plan for preparing students for college and careers you may access the following web link: www.act.org/stateservices/northcarolina

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

The Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Board will be given on Saturdays during the school year. The test is designed for college bound students and usually is taken by interested students in the spring of their junior year and the fall of their senior year. Details concerning this test and procedures for applying may be obtained from the school's Student Services Department. Applications are available online at www.collegeboard.com. Test dates and locations are published on the registration form.



College Financial Aid

All students planning to attend College in the upcoming fall should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA form is the first step in receiving financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants and/or loans. It is critical to get this form completed in a timely manner. The FAFSA form is online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This form is free to complete and submit. The FAFSA form must be completed during the window of January 1 - March 15 of the year the student is applying to go to college. Parents must file taxes as early as they can in order to complete the FAFSA form for their child to go to college and obtain financial aid. This form should be submitted by the middle to late February to ensure consideration for monies awarded early. The first requirement is to obtain a PIN number which is required in order to sign the FAFSA in a secure manner. Students can apply for a PIN number by going to www.pin.ed.gov.



The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) provides a wealth of information regarding college and career planning. Students are required to create an account to access information on the website www.cfnc.org. The Carolina College Adviser on your campus can assist you with this process.

Driver Education



Rockingham County Schools offers Driver Education for a fee of \$25 to all public, private, charter, and home school students who are eligible. A student must be at least 14½ years of age to enroll in Driver Education.

The program is designed and dedicated to help the students gain a basic understanding of how to operate a motor vehicle safely. It will help prepare the student for the Behind-the-Wheel Instruction and eventually the NC driver's license exam requirement.

For information please contact the high school Driver Education Coordinator where the student attends school or would attend if enrolled (for church, private and home school students.) The Coordinators' numbers are:

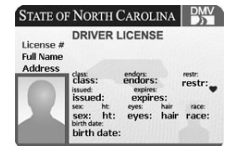
McMichael High School – 336-427-5165
Reidsville High School – 336-349-6361

Morehead High School – 336-627-7731
Rockingham Co. High School – 336-634-3220

A Student Losing Driving Privileges

North Carolina law mandates that students under 18 years of age have their learner's permit or license revoked for the following reasons:

- Dropping out of school, or
- Failure to pass 3 out of 4 courses in a semester



Parents will be notified of the revocation of the learner's permit or driver's license and will have the option of requesting a waiver based on a hardship. Parents will be given 10 days to return a Hardship Form and provide documentation to support the request.

Lose Your Cool, Lose Your License

North Carolina law allows for the suspension of a student's permit or license for a period of one year for the any of the following reasons:

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property.
- The possession or use on school property of a weapon or fire arm that resulted in a disciplinary action under G.S. 115C-391(d) or that could have resulted in a disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in school.
- The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property.

Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP – formerly known as College Day)

This event provides juniors and seniors and their parents the opportunity to talk with representatives from approximately eighty colleges and universities (primarily in North Carolina), specialized schools, and the Armed Services. This opportunity enables students and parents to learn about offerings available at these post-secondary institutions and the military. Details will be given through group guidance sessions at the school.

Exam Exemption

Students who meet the criteria below may exempt the exam for that class, provided it is not a State required End of Course, NC Final Exam or VOCATS exam. Students are required to take all End-of-Course, NC Final Exams and VOCATS exams at the end of the course.

- A student with an average of at least a 90 and no more than 3 class absences
- A student with an average of at least an 80 and no more than 2 class absences
- A student with an average of at least a 70 and no more than 1 class absence



Any student who has any ISS periods or OSS days will be **INELIGIBLE** for an exam exemption.

There will be no "excused" or "unexcused" designations for exam exemptions. The only exceptions will be when students are absent while attending school-related and approved functions under the supervision of school personnel or attending college scholarship interviews with prior approval from their counselor. Seniors will receive (1) college visit that will not count toward the exam exemption.

A student who qualifies for an exam exemption in a class may choose to take the exam to improve his/her final average. **Any student who qualifies for an exam exemption and is in attendance will be required to take the exam.** The exam will not be recorded if it lowers his/her final average.

If a student is exempt from an exam and does not attend school for that reason, the student will receive an excused absence.

GPA - Grading Procedures

The Semester Grade should reflect two grading periods plus the exam grade. The final exam must count 20 percent of the semester grade.

GPA (Grade Point Average) is calculated two ways at high school. For the sake of clarity and discussion, we will call these the 4.0 system and the 5.0 system. The 4.0 system is non-weighted, and the 5.0 system is weighted.

The 4.0 system is used to report GPA to colleges, schools and prospective employers when requested. This system also will be reported on report cards. In addition, it is used to determine eligibility for the National Honor Society, Scholar/Athletic Awards, Presidential Academic Fitness Awards and the North Carolina Scholars Award. This system is reported when there is competition for awards, scholarships, etc. when other schools are involved.

The 5.0 system is used to determine Rank-In-Class. The Rank-In-Class is reported to colleges and schools as part of the student transcripts. This system also is used to determine eligibility for Junior Marshals and Honor Graduates.

Graduation



Students entering grade 9 are under the requirements of the Future Ready Core course requirements for a high school diploma. These requirements include successful completion of: 4 English courses, 4 math courses, 3 science courses, 4 social studies courses, 1 health and physical education course and 6 electives. Additional local graduation credit requirements are in place. Additional information is available from a middle or high school counselor. Students are also required to earn 2 career and College Ready Graduate (RCS Ready) courses focused on the ACT and post-secondary options.

Honor Graduates

Seniors who rank academically in the top ten percent of their class after the first semester of their senior year shall be declared "Honor Graduates". Other graduates may be declared "Honor Graduates" based on individual school criteria. If a student's academic performance during the second semester of his/her senior year does not remain congruent with earlier performances, he/she would become ineligible for this recognition.

Junior Marshals

Academically top ranked juniors with commendable citizenship will be chosen in the fall to serve as junior marshals. Those who qualify will be interviewed to acquaint them with responsibilities before the final selection is made. The top fifteen juniors will serve as junior marshals and the chief marshal will be the student with the highest-class rank. The junior marshals will be chosen by their academic rank at the end of their sophomore year.

North Carolina Scholars Program

Qualifying students will be designated as "North Carolina Scholars" and will receive special recognition by the State Board of Education. To qualify, a student must have an overall four-year GPA of 3.5 or better and must have taken certain prescribed courses. These courses are listed for you in the High School Registration Guide.

President's Award for Educational Excellence

The President's Education Award Program was established during 1984 to recognize graduating seniors who have pursued a solid core of academic courses and have attained a high level of academic achievement. To receive this

award, in addition to having successfully completed certain courses, the student must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average and either a Verbal SAT score of 630 or a mathematics SAT score of 640.

Promotional Standards

From Grade 9 to Grade 10: 6 units of credit, including English I or a Language Arts elective

From Grade 10 to Grade 11: 13 units of credit, including one unit of English and one unit of Math

From Grade 11 to Grade 12: 20 units of credit, including two units of English

PSAT/NMSQT

The combination PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a test which college bound students (usually juniors) take as a preliminary test to SAT of the College Board. PSAT/NMSQT will be given at school. It is administered only one time during the academic year in October. The Student Services Department will distribute details and procedures for registration to take the PSAT/NMSQT

PARENTAL NOTICES

Custody Rights

Legal opinion states that each parent has equal rights to their children unless a "court issued legal document" is issued and filed in the child's cumulative folder and recorded in the principal's office. In the event that a parent states that they have such a document, it is imperative that the document be brought to school to be included in the child's school record. The school will not engage in parental disputes and will follow the specifications of the "court issued legal document" accordingly. Parents should communicate with each other and work to resolve custody issues outside of the school setting so that school personnel are clear on custodial and visitation of students during the school day. In the case of foster care, the school district works with the Department of Child Protective Services to ensure that they have the most accurate information as it relates to the issues of custodial rights of parents/guardians.

Dress Code

We ask our students to dress in an appropriate manner for school. Clean, neat, appropriate sized, comfortable clothing, which allows students to participate in all events of school without undue concern, will be most appropriate. Reasonable consideration will be made for those students who, because of sincerely held religious beliefs, cultural heritage, or medical reasons, request in writing to the school administrator a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. Decisions of this nature will be made by the school administrator.

- Clothing must be age appropriate, cannot be distracting, revealing, indecent, or vulgar. No short skirts or short shorts are allowed. Skirts and shorts must be mid-thigh.
- No headgear including but not limited to hats, caps, earmuffs, bandanas, hoods, sweatbands, or sunglasses will be worn inside of the school, unless prior approval has been obtained by administration.
- All tops must have a fitted arm opening. No spaghetti stringed tops are allowed. All tops must cover the waistband of the bottom garment. Upper garments must cover the midriff at all times.
- Leggings must be worn with a shirt no shorter than mid-thigh.
- Clothing will not be allowed which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, the use of controlled substances, depicts violence, is of a sexual nature, is racially offensive, gang related, demeaning or degrading to a particular group or individual, or is disruptive in nature.
- Clothing is not to be sheer or of mesh material as to the reveal the body or undergarments.
- Any accessories or attire that has the potential to be used as a weapon is prohibited.
- All pants must be worn and fitted at the waist.
- No rips or tears of any nature above the mid-thigh.
- Sleepwear is not permitted, unless prior approval has been obtained by administration.
- Appropriate footwear should be worn at all times. Flip flops in the elementary school should not be worn for safety purposes.
- Jewelry or body piercings that poses a health risk, safety risk or is disruptive to the learning environment is prohibited.

Board Policy Reference: Policy #4300 Regulations # 4300 R-2

Field Trips

No field trips will take place due to Covid-19 until all restrictions are lifted. Classes may take field trips as an extension of the grade level curriculum. All students are required to have signed written permissions filed in the school office prior to departure in order to participate in class field trips. It is recommended that students have school or personal insurance coverage. Rockingham County Schools does not provide student insurance; however, students may purchase school insurance. Enrollment brochures are available in the office and are sent home with every student. **Since field trip bus, ticket, and lunch money must be paid in advance, there will be no refunds of field trip money if a child or parent is unable to attend.**

Parents may be asked to help a classroom and act as a chaperone on a field trip. Parents may participate in field trips in this capacity and assist in assuming responsibility for a group of students, if school staff needs additional support. Parents, as chaperones, may ride activity buses provided space is available. **Any parent participating in a field trip will be acting as a chaperone and will assist in supervision and instruction. Per Board Policy 5015 and Board Regulations 5015-R, volunteers acting as chaperones must provide proof of a valid background check for participation and supervision of students in this capacity. Inform your school if you wish to participate and obtain a background check. Background checks from other agencies are not accepted. Siblings may not participate in field trips.** Children not enrolled in the class may not participate in field trips. Students participating in school sponsored field trips must travel with their class on school vehicles to the destination in order to participate in the trip. A student may return from the trip in a private car with his/her parent or guardian providing the child is properly signed out with the teacher before leaving.

A student may be prohibited from participating in a school sponsored field trip if unsatisfactory conduct is exhibited in the classroom or on school grounds.

The Rockingham County Schools Tobacco Free District Policy applies to all school sponsored field trips.

Number of Trips (excludes district sponsored activities/trips):

Kindergarten - 5: may take 3 trips including one community/in-county trip

*80% Parent/student commitment is expected for overnight grade level field trips.

Board Policy Reference: Policy #5015 Regulations #5015-R

Grading System for Rockingham County Schools

RCS will implement a 10 point grading scale for all grades. Elementary students in grades K-2 will be assessed with standards based reporting.

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = Below 60

Conduct is evaluated as follows:

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

INC = Incomplete

Grievances

Parents who have a concern about something at the school level should follow these steps:

- 1) Contact the child's teacher.
- 2) Contact the assistant principal or principal if the concern is unresolved after talking to the teacher.
- 3) Contact the superintendent's office if not satisfied after talking with the teacher and principal.
- 4) Initiate a written grievance. See details in RCS board policy #1740.

Using these channels of communication for all concerns will be helpful in getting concerns taken care of in a timely manner. School staff will work with parents to resolve problems.

Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll: Students making all "A's"

"A/B" Honor Roll: Students making no grade less than a "B"

Instructional Materials (Parental Inspection and Objection to Instructional Materials)

RCS Board of Education policy states that parents have the right to review and inspect all instructional material and object to the use of any materials. For further information review Policy #3210.

Parental Forms

If you are interested in obtaining any of the forms listed, below, please contact your child's school or visit www.rock.k12.nc.us/parentforms.



Military Opt Out Form

Parents have the right to refuse the release of their child's information to military recruiters unless they give written permission. A refusal form must be completed by the parent.

Form: Military Recruiter Information Refusal Form

Publicity Decline Form

Parents have the right to not have their child's name or name with a photo used in any or all school publications. Submit the Rockingham County Publicity Decline Form to the school. Policy #4700 (FERPA)

Form: Rockingham County Schools Publicity Decline Form

Telecommunications Opt Out Form

Parents have the right for the school to restrict internet access. Policy #3225-E

Form: Telecommunications Opt Out Form

Form: Reproductive Health and Safety Education Opt Out Form (Grades 7-9) and Abstinence Education Opt Out Form (Grades 4-6) will be distributed to all students in these grade levels. Policy #3540

Parental Policy and Procedure Notifications

Below is the section from RCS Board Policy listing notifications that parents are provided each year:

- parent rights related to student records (Policy #4700);
- parental rights related to student surveys (Policy #4720);
- to protect the immediate health and safety of students; and their right to opt their child out of any such examination (Policy #4700);
- the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide (Policy #9205);
- student behavior policies and school standards and rules (Policies in the 4300 Series);
- permissible use of seclusion and restraint in the schools (Policy #4302 & 4302-R);
- Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures for Students (Policy #1742);
- Student and Parent Grievance Procedures (Policy #7225);
- grading practices that will be followed at the school and, in the high schools, the means for computing the grade point averages that will be used for determining class rank (Policy #3400 & 3400-R) (Policy #3450) ;
- local promotional standards (Policy #3420);
- graduation requirements (Policy 3460 & 3460-R);
- a report containing aggregate data information, including, but not limited to, student achievement (disaggregated by category, graduation rates, performance of the school district and teacher qualifications; Yearly results of each school;
- sports and extracurricular activities available for students (Policy #3620);
- supportive services available to students; including guidance, counseling, and health services (Policy #3540 & Policy #3610);
- information about Meningococcal Meningitis and Influenza, including the causes, symptoms, vaccines, how the diseases are spread and places where additional information and vaccinations can be obtained;
- for students in grades five through twelve, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children; (Policy #4230)
- the school's written parental policy, parent's right to be involved in their child's school and opportunity for parents to be involved in the school (Policy # 1310/4002) & (Policy #1320/3560);
- information about and application forms for free and reduced price meals and/or free milk;
- information for parents of children with disabilities, regarding parent rights and procedural safeguards (Policy #3520);
- information on the availability of the asbestos management plan and/or planned in-progress inspections, response actions, and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities;
- that their school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age;
- if the student has been assigned or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a substitute teacher who does not meet the certification and licensure standards for the grade level and subject area to which the substitute has been assigned (Policy #7430) & (1320/3560).

Student Transfer Assignments

The superintendent assigns students to schools. The student transfer form will be available on March 22, 2022 (tentatively), from the RCS Central Office and/or school offices. For information regarding student assignment and transfer of students see RCS Policy #4150.

Safe Haven Law Summary

Infant safe haven laws have been enacted as an incentive for mothers in crisis to relinquish their babies to designated locations where babies are protected and provided with medical care until a permanent home is found. Examples of designated locations include the police & sheriff departments, hospitals, fire department, and schools. For more information, please call 211.

Transcripts



Transcripts, or school records, are released according to The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Rockingham County Schools Board of Education. A release signed by the student or by his/her parent if the student is under 18 must be on file in the guidance office before a record will be released to anyone.

Through group guidance sessions early in the fall, seniors will receive more detailed information about the procedure for requesting transcripts. Anyone having questions concerning transcripts or the transferring of his/her school records should see a school counselor in the school's Student Services Office.

Students transferring to another high school can have records sent without charge. One transcript will be sent free for a senior who is making application to college or who needs a transcript for some other purpose. Any individual who is no longer enrolled may go to <https://needmytranscript.com/rockingham-county-schools> .Select the high school attended and request the transcript online by following the directions. There is a fee for a transcript request.

Home School Transcripts

Students enrolling in RCS high schools from a home school will present the home school transcript along with other required information. Home school transcripts will be reviewed by school administration. Grades will be entered as Pass/Fail ONLY. Third party home school transcripts may be reviewed by central office personnel upon parental request to enter numeric grades.

SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on the campuses of Rockingham County Schools. The purpose of this message is to inform you of the effort of Rockingham County Schools to rid our campuses of illegal drugs. Any student caught in possession of an illegal drug will be recommended for a suspension from school for the remainder of the school year. The student involved will be charged and/or arrested.

If you have specific information concerning the sale or possession of drugs on your campus, please contact the principal. You may also contact Rockingham County Crime Stoppers at 336-349-9683.

Our purpose is to ensure that our school is a safe place to learn for all students.

Prohibited Behavior

Possession or use of illegal drugs and alcohol is harmful to students. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting, selling or being under the influence of any of the following substances:

- Narcotic drugs;
- Hallucinogenic drugs;
- Prescription drugs and inhalants not intended for the individual prescribed;
- Marijuana or any other controlled substance;
- Any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor; or
- Any chemicals or products procured or used with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior.
- Vaping devices & other tobacco products.
- Amphetamines;
- Barbiturates;



Students also are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting or selling drug paraphernalia or counterfeit (fake) drugs. Students may not in any way participate in the selling or transmitting of prohibited substances, regardless of whether the sale or transmission ultimately occurs on school property.

The first violation of possession, consumption, or distribution of an illegal drug, unauthorized prescription medication, or alcohol will result in a recommendation for long term suspension.

Possession or use of prescription and over the counter drugs are not in violation of this policy if possessed and used in accordance with Board Policy #6125, Administering Medications to Students.

No student shall possess, smoke or otherwise use any tobacco, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, JUUL's, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine, in any school building or vehicle at any time during the school day or during any period of time when students are subject to the authority of school personnel.

The principal may authorize other lawful uses of substances otherwise prohibited by this policy, such as for approved school projects.

Legal References: G.S. 18B-301; ch. 90, art. 5; 20-11(n1); 115C-47, -288, -307, -390, -391
Board Policy References: Policy #4300; Policy #4335; Policy #6125

Safe Learning and Working Environments

Creating and maintaining safe schools for students, faculty, staff, and visitors is one of our main priorities every day. Parental support and community involvement are vital to helping the district maintain safe, orderly schools. The district regularly works in partnership with the Rockingham County Emergency Management and all of our law enforcement agencies within the county, state and nation to develop and implement school and district emergency plans that help create safe school environments. Report Crimes to Rockingham County Crimestoppers at 336-349-9683 or 9-1-1. You have the option to remain anonymous.

Emergency Preparation is Critical

The school district works closely with local government, law enforcement and other emergency management officials to monitor safety concerns and respond quickly to situations as they arise. The district and all of our schools have plans to

respond to emergencies, including inclement weather, fire, dangerous items on campus, utility outages, intruders, etc. Our schools have updated their site specific Safe School and Emergency Response Plans and they have been reviewed by the Executive Director of Behavioral Health, Crisis Intervention, and Student Safety with assistance from the District Crisis Leadership Team. The district also provides several training opportunities to school staff to assist them in preparing for a wide range of potential emergencies. In addition, all schools conduct emergency drills throughout the school year so that students and staff are aware of the most effective and safe emergency responses. Each school has assigned key staff members to perform roles and responsibilities during emergency situations.

Parents Have a Key Role in Emergency Response

During and following an emergency situation, school and district officials must act quickly and follow established emergency protocols to safeguard students and staff, secure schools, and communicate accurate information in a timely manner. Parents can assist greatly by helping with preparation before the emergency. Here are a few critical steps you can take:

- Please do not call or go to your child's school during an actual emergency. Local law enforcement advises you to remain out of the area and keep lines of communication open. Please do not go to your child's school unless you have received direction from the school or district officials. Vehicular traffic around the school may impede the ability of emergency responders from entering/exiting the campus.
- Please do not attempt to contact your child or school faculty and staff during an emergency. Students need to focus on emergency direction from school personnel and school personnel will be busy responding to the emergency and addressing the needs of students. Calling the school will only tie up phone lines that must be used for emergency communications with staff and emergency responders.
- Give school officials accurate contact information so you can be reached in case of emergency. District phone calls are made throughout an emergency to ensure parents and families are updated. The most accurate information is critical.
- Keep contact information current by notifying officials of any changes as soon as they occur. Multiple contact sources are helpful, including home, office and mobile telephone numbers and email addresses. Also important, in case you cannot be reached are the up-to-date names and contact information of family members, friends, and any other adults authorized as emergency contacts for your child.
- Be alert for a Rockingham County Schools notification. The district and schools will send emergency and routine messages to parents/guardians via our mass telephone, email and text notification. Parents may register multiple phone numbers with their child's school to ensure messages are received.
- Talk to your child about your personal emergency notification arrangements and let your child and school officials know if you anticipate being unavailable or difficult to reach for an extended period of time.
- Stay informed about emergencies, potentially serious situations, or inclement weather. When serious conditions arise at school or in the community which may result in school evacuations, early dismissals, or school closings, monitor school system messages and local media outlets. Information will be broadcast on Rockingham County Schools electronic messaging system via telephone, email, the district's Facebook and Twitter social media sites, the district's website www.rock.k12.nc.us, and local media outlets.
- Notify school officials if you see or hear of anything that could create a danger at school. If you prefer, you may call the law enforcement tip lines listed above. Monitor local news.
- All schools are equipped to safely continue operations and food services despite unforeseen utility outages. There is no need to come and pick up your child due to a utility outage unless you have been notified by the school to do so.

Delayed Dismissal and Emergency School Closings

Occasionally, an unforeseeable event or emergency may require the closing of a school or all schools for a period of time. The decision to close schools, or alter opening and closing times is made by the superintendent after consulting with county and municipal public safety agencies and school district staff. Notification of emergency closings is given as soon as possible so parents and guardians can make arrangements for students to be cared for during these times. The decision to close schools is based on many considerations, the most important being the safety of students, staff, parents, and others in the community. In cases of threatening weather, the district maintains close contact with the National Weather Service, the Rockingham County Emergency Management Agency and local law enforcement officials to help make decisions about dismissal of students or school closings. Officials want to make the safest possible arrangements for students and may delay the dismissal of students during exceptionally hazardous weather conditions, such as lightning. The district's electronic messaging system will be used to notify parents about delayed dismissals, closings or other emergency conditions. In most situations involving delayed dismissal, students who walk or ride bicycles may be kept at school until parents can arrange for them to be picked up. Bus riders will be delivered home when conditions allow for a safe dismissal.

Emergency Release of Students to Parents

School officials want to maintain as safe and orderly an environment as possible at all times. During an emergency, special procedures are followed to help ensure student safety. Principals have procedures in place to help parents who wish to pick up their child from school. Depending upon the emergency conditions, students may be released from a designated area to parents and guardians with proper identification. For your child's safety, your child can be released only to an adult who you have properly designated as an emergency contact and who has proper identification. Noncustodial parents who may pick up students must be listed with your child's emergency contact information as a guardian and also must show proper identification.

Reuniting with Your Child

When the situation allows, students will be released following reunification procedures. This procedure ensures that each student is released to a parent, relative or other authorized person designated by the parent in an orderly manner. Individuals picking up students will be asked to present valid picture identification and may be asked to sign students out to ensure safety and accountability.

- Alternate pick-up site – In some emergencies, it may become necessary to move students and staff from their school to an off-campus evacuation location. Due to the unpredictable nature of any emergency, the location of the evacuation site will be announced only at the time of the event. If this occurs, parents will be notified via multiple means, including the district's electronic messaging system and local media.
- Students who remain at school – If a parent, guardian or authorized designee cannot pick up their child following an emergency, they will remain under staff supervision until the parent, guardian or authorized designee arrives at the school.

Emotional Support for Students During Emergencies

It is important that students feel safe in their schools, especially after a crisis has occurred. Should there be a need, the district can provide counseling services to students and/or staff through the school psychologists, school counselors and school social workers within our district's Instructional Support Services and Behavioral Health department. If you have any concerns or questions about Rockingham County Schools emergency protocols, please contact your school's principal or the district's Executive Director of Behavioral Health, Crisis Intervention, and Student Safety, Dr. Stephanie Ellis at 336-627-2705 or stellis@rock.k12.nc.us.

STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Student Testing Program

Elementary and Middle School Tests

WIDA Screener is administered to initially enrolled students of a second language. This test serves as a screener for the initial identification of English Learner (EL) students. It is also used for program placement for students who are identified as English Learners.

Access for English Language Learners (ELLs) is a state assessment administered annually during the spring semester. This test is used to assess the English proficiency of English language learners.

The North Carolina READY End-of-Grade Tests (READY EOG) are multiple choice tests designed to measure student performance on the goals and objectives specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The READY EOG tests are administered to grades 3-8 in reading and mathematics. Grades 5 and 8 are also administered a READY EOG science test. The students take the tests at the end of the school year.

Students in grade 3 who do not test a level III or higher on the English Language Arts (Reading) EOG or do not meet a Good Cause Exemption, may be administered the Read to Achieve Test to demonstrate mastery.

State BOE Policy #3420

The elementary and middle school students participate in periodic benchmark testing in reading, math and science called NC Check-Ins which are provided by the State. Benchmark assessments are administered to students periodically to assess the learning that has taken place up to a particular point in time and to track the instructional progress on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

Students in grade 3 are tested during the first 15 days of school on the Beginning of Grade 3 English Language Arts Test. Students in grade 3 are tested in December using the Cognitive Abilities Test to assist with identifying students who may academically or intellectually gifted. For the 20-21, students in grade 4 will be tested during the first 10 days of school with a state released English/Language Arts Test.

High School Testing

At the completion of first and second semesters, the high school students will take the North Carolina READY End-of-Course (READY EOC) tests. READY EOC tests are used to sample a student's knowledge of subject related concepts as specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. All students enrolled in Math I, Math III, Biology, and English II for credit are required to take the tests.

Check-Ins will be available for Math I and Biology during the 2021-2022 school year.

State BOE Policy #3420



Additional information is available online at: dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/testing-and-school-accountability/schoolaccountability-and-reporting
MSL information is available at: www.dpi.state.nc.us/effectiveness-model

Report Cards, Interim Progress Reports, and Parent Conferences

Report Cards will be issued to parents every grading period for grades K-12 as established by the annual school calendar(s) for traditional and year round school schedules. Interim progress reports may be issued at any time by the teacher to report progress or concerns about student performance or behavior. Each school also shall report a student's interim progress to the student and his/her parents at the mid-point of the grading period if student is in danger of failing. Interim progress reports are to be taken home by the student, signed by the parent and returned to the teacher.

Parent Conferences may be scheduled at any time. Parents may schedule conferences by contacting the child's school.
Board Policy Reference: Policy #3400

STUDENT SERVICES

Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program

RCS AIG Identification

Students are identified as AIG in the areas of reading and/or mathematics and received gifted services in the area(s) in which they qualify.

In grades K-3 all students are nurtured through the use of Primary Education Thinking Skills Lessons and differentiation to develop academic talents.

Screeners used for formal identification in grades 4-13 include Cognitive Ability Test, EOG/EOC Tests, PSAT/SAT, and PACT/Act.

AIG Services

Each school has an instructional coach which provides support to teachers in employing diverse and effective instructional practices. The instructional coaches collaboratively plan with instructional staff to ensure appropriate services for gifted learners.

Grades K-3 AIG Services

The K-3 program is intended to nurture and develop the potential of these students. Students may be identified for informal placement and are cluster-grouped in classes. The instructional coach provides indirect support by collaborating weekly with the regular classroom teachers to plan instruction and review various types of assessment data. The instructional coach also provides enrichment resources that can be used as lesson extensions or for differentiation.

Grades 4-5 AIG Services

At this level, AIG students are cluster-grouped in classes. The instructional coach collaborates weekly with the regular classroom teachers to plan instruction, teach, and assess AIG students. Additional opportunities offered include science and math fairs, after-school clubs, Continental Math League, Battle of the Books, and A.S.P.I.R.E. a week long summer enrichment camp.

Grades 6-8 AIG Services

At the middle school level, students are subject-grouped according to their area of identification. The instructional coaches collaboratively plan with instructional staff to ensure appropriate services for gifted learners. Coaching cycles are utilized to facilitate teacher growth and improvement in instructional practices. Additional opportunities offered include science fairs, field trips, after-school clubs, Middle School Academic Challenge Competition, Battle of the Books, and A.S.P.I.R.E. a week long summer enrichment camp.

Grades 9-13 AIG Services

At the high school level, students are able to self-select courses and participate in special activities. This self-selection process is supported through counseling, DEP meetings, and recommendations from teachers, instructional coaches, and school counselors. Students have the option to pursue Honors and Advanced Placement classes, college and career promise program, as well as High School Academies.

Alternative Education in Rockingham County Schools

SCORE (Second Chance Opportunity Resource Education Center) is an alternative school in a separate setting for referred students who have been unsuccessful in the traditional classroom. SCORE gives students an opportunity to continue their education in a smaller environment utilizing a variety of



teaching techniques and behavior modification options. Students are provided counseling, anger management, conflict resolution and career exploration through collaborative efforts of school and community resources. Entry and exit conferences are required; students, parents, home school representative(s) and SCORE staff are required participants in conferences.

SCORE offers only temporary placement for referred students who desire an opportunity to work on issues that are interfering with academic achievement and school success. Standards for participation are high. Students are given the tools as well as the opportunity to overcome the obstacles or issues that precipitated the referral. When they are ready students are transitioned back to their home school.

Before and After School Program

Rockingham County Schools' Kids Companion (KC) Program is a three star before and after school child care program operated by the schools. Programs serve the following elementary schools: Bethany, Dillard (students are transported to New Vision), Huntsville, Lincoln, Monroeton, New Vision, Stoneville and Wentworth. The KC program serves students from age 5 (must be attending Kindergarten) through age 12 or the 6th grade. Educational activities, physical development and social skills are supported by the program and staff. All sites are part of the Division of Child Development star-rated sites. A staff/child ratio of at least 1:24 is maintained in order to assure excellent supervision, safety and personal attention to the needs of the participants. The Before and After School Programs have worked to meet required safety protocols as outline by the Division of Child Development and Early Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information on the program including hours and fees, contact the site coordinators at each school or you can call the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services at 336-627-2689.

Local YMCA's offer before and after school programs for students who attend elementary schools in the Eden and Reidsville areas. Interested persons may contact their local YMCA or inquire at the school office for more information on these programs.

College Advisers

College Advisers, based at the traditional high schools and the Early College, work with the Student Services support staff. Their role is to support and encourage all college-bound and potentially college-bound students. They specifically assist underrepresented and first generation college students who have the skills and preparation, but need assistance with the application process. The College Advisers will assist parents and students with college applications, financial aid applications, and college exploration. Campus tours may be arranged as well. Students may see the College Advisers during the school day, or when necessary, arrange an appointment for after-hours through the school's Student Services Office. These are young adults who have just completed the process themselves and are extensively trained to assist your child. If there are any questions or concerns regarding a College Adviser at any of the schools, the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services acts as a liaison and can be reached at 336-627-2689.

Exceptional Children's Program

Rockingham County Schools' Exceptional Children's Program provides a full continuum of services for students identified with disabilities ages 3-22. For each student with special needs, services focus on academic and/or functional skills in order to provide a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment based on individually identified needs as defined by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Exceptional Children's support staff include special education teachers, assistants, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, an audiologist and speech language therapists who provide services for students. A team of support staff, regular education teachers, administrators, parents and students when appropriate determine eligibility for services.

Students may be referred for special education eligibility and services by school staff or parents; concerns should be addressed to school staff (teachers, counselors, and/or administrators) or referrals may be sent to the Exceptional Children's Office (phone: 336-627-2705). For more information regarding the Exceptional Children's Program, please go to www.rock.k12.nc.us or contact the Director of Exceptional Children, Dr. Pam Watkins, at 336-627-2705 or at pwatkins@rock.k12.nc.us.

Homebound Services for Regular Education Students

When a student is confined to bed and/or the home due to a pregnancy (see Policy 4203 – Education for Pregnant & Parenting Students) or a chronic medical condition which prohibits him or her from attending school either on a part-time or full time basis, a licensed teacher may be appointed to go into the home or another safe site and provide up to 3 hours of instruction per week. To be eligible for this service, a medical doctor or licensed mental health professional must provide written certification that no reasonable accommodations can be made to allow the student to attend school. Parents must also sign an authorization to allow school professionals to consult with the doctor or mental health professional so academic decisions may be made most effectively. Failure to be available for Homebound Instruction unless you have an excused absence and have notified the Homebound Teacher in **advance** will be considered an unexcused absence.

Homebound requests, when approved, must be reviewed and recertified every 4 weeks to assess changes in health conditions. A school nurse and another staff person will visit the family to assist with transitioning the student back to school successfully.

The rendering of homebound services is severely limited, and is designed to provide limited instruction. Students are expected to complete the majority of work independently and must turn in all assignments in order to receive credit.

Provision of homebound services does not ensure promotion or passing grades. Students who are severely incapacitated may be offered the opportunity to receive "no credit" or an "incomplete" for the grading period, semester or year and given the opportunity to complete work during a specified period of time. For additional information on Homebound Services for Regular Education Students you can call the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services at 336-627-2600.

Students in Transition/Homeless

The federal McKinney-Vento Act is dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the educational services for which they are entitled. It is designed to increase the school enrollment, attendance, and success of children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Qualifying situations may include:

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Unaccompanied youth living in the circumstances described above
- Migratory children and youth living in the circumstances described above

All McKinney-Vento eligible students, including unaccompanied homeless youth have the same rights:

- Immediate enrollment, even when lacking records
- Attend either the school of origin, if feasible and in the student's best interest, or the local attendance area school
- Receive district transportation back to the school of origin, if requested by parent, guardian or local liaison on behalf of an unaccompanied youth
- Receive free school meals (no application necessary)
- Equal access to programs and services
- Access to the dispute resolution process

English as a Second Language (ESL)



All new students enrolling in Rockingham County Schools will complete the Home Language Survey, which is part of every enrollment packet. If a student is identified as a language minority student based on the Home Language Survey, then the student will be tested to determine their English language proficiency level.

English As a Second Language

In June 2008, the North Carolina State Board of Education approved the adoption of the WIDA Consortium English language proficiency standards. The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium, otherwise known as the WIDA Consortium, is comprised of states who share English language standards and assessments that are aligned to those standards.

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test, also referenced as the W-APT, is to be administered to all initially enrolled language minority students. This test functions as a screener that is used for the initial assessment for English as a Second Language (ESL) program placement of students who are identified as English Learners (EL). The annual test, ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners), is designed to satisfy ESSA requirements for Title III.

If the student is identified as an English Learner (EL) based on the language proficiency score, then the student is then entered into the EL database and services are determined for the student at the school level.

Migrant Education



The Migrant Education Program (MEP) is a federally funded program designed to provide assistance to those families that have moved within the last three years from one school district to another seeking temporary or seasonal agricultural employment. Students eligible for this program must be between the ages of 3-21. Migrant children sometimes experience difficulties making the transition into a new school setting. The program is designed to ease the transition by assisting families and children as needed within

the guidelines of the Migrant Program. The MEP provides supplemental services to migrant students to help them succeed in the regular school program, meet the challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet, and graduate from high school. Services may include, but are not limited to: Identifying and recruiting of eligible migrant students; Providing high quality supplemental support services; Coordinating assistance to migrant families through partnerships with agencies, organizations and businesses; Coordinating with other states to provide continuity of education; Assisting in record transfer to new schools; Translating; and Interpreting at school conferences. For more information on Migrant services call 336-349-5476.

Parent Resource Centers

Rockingham County Schools Parent Resource Centers provide a wide variety of learning opportunities for families with children from birth through 5th grade. Materials are available to check out for use in your home free of charge. Materials include games for learning, audio and leveled books for beginning readers, Accelerated Reader books, computer games, practice tests for NC End of Grade Tests and much more. The centers support parents in becoming their child's first and best teacher! Contact information is included in the School Directory on the last page of this handbook. Please check the website for more information on processes in place due to Covid-19.



Head Start Program



Parents or guardians interested in enrolling a child in Head Start should contact the Office at 336-548-4780 during the hours of 8:00-5:00 pm, Monday - Friday. The Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Center is located at 705 Ayersville Road, Madison, NC 27205. For more information, you may contact Rhonda Jumper, Director of Head Start at rjumper@rock.k12.nc.us

What is Head Start?

Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low income families by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development. Head Start Programs seek to help build relationships with families that support family well-being and to increase parent's skills, attitudes, and knowledge, which in turn could lead to positive gains in children's development. Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Program has 11 locations across the county to serve the families and students in areas in which they reside. The Head Start Program seeks to provide resources and offer enrichment opportunities in a variety of environments.

Preschool Services



Preschool services are provided for students with disabilities ages 3-5 as well as students who are eligible for NCPK, in most of the elementary schools, Western Rockingham Early Childhood Center and Reidsville High School Early Childhood Center (RHSECC). All of these preschool classes provide blended settings whereby students with disabilities are provided special education services in classes with their typically developing peers. Rockingham County Schools contracts with the Partnership for Children for NCPK services. Students are provided a full continuum of services based on individual needs. School based and home based itinerant services are also provided to some students. Support staff through the Exceptional Children's program provide services to qualifying students in a co-teaching setting with licensed Birth – kindergarten teachers. Referrals for the preschool program may be sent to the Preschool Office. Limited fee-for-service slots are available in the preschool classes. Free developmental screenings are also offered for children ages 3-5. Contact the Exceptional Children's Office for further information - 336-627-2705.

Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS)

Improving student academic and behavior outcomes is about ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and intervention possible. In RCS, all schools have been trained in PBIS implementation. PBIS is a research-based framework that is designed to enhance the capacity of schools to effectively educate all students, including those students with challenging social behaviors. Efforts are made to prevent disruptive behavior from occurring, rather than reacting after there is a problem. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a positive school climate in order to build a foundation in which all students can achieve social and academic success.



All PBIS schools have a team who has been trained in multi-tiered components of PBIS. This team meets monthly at the school and at least quarterly with the PBIS district coordinator. This team uses data to help determine evidence-based practices, which will aid staff members in improving academic and behavioral outcomes for all students.

All PBIS schools develop a matrix, which establishes consistent behavioral and social expectations. These expectations translate into observable and measurable behaviors that we want students to perform when they are in specific settings

throughout the school. This provides an atmosphere of safe, respectful, and responsible behavior. Teachers teach these behaviors often and acknowledge students when they see students demonstrating the expected behavior.

All PBIS schools provide the interventions necessary when students are unclear about school wide expectations for behavior and whenever behavior is interfering with academic progress. These interventions are evidence-based and provide instruction as well as reinforcement for replacement behaviors that are necessary for students to gain success.

Section 504 Services

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law designed to prohibit discrimination and protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Section 504 provides: "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States...shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." 29 U.S.C 794(a).

Section 504 regulations require that all public schools and school districts, as well as all charter and magnet schools receiving Federal assistance from the Department of Education comply with Section 504 and provide a "free and appropriate education (FAPE)" to each qualified student with a disability.

An individual (student) with a disability is defined as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities that may include caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, and/or communicating.

Parents, teachers, MTSS teams, or other school personnel can initiate a Section 504 referral if a child is known or suspected of having a disabling condition that substantially limits a major life activity. A 504 case manager is assigned to each school to handle Section 504 referrals. In most cases, the 504 case manager will be your school counselor. Each referral or request for consideration for Section 504 eligibility will be explored on a case-by-case basis by the school's 504 team.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

All schools in the Rockingham County School District will implement Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in the 2021-2022 school year. MTSS is a framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based practices and data-driven problem-solving efforts that address the needs of the whole child.

These supports are broken into three levels:

- Core Supports (Tier 1 instruction and interventions that are available for all students)
- Supplemental Supports (Tier 2 supports for small groups of students in specific areas of concern) and
- Intensive Supports (Tier 3 supports and interventions for individual students or very small groups).

At each school, MTSS teams composed of personnel with a variety of expertise (teachers, administrators, support service staff, instructional coaches) collaborate to improve school-wide systems and practices, increase the quality of core instruction, and provide support to students experiencing difficulties. These teams identify student needs in the areas of academics, behavior, attendance, social-emotional concerns, and mental health. Research-based interventions are then provided to help students progress toward grade-appropriate standards and expectations.

Intervention and enrichment time (I&E) is a scheduled period of each school day in which educators and students can work together on specific skills needed to reach grade level expectations. These general education supports are available to all students and include time for remediation of grade level standards, intervention on specific skills, maintenance of grade-level curriculum, and enrichment opportunities. At the high school level, I&E times provide the opportunity for students to work on ACT preparation and address specific skills aligned with career and college readiness. MTSS teams monitor progress as students participate in these intervention and enrichment opportunities, working with the student and the family to encourage the student's success in the school setting.

As part of MTSS, educational teams collect and review information such as your child's grades, performance on grade-level and classroom assessments, and other sources of data to help better determine your child's educational needs. These assessments may look at your child's academic needs, but may also include hearing and vision, medical, behavioral, or social-emotional screeners. Parents of students considered for supplemental (tier 2) or intensive (tier 3) support will be provided with notification and opportunities for collaboration as interventions are developed and implemented.

If you have specific questions regarding MTSS in your child's school, please reach out to the school administrator, MTSS/PBIS coach, instructional coach, or school counselor for additional information.

Title IX Information

Through the US Department of Education new information around Title IX has been provided to assist school districts in working with students or parents/guardians in the area of sexual harassment. Sexual Harassment has been defined as: Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the institution's education program or activity. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person can include sexual assault, dating violence, domestic or stalking as defined by the law. A person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or email address or by mail to the office address listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator for Rockingham County Schools is Dr. Cindy A. Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services. If an incident involving sexual harassment cannot be resolved at the school level, a parent or student may contact Dr. Corcoran. Her office is located at 511 Harrington Hwy, Eden, NC 27288. She can also be reached through email: ccorcoran@rock.k12.nc.us or by phone at 336-627-2689. Rockingham County Schools also provides a number of policies around the concern of sexual harassment. This information can be found at

<https://boardpolicyonline.com/?b=rock>

The information for Board Policies related to Title IX are as follows:

Policy Code 1725/4035/7236 Title IX Sexual Harassment - Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process; Regulation Code 1725/4035/7236 R – Title IX Sexual Harassment Definition; Policy Code 1725/4035/7236 Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process; Regulation Code 1726/4036/7237 – R – Informal Resolution Process

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

When an announcement is made that schools are closed due to inclement weather, RCS will communicate the announcement using multiple communication outlets: AlertNow phone notification message, posting on the RCS website at www.rock.k12.nc.us, message on RCS' Facebook/Twitter pages, local news and/or television stations and the RCS Weather Line at 336-623-1385. Please know in the time of social media, information may be obtained first on the RCS website and/or the RCS Facebook/Twitter pages. If you see an announcement posted on the RCS website or an official post from Rockingham County Schools on the RCS Facebook/Twitter pages then the announcement is official (even if you have not yet received the Alert Now phone notification).



Plan 1:

- Schools closed for students.
- Optional Workday for teachers, and other 11-12 month employees.
- Child care opens at “__”:00 AM.

Plan 2:

- Schools closed for students.
- Annual leave day or holiday for teachers, teacher assistants and other 10 month employees.
- Child care is closed.

Plan 3:

- Schools are closed.
- No school employee should report unless they are called in for specific purposes.
- Child care is closed.

“__” Hour Delay:

- Schools operate on a “__” hour delay; with option to close.
- Employees should report at time noted - review your options.
- Child care opens at “__”:00 AM.

Early Release:

- Schools close at specified time.
- Employees review your options.
- Child care closes at “__”:00 PM.

Snow Routes:

When snow routes are noted, buses will not travel on unpaved roads

When Bad Weather Hits...

- No announcement means that school will operate on a regular schedule!
- If we have to make an inclement weather call, the announcement will be made on the RCS District website at www.rock.k12.nc.us, on the RCS Facebook/Twitter pages, an RCS Alert Now phone message, on local TV or radio stations and on the RCS Weather Line at 336-623-1385.
- The decision to close school or to operate on a delayed schedule will be announced by 6:00 AM., if possible. The announcement will designate what plan to follow.
- If bad weather begins after school is in session, school may be dismissed early to permit student to get home before roads become too dangerous. Please have an ID to pick your student up. Again, please check the RCS District website at www.rock.k12.nc.us, the RCS Facebook/Twitter pages, local TV or radio stations or the RCS Weather Line at 336-623-1385.

Listen for *announcements* on the following radio and television stations:

Television Stations:
 WFMY – TV 2
 WXII – TV 12
 WGHP – FOX8



Radio Stations:
 WLOE/WMYN 1420 AM
 WFDD – 88.5 FM



On the Web:
www.rock.k12.nc.us



SCHOOL CALENDARS

RCS School calendars may be obtained on the district website at www.rock.k12.nc.us - click the school calendar button or by visiting your school office.

NOTES:



RCS Racks!

 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC 27288

 336.627.2600

 www.facebook.com/RockinghamCountySchools

 www.rock.k12.nc.us

 www.twitter.com/RCS_NC