

# Table of Contents

TOPIC	PAGE	TOPIC	PAGE
A Message from the Superintendent.....	Inside Front Cover	Post-Secondary Options	
Rockdale County Board of Education.....	Inside Front Cover	Advanced Placement (AP) Classes.....	21
School Directory and Location Map.....	Inside Back Cover	Articulated Credit.....	21
2023 - 24 School Calendar Dates.....	2	Dual Enrollment.....	22
Alpha Academy.....	2	Prevention and Intervention Specialists.....	22
Athletic Recruitment Regulations.....	2	Release of Information.....	22
Attendance Policy.....	2	Report Cards.....	22
Automated Telephone Notifications Service.....	2	Reporting Criminal Conduct.....	23
Bus Transportation.....	3	Response to Intervention / Student Support Team.....	23
Check-In and Check-Out Procedures.....	3	Rockdale Career Academy.....	23
Child Abuse.....	3	Rockdale Virtual Campus.....	23
Clear Bookbags.....	3	Safety and Restraint General Parental Notification.....	23
Clubs and Organizations.....	4	School Closings.....	23
Elementary School Club Listing and Descriptions.....	4	School Counselors.....	23
Middle School Club Listing and Descriptions.....	7	School Food Services / Meal Prices, Charge Policy.....	23
High School Club Listing and Descriptions.....	10	School Hours of Operation.....	24
Deliveries.....	15	School Nurses / Clinic Aides.....	24
Emergency Management Plan/Emergency Drills.....	15	School Psychologists.....	24
ESOL Program.....	15	School Resource Officers.....	24
Extracurricular Activities.....	15	School Safety Zone.....	24
Georgia Student Health Survey.....	15	School Social Workers.....	24
Gifted Education.....	15	Searches, Interrogations, and Surveillance.....	24
Grading System.....	16	Section 504 - Students with Disabilities.....	24
Graduation Requirements.....	16	Special Education.....	24
Graduation Specialists.....	17	Specialty and Choice Programs.....	25
Homeless Education Program.....	17	Student Work.....	25
HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships.....	18	Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct.....	25
Hospital/Homebound.....	18	Summer School, Intersession, Credit Recovery.....	26
Infinite Campus Parent Portal .....	18	Substance Abuse.....	26
Internet Acceptable Use and Safety.....	18	Prevention and Education.....	26
JROTC.....	20	Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA).....	26
Locker Inspections.....	20	Telephones / Cell Phones .....	27
Lost and Found.....	20	Cell Phones During State Mandated Testing.....	27
Make-Up Work Following Absences.....	20	Technology Fee.....	27
Media Center Services.....	20	Test Preparation Information.....	27
Medication, Illness, and Screenings at School.....	20	Textbooks and Media Center Materials.....	27
Non-Discrimination Statement.....	21	Title IX.....	27
Open Campus.....	21	Visitors.....	27
Parent Academy.....	21	Volunteers.....	27
Parent Liaisons.....	21	Water Safety.....	27
Parent's Right to Know.....	21	Discipline Code of Conduct.....	29

**Information published in this handbook is subject to change.**

**Please refer to the district website at [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) for complete policies and updated information.**

**Connect with us!** Facebook/Instagram/Twitter @rockdaleschools | YouTube @rockdalecountypublicschools  
rcpsinfo@rockdale.k12.ga.us | [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) | 770-483-4713

## 2023-24 RCPS School Calendar Dates

Inclement Weather Make-up Days may be used during intersessions.

August 1, 2023	First Day of School
September 1, 2023	Independent Learning Day / Professional Learning Day
September 4, 2023	Labor Day Holiday (schools closed)
October 2 - 6, 2023	Fall Intersession (schools closed)
November 7, 2023	Teacher Work Day / Conference Day (no school for students)
November 20 - 24, 2023	Thanksgiving Break (schools closed)
December 25, 2023 - January 3, 2024	December Break (schools closed)
January 4 - 5, 2024	Teacher Work Day (no school for students)
January 8, 2024	School Resumes for Students
January 15, 2024	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (schools closed)
February 19 - 23, 2024	Winter Intersession (schools closed)
March 29, 2024	Teacher Work Day / Conference Day (no school for students)
April 1 - 5, 2024	Spring Intersession (schools closed)
May 24, 2024	Last Day of School / Early Release
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day Holiday (schools closed)
May 28, 2024	Teacher Work Day / Planning Day

### Alpha Academy (at EPIC Center)

The Alpha Academy program (at the EPIC Center; EPIC stands for “Empowering through Personalized Instruction and Collaboration”) is an alternative educational setting where students may be placed as a complement to the traditional elementary/middle/high school. Students benefit from small class size that provides flexibility and an opportunity for individual growth. The primary goal of Alpha Academy is to help students become successful in school so they may return to their home school.

### Athletic Recruitment Regulations

Recruitment of high school student athletes to attend public or private institutions of post-secondary education is limited to the student athlete’s immediate family and coaches of public or private post-secondary schools. Accepting money or any other thing of value totaling more than \$250 annually from anyone other than a member of the immediate family or coach of the institution or totaling more than \$400 annually from the district may jeopardize the future eligibility of the student athlete to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

### Attendance Policy

The Georgia Department of Education and Rockdale County Public Schools board policy allow for excused absences for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the student’s health or the health of others.
2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including preinduction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent’s or legal guardian’s deployment or during such parent’s or legal guardian’s leave.
  - a. A student whose parent or legal guardian is currently serving or previously served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, in the Reserves of the armed forces of the United States on extended active duty, or in the National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, not to exceed two school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence from: A provider of care at or sponsored by a medical facility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or
  - b. An event sponsored by a corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.
8. Serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly, successful participation in the Georgia Student Teen Election Participation Program, registering to vote for a period not exceeding one day, or voting for a period not exceeding one day.
9. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student’s foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.2.
10. A student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall be credited as present by the school in which enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip, and such participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school. Upon request from a school principal or the principal’s designee, a 4-H representative shall provide documentation as proof of a student’s participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H. As used in this subsection, the term “4-H representative” means an individual officially recognized or designated by the University of Georgia Extension 4-H Program as a 4-H professional or a 4-H adult volunteer.

### Automated Telephone Notifications & Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA)

Rockdale County Public Schools Central Office and individual schools use an automated telephone notification service to contact

students, parents, and community members for a variety of reasons, including emergency notifications. Under the TCPA, you have the right to opt-out of receiving non-emergency calls/messages from our automated notification service. You may opt-out at any time by submitting an opt-out form to your school or following the prompts when you receive an automated call. If you opt-out of notification calls, you will still receive emergency calls.

## **Bus Transportation**

Rockdale County Public Schools operates one of the safest and most efficient fleets in Georgia. Our drivers are properly qualified and well trained. The following Bus Conduct Regulations have been developed to keep students safe while in transit by reducing danger and opportunity for injury to the greatest extent possible.

### **Bus Conduct Regulations**

1. The driver is in complete charge of the bus.
2. Drivers have authority to assign students specific seats.
3. Students may disembark buses only at school and at their regular stops. Any exception will require authorization of parent(s)/guardian(s), school administrator, and the transportation department.
4. No eating or drinking is allowed on the bus.
5. Radios, glass items, animals, skateboards, baseball bats, hockey sticks, or any other item of safety concern shall not be transported. Bagged athletic equipment may be transported but must be under the control of the bus driver.
6. For minor student behavior offenses, bus drivers will follow the established four-step minor offense process.
7. Serious problems must be reported promptly by the driver, in writing, to the principal of the student's school.
8. The principal will address the matter with the student and, if necessary, the parent(s)/guardian(s).
9. If the problem cannot be resolved, the principal will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) that the privilege of bus transportation has been forfeited.
10. Forfeiture of the bus transportation privilege does not change the requirement of compulsory attendance. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to transport the student to and from school.
11. The student's privilege of bus transportation may be restored by the principal, but only after a satisfactory agreement has been established with the Transportation Operations Manager.

### **Specific Rules for Students While on the School Bus**

1. When boarding a bus, students should go directly to their seat and be seated.
2. Students must conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times.
3. Students are not to move around while the bus is in motion.
4. Students will not extend any part of their body out of the bus windows at any time.
5. Loud talking, throwing of objects, or any other act of distraction to the driver is strictly forbidden.
6. Tobacco/tobacco products are prohibited.
7. Writing, cutting, or defacing any part of the bus is prohibited. Students responsible for such actions will pay for damages.
8. Students are to keep the bus clean and leave no litter. The bus driver is responsible for cleanliness and ventilation.
9. Students may not bring anything on the bus that would block an additional seat, aisle or doorway.

Rockdale County Public Schools authorizes the use of video cameras on school buses and on district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all persons and to safeguard district facilities and equipment.

### **Check-In and Check-Out Procedures**

Students leaving and returning to class are distractions to the learning process. Therefore, we discourage students from leaving during the school day. We encourage parents/guardians to schedule appointments outside of school hours.

**Check-In:** Elementary school students are expected to be in their classes at 7:35 a.m., middle school students at 8:45 a.m., and high school students at 8:05 a.m. Students who arrive after the tardy bell must have a parent check them in at the front office. In order for tardiness to be excused, students must have a written excuse signed by a parent stating the reason for being late. Only reasons listed for excused absences can be counted as excused tardies.

**Check-Out:** Students who will be checking out during the day must bring a note to the front office before school starts stating the reason for check-out and listing the name and phone number of a parent or guardian who can be contacted. Parents may also come into the front office to check students out. Students are not permitted to check out of school to go off campus for lunch. Students must be present until the following times in order to be counted present for the day: Elementary - 10:50 a.m.; Middle - 12:20 p.m.; and High School - 11:30 a.m.

### **Child Abuse**

If a school employee or volunteer has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse/neglect, sexual abuse, or molestation has occurred by a parent, employee, or other caretaker, the employee or volunteer must report it to the principal or designee in person or by phone immediately or face criminal penalties. If the designee suspects abuse, he or she is required to make an oral report to the Department of Family and Children's Service or law enforcement within 24 hours.

### **Clear Bookbags**

All bookbags (backpacks) carried by students in grades 1-12 must be clear. Clear bookbags are optional for Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten students. Students will carry their laptops in the school-issued, non-transparent laptop bag. Students participating in an extracurricular activity are permitted to carry non-transparent bags to store items pertaining to their particular activity (i.e. band, athletics, etc.). Upon entry into the school, all extracurricular activity bags must be stored in lockers or designated areas. All bags are subject to search. Additionally, the maximum size for non-transparent bags that students will be permitted to carry during the school day, such as lunch kits, pencil bags and purses, will be 6" x 9". Students who refuse to comply with the clear bookbag requirement will be cited with insubordination which is a violation of the Student Behavior Code of Conduct. Parents are responsible for supplying the clear bookbag. For more details regarding clear bookbags please visit [www.rockdaleschools.org/bookbags](http://www.rockdaleschools.org/bookbags).

## Clubs and Organizations

Rockdale County Public Schools has approved the following clubs and organizations for school year 2023- 24. See pages 4 - 14 for descriptions. Contact your school for meeting times, associated cost, sponsorship details, and the names of club advisors. Please note: Clubs, organizations, and memberships vary. Please see the lists provided for offerings at your school. Lists are subject to change.

### Parent/Guardian Responsibility Regarding School Sponsored Clubs and Organizations

In accordance with O.C.G.A § 20-2-705, parents/guardians may decline permission for his or her student to participate in a club or organization. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their respective schools to review the complete list of clubs/organizations offered at the school site. Additional information relative to costs associated with individual clubs as well as club sponsorship is available at school sites. Parents/legal guardians may withhold permission for students to join or participate in a club or organization. If you do not want your child to participate in any clubs or organizations, please complete the opt-out form, "Withhold Permission to Participate in Clubs and Organizations" and return it to your school within the first 15 official days of the school year or within 15 days of being provided access to the Student Discipline Code of Conduct. This form is available on the school system's website ([www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org)) under the forms link or from your school's office.

## Elementary School Club Listing

### Barksdale Elementary

4-H Club  
Chorus Club  
Fire Patrol Club  
Flag Patrol Club  
Marathon in a Month Club  
Math Team Club  
Media Center Club  
Mileage Club  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus

### Flat Shoals Elementary

4-H Club  
Art Club  
Chorus Club  
Financial Literacy Club  
Math Club  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Running Club  
Safety Patrol Club  
Spanish Club  
Technology Club

### C.J. Hicks Elementary

D.U.D.E.S.  
Fantastic Falcons Music Club  
Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
PBIS Ambassadors  
Reading Club  
Rose Petals  
Safety Patrol Club  
Science Olympiad Club/Sci-Fi Falcons  
WCJH News Crew

### Hightower Trail Elementary

4-H Club  
Annual Spring Musical  
HTE Code Ninjas  
Chorus Club  
Digital Media Club  
Drama Club  
Drum and Orff Club  
Hightower Hoopers Basketball  
HTE Postal Workers Club  
Intramural Program  
National Junior Beta Club  
Page Turners Book Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockbots - LEGO Club

Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Running/Hightower Sprinters  
Spanish Club  
Safety Patrol Club  
School Store Helper  
W-HTES News Crew  
Young Girls in Pearls  
Young Guys in Bow Ties

### Honey Creek Elementary

4-H Club  
Bee TV  
Bella Bees  
Chorus Club  
Dance Club  
Fall/Spring Mileage Club  
HCE Chess Club  
HCE Drama Club  
Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Safety Patrol  
Science Olympiad  
Student Council  
Tech Club  
Young Men of Distinction

### J. H. House Elementary

Art Club  
Chorus  
Craft Club  
Drama Club at JHH  
Mathletes (same as Math 24)  
Reading Bowl Club  
Recycling Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Tech Club  
Wellness Club

### Lorraine Elementary

4-H Club  
Art Club  
Chorus Club  
Fitness Club  
Good News Club  
Helping Minds  
Math Club/Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
STEM Club  
Student Council

### Peek's Chapel Elementary

Art Club  
Girls and Boys Mentoring  
National Junior Beta Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Safety Patrol Club  
Student Council

### Pine Street Elementary

4-H Club  
Chorus Club  
Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Safety Patrol Club  
Yearbook Club

### Shoal Creek Elementary

4-H Club  
Art Club  
Cheer Club  
Chorus Club  
Crochet 1, 2, 3  
House Inventors: STEAM Club  
Ladies of Distinction  
Math Club  
National Junior Beta Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Running Club  
Safety Patrol  
Science Club  
Student Council  
Writing Club  
Yearbook Club

### Sims Elementary

AR Club  
Art Club  
AVID Ambassadors  
Boys Mentoring Club  
Gardening Club  
G.I.R.L.S. Mentoring Club  
Girls Who Code  
GLO Mentoring  
Math Team Club/Math 24 Club  
National Junior Beta Club  
Reading Bowl  
Safety Patrol  
Sewing Club  
Sims Dramatics (same as Drama Club)  
Sims Singers (same as Chorus Club)  
Stallion Oratorical Club  
Stallion Speak Club  
WSES Morning News

## Elementary School Club Descriptions

**4-H Club** enriches curriculum in the areas of language arts and science. 4-H curriculum is aligned with language arts and science GPS standards. Membership is open to all 5th grade students. Activities include learning to give an oral presentation, exploring different science topics, and contributing to the community through service projects.

**Annual Spring Musical** students perform a musical drama and learn about the art. Open to 3rd - 5th graders. Activities include learning/memorizing songs and lines, blocking, staging, choreography, set design, costume/make-up, and other rehearsal/performance functions.

**AR Club** is a club for scholars who join the 10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 point AR Club by reading books and passing AR quizzes. These scholars will participate in monthly celebrations.

**Art Club** engages students in creative self-expression and promotes a more in-depth understanding of art and art techniques found in middle and high school curricula. Activities include keeping a sketchbook, creating set designs for plays, painting, sculpture, and fiber arts.

**AVID Ambassadors** present at assemblies and on the morning bulletin. Additionally, they help recruit new students to the program.

**Bella Bees** enhances the lives of girls through enrichment programs and events that serve and inspire individual growth. It aims to increase educational and personal confidence.

**Bee TV** – members direct, produce, and anchor a school news program which promotes school spirit, celebrates accomplishments, and informs students of school events. Open to 3rd - 5th graders whose applications are accepted based on good attendance, responsibility, teacher recommendations, and available slots.

**Boys Mentoring Club** is a club for male scholars in grades 4 and 5. The scholars will engage in workshops to support them in their development as positive young men and productive citizens.

**Cheer Club** is designed to give students the opportunities to learn dances, cheers, chants, and team-building activities as well as perform at various school-sponsored and community events.

**Chorus/Music Club** recognizes students interested in singing. Open to 4th and 5th graders who audition. Chorus performs within the school and at various community functions.

**Code Ninjas** builds information, communication, and creative skills using technology. Students learn to collaborate and work individually on various projects in a fun, engaging environment in preparation for the RCPS Tech showcase and East Atlanta Tech Fair.

**Craft Club** is for students to create fun crafting projects using materials commonly found at home.

**Crochet 1,2,3 Club** centers around 2nd through 5th grade students with the willingness to learn basic stitches in crocheting for pencil holders, hats, scarves, and potholders. Students learn to follow directions, build character and strengthen their fine motor skills.

**Dance Club** teaches students different dance techniques and builds self-confidence.

**Digital Media Club** expands students' technical and artistic abilities. Open to students who apply and meet Extracurricular Academic Guidelines. Activities include taking photos at school events and participating in projects to be submitted to the County/State Media Festival.

**Drama Club** – students work on a short production in conjunction with the chorus for two performances during the school year.

**Drum and Orff Club** provides a variety of opportunities to explore creative musicianship, play in an ensemble, and improve coordination. Focus is on technique development, teamwork and effective modeling to promote student success in musicianship and performance.

**D.U.D.E.S.** is a mentoring program led by the men of C.J. Hicks for boys in grades 4 and 5. It teaches leadership skills, conflict resolution, and positive character. Its overall goal is to provide the tools to grow into Dynamic Upright Dedicated Esteemed Students.

**Fantastic Falcons Music Club** – serves our school, city, and beyond through our unique signature way of musical expression. We will also give students a deeper understanding of the fine arts. 2nd through 5th grade may audition for participation.

**Financial Literacy Club** - will educate K-5 learners on age-appropriate practical financial skills that will teach them to plan for spending and saving. The goals are to teach how to make wise choices about money, distinguish between needs and wants, and how to avoid debt.

**Fitness Club** helps students live a healthy lifestyle, stay active, gain a love of fitness, and incorporate health and fitness into the lives of each member. The mission is to provide fun and effective workout options for all ages and interests to promote physical fitness for a lifetime.

**Flag Corp** rewards students with good citizenship and school loyalty with the opportunity to participate in school civic activities. Membership is open to students who have shown good attendance and behavior.

**Flag Patrol Club** rewards students with good citizenship and school loyalty with the opportunity to participate in school civic responsibilities. Membership is comprised of selected students who have shown good attendance and behavior by following the rules in the Barksdale Promise Book. Activities include a training exercise held in August to teach the procedures for raising and lowering the flag daily. A follow-up conference is held at the end of each quarter to review job procedures.

**Flag Team** chooses students with good citizenship to raise and lower the flags each day at the front of the school.

**Gardening Club** is a club for scholars who enjoy gardening.

**Girls and Boys Mentoring** engages students in mentoring and volunteerism; provides opportunity to join PCE Student Leadership Academy.

**G.I.R.L.S. Mentoring Club** is a club for female scholars in 3rd to 5th grade.

**Girls Who Code** is a coding club for female scholars in 3rd to 5th grade who enjoy technology and creating codes.

**GLO (Girls Leading Others) Mentoring** is a club for female scholars in Pre-Kindergarten to 2nd grade.

**Good News Club** is sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. of Georgia. It is open to students in grades 3 through 5 regardless of religious background. Students learn respect for authority, moral values, character qualities, and biblical principles.

**HCE Drama Club** partners with the HCE Chorus to produce mini-musical performances. Students learn about acting, producing, stage support, and more.

**Helping Minds** is a before school club where 4th and 5th grade tutors work with Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students on mastery of basic literacy and math skills.

**Hightower Hoopers Basketball** is designed to improve skills and increase moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) for 3rd - 5th graders.

**House Inventors: STEAM Club** – students participate in project-based learning. Topics are STEAM-based.

**HTE Postal Workers Club** provides real-life experiences in which to apply basic skills such as writing a letter, using the mail system, addressing an envelope, using zip codes, locating street addresses, and using punctuation appropriate for text and addressing.

**Intramurals Club/Intramural Program** improves fitness by participating in physical education activities after school. Membership and meeting times vary by school. Activities may include running, volleyball, team handball, physical education games, and chess club.

**Ladies of Distinction Club** – a mentoring program for 4th and 5th grade girls which serves to develop them through academic achievement, community involvement, leadership and positive relationships.

**Literary Lunch Bunch** motivates struggling or reluctant readers to have rewarding experiences with literature. The goal is to provide positive reading experiences that will increase confidence and boost achievement. Membership is open to 3rd - 5th graders.

**Math 24/Math Team/Math Club** exposes students to advanced concepts of mathematics, deepening their understanding, enhancing problem-solving skills, and competing in math competition.

**Media Center Helper Club** teaches library skills and enables practice of skills by helping in the Media Center. Membership is open to 5th graders with teacher recommendation. Helpers are assigned one morning a week to check books in/out, and assist with finding materials.

**Mileage Club (Fall/Spring)** – promotes fitness and running ability; students will meet on the track from 7 a.m. – 7:30 a.m., completing as many laps as possible. Students may walk or run.

**National Junior Beta Club** was established for the purpose of recognizing outstanding academic achievement and promotes ideals of leadership and service. Membership is open to rising fifth graders who maintain a level of Honor Roll, Honor Roll with Distinction, or Principal's List, receive all satisfactory behavior markings, and are recommended by their teacher.

**News Crew Club** hosts and produces a daily news show which promotes school spirit, celebrates individual and group accomplishments, and informs the students about school activities/events. Activities include producing a daily news show, which involves serving as a news anchor, host, or weather reporter; preparing scripts; and operating a computer or video and sound equipment.

**Page Turners Book Club** engages groups of students in reading various genres of literature and allows for discussion of thoughts, ideas, and feelings about the book. The book club meets monthly and is open for grades 2-5.

**PBIS Ambassadors** – a team of 3rd and 4th grade students who represent the school's climate, culture, and morale. This team meets with the PBIS Coach and Team Leader monthly to report student observations and give input for future PBIS initiatives. The ambassadors also serve as behavior leaders of excellence and always promotes RISE expectations.

**Reading Bowl Club** members read at least four Georgia Book Award Nominees, review and discuss the books in preparation to compete for spots on the school Reading Bowl Team. Ten members will be selected to compete in the annual Rockdale County Reading Bowl.

**Reading Club** seeks to promote a book-loving culture by providing a forum for second to fifth grade students to discuss and actively respond to books in meaningful ways. The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Competitive Team is a component of this club.

**Robotics/Rockbots/LEGO Club** – helps students learn engineering, computer programming, teamwork, problem solving, time management, presentation skills, and public speaking. Open to 4th and 5th graders. Activities include presentation research and an audio visual presentation. Students assemble and program an original robot to complete missions using problem solving techniques. Students develop team work, gain proficiency at public speaking, discuss the research topic, and develop robot programming abilities.

**Rockdale Honor Chorus** extends performance opportunities. Open to 5th graders who are chosen through auditions. Activities include performing in plays and assemblies, nursing homes, and Partner-In-Education sites.

**Rose Petals** – a mentoring program for girls which serves to develop them through academic achievement, community involvement, leadership and positive relationships.

**Running/Hightower Sprinters** is designed to improve skills and increase moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) for grades 3 - 5.

**Running/Wellness Club** promotes healthy living and fitness through a running program. May be open to grades 3 - 5. Participants may run on the school track and monitor progress in both distance and time and engage in activities that involve stretching and running.

**Safety Patrol** develop leadership skills monitoring hallway/cafeteria conduct, car lane safety with adult supervision. Open to 4th - 5th grades.

**School Store Helper** teaches retail skills and enables practice of those skills by helping in the school store. Open to 4th and 5th grade Student Council members. The HTE School Store is open mornings before school begins.

**Science Club** promotes greater interest in the wonders of science through discussing aspects of earth, physical, and life science, and sharing the information with the school. Membership may be limited to 4th and 5th graders.

**Science Olympiad/Sci-Fi Falcons** – Students work together to solve scientific problems and may compete with other RCPS students.

**Sewing Club** engages students in grades 2-5 who enjoy sewing and making new fashions.

**Sims Singers** recognizes students interested in singing. Membership is open to 4th and 5th graders who audition. Club activities include performances within the school and outside the school at various community functions.

**Spanish Club** provides educational opportunities outside of the classroom to gain a broader appreciation of the Spanish culture, language, countries, food and people.

**Stallion Oratorical Club** engages scholars in writing original poems, monologues, dialogues, and plays. They will have an opportunity to practice public speaking, stage presence, and develop their creativity.

**Stallion Speak Club** meets to expose and train Sims scholars in effective public speaking. In addition, it will promote positive expressions, communication, leadership skills, confidence, and teamwork.

**STEM Club** is a science orientated club that will focus on building interest, knowledge, and skill in science; students may participate in competitions.

**Student Council** teaches the democratic method for making decisions that involve the entire school. Students who serve on Student Council

make decisions about school projects and listen to the ideas of their classmates, while remaining fair and respectful to all. Open to one representative and one alternate per homeroom as well as four 5th grade officer positions. Students must be elected to these positions by their classmates. Activities include contributing ideas to school-wide spirit days and various service projects.

**Technology Club** provides students with an opportunity to explore new technologies as they develop projects for competition at the spring Technology Fair.

**Tech Club** is for 4th and 5th graders who have a desire to spend more time expressing their creativity through technology. Students complete a PowerPoint presentation as a try-out. Activities include digital photography, multimedia presentations, and video production.

**Virtual By Design** — Students use computer software to create virtual spaces just like an architect.

**WCJH/W-HTES/WSES Morning News Crew** meets daily at 7:15 a.m. to broadcast the morning announcements, recognize students, promote school events. Team members build self-confidence, enhance public speaking, and promote school leadership.

**Writing Club** promotes fun while writing about topics that will improve and strengthen writing skills.

**Yearbook Club** creates a pictorial history of the school year through the eyes of the students. Open to 5th graders. Activities include taking photos of school events, researching current events, creating graphic layout of pages, working with the printer to meet deadlines, inspecting the printed books, advertising and selling the books.

**Young Girls in Pearls** enhances development and provides a forum to promote the importance of positive self-image, responsible personal conduct, respect for self and others via educational achievement, cultural enrichment and mentoring.

**Young Guys in Bow Ties** is a mentoring program for boys in grades four and five. It teaches leadership skills, conflict resolution, and positive character.

**Young Men of Distinction** is for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade boys that empowers, uplifts, educates and motivates them on becoming community leaders. They will also learn about various topics from etiquette, health, and fitness to career readiness. The boys are given motivation to perform their best with any task given, within or outside of the classroom, and to become critical thinkers.

## Middle School Club Listing

### Conyers Middle

Anime Club  
Art Club  
Chess Club  
Civil Air Patrol  
CMS Coders  
Color Guard  
Glee Club  
G.L.O.W. (Girls Leading Our Way)  
Ladies of Distinction  
Men of Distinction  
National Junior Beta Club  
National Junior Honor Society  
News Club/Video, Audio Production  
Principal's Reading Club  
Reading Bowl  
Robotics Club  
Rockdale Co. Sheriff's Office Explorers  
Spanish Club  
Student Council (Principal's Panel)  
Tech Club  
Yearbook Club

Junior Thespan Troupe  
Literary Magazine Club  
Math Team  
National Junior Honor Society  
Robotics Club  
R.O.C.C.C. Mentoring Program  
Student Council  
Student Tech Ambassador Team (STAT)  
Tri-M Music Honor Society  
Yearbook Club

Patriot PRIDE University  
Reading Bowl  
Ritz Players Club  
Robotics Club  
Science Olympiad  
Student Council  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
Teens for Christ Club  
Yearbook Club  
Young Ladies of Elite  
Young Men of Distinction

### Edwards Middle

4-H Club  
Anime Club  
Academic Bowl Club  
Chess Club  
DECA/Marketing Club  
E-Kids Club  
EMS Players Drama Club  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
Future Farmers of America (FFA)  
Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA)  
I.T. Crowd Club  
Intramurals  
Literary Club  
Math Club  
National Beta Society (Beta Club)  
National Junior Honor Society

### Memorial Middle

Academic Bowl Club  
Coding Club  
Drama Club  
Intramurals  
Glee Club  
G.L.O.W. (Girls Leading Our Way)  
Math Team  
National Junior Beta Club  
National Junior Honor Society  
News Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Robotics Club  
Seminole Ambassadors  
Student Council  
Teen Girls in Technology (TGI Tech)  
Yearbook Club

### General Ray Davis Middle

Art Club  
Christ in You (CIU)  
Eagle Eye News and AV Club  
GRDMS Book Club  
Intramurals

## Middle School Club Descriptions

**4-H Club** strives to develop students to become productive citizens. Membership is open to 6th - 8th graders. Activities include teaching an educational lesson, discussing community service contracts, arranging for service learning, and preparing for competitive 4-H activities outside of class.

**Academic Bowl Club** prepares 7th and 8th graders for the academic bowl in high school, enhances academic excellence, and promotes teamwork. Students must try out for spots on the team. Only ten students are allowed to go to the PAGE Regional Quizbowl. Activities include the PAGE Regional Tournament and Brookwood JV Invitational Tournament.

**Anime Club** allows students to express their interest in animated tv shows and movies, while also using skills learned in their ELA and Social Studies classes. This club is student led with guidance to help give structure and ensure that everyone is being respected.

**Art Club** provides materials, instruction and support for students who seek a creative outlet in addition to their academic schedule. All art rooms (drawing, painting, computer, ceramics, and photography) are made available.

**Book Club** is a place for students and staff who love to read. Participants will read novels and engage in book-related activities such as hands-on projects, book chats, author studies, competitions, and more. Meetings occur after school and during lunch.

**Chess Club** is for those masters and beginners alike. Play pick-up games at our weekly meetings; individual or simultaneous; untimed or speed; maybe a bit of Chinese chess, shogi, or bug house, too; compete in tournaments. The school will provide boards, pieces, and clocks.

**CMS Coders** will learn programming — the universal language. They will develop/improve critical thinking skills, gain exposure to 21st Century skills and prepare to be “career ready” for the fastest growing careers in the next few decades, with the development of artificial intelligence, machine learning, data mining, and robotics.

**Christ in You (CIU) Club** shares the love of Jesus and is open to all students at DMS. Club activities include praise and worship music, fellowship with peers, guest speakers, lessons planned by club members, skits and plays performed by club members, FCA visits (high school group), and school-wide projects such as: Holiday Helpers, Biggest Heart Contest, We Care Beads, and cards to staff members.

**Civil Air Patrol** is an exciting form of character education that uses the students’ enthusiasm for aviation, space, and technology as a motivator. CAP squadron is a great complement to a high school JROTC program.

**Coding Club** gives students the opportunity to extend their learning of programming and explores artificial intelligence, machine learning, data mining, and robotics. Students gain skills and knowledge that develop their interest in coding and assist them in making future career decisions.

**Color Guard** is an all-county team for grades 6-8 in which students bring music to life using dance, flags, rifles and sabers.

**DECA/Marketing Club** prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

**Drama Club/EMS Players Drama Club** is open to all students and promotes the arts offering opportunities to develop talents and gain confidence. Students perform in a play or musical drama and learn about drama. Activities include learning songs and lines, blocking, staging, choreography, set design, costume/make-up, rehearsal and performance.

**E-Kids Club** is a group of students that help with various technology issues. They help fix hardware, move inventory, and perform other tech-oriented jobs as assigned. They also provide teachers and students with tech support in the classroom.

**Eagle Eye News and AV Club** provides a morning news show for the school and allows hands-on experience to interested students. Activities include production of a live news show, video editing, camera operation, sound board, video mixer operation, teleprompting, scripting, and other various activities and skills.

**Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** brings business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. We bring our mission to life through the application of our motto: Service, Education, and Progress. FBLA is an important partner in the success of school-to-work programs, business education curriculums, and student leadership development. Membership is open to all interested students. Club activities include career development and leadership activities, conferences, competitions, and community service.

**Future Farmers of America (FFA)** prepares students by helping them develop leadership and life skills that will shape their decision-making and values for the rest of their lives.

**Glee Club** recognizes students interested in singing. Open to students who audition. Students perform within the school and at various community functions.

**G.L.O.W. (Girls Leading Our Way)** seeks to develop a positive self-image, create community-oriented responsible students, and provide guidance and academic and career aspirations. Open to all young ladies. Members complete an application and selection process. Activities include community service, fundraising, school beautification projects, and mother-daughter activities.

**GRDMS Book Club** – See “Book Club.”

**Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA)** is open to students studying health occupations. HOSA’s purpose is to allow students interested in Healthcare as a profession to have experiences and competitions in activities learned in the classroom. Activities will include community service, Health Fair, and competition at Fall Conference.

**I.T. Crowd Club** allows students to share their knowledge of technology with others. Members gain skills in cooperation, communication, and technology while assisting in incorporating the RCPS 1:1 technology initiative in the classroom. Students are chosen through application by the school’s technology staff. All students may apply.

**Intramurals** provide students an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity that is non-competitive while promoting school spirit and sportsmanship. Activities may vary at each school, but typically include bowling, chess, skiing, snowboarding, tennis, soccer, and basketball. Membership is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders; no tryouts.

**Junior Thespian troupe** is a subset of the theatre arts program. It is the student honor society, a separate student organization, and membership is earned. Any student may be a member of the theatre program, but only students who have been officially inducted and registered with the EdTA national office are members of the theatre program and the International Thespian Society. Students earn points of participation in theatre related activities.

**Ladies of Distinction** is a club for girls grades 6-8 with an emphasis on service, mentoring and etiquette.

**Literary Club** — students and parents participate in school-wide monthly book club readings and discussions.

**Literary Magazine Club** creates a yearly arts/literature publication. Open to all serious language arts and visual arts students. Activities include creative writing, editing, drawing, illustration, publication layout and design, and book binding.

**Math Club** engages students in mathematics that is non-competitive, fun and different from textbook math.

**Math Team** is ideal for students who have talent and passion for math and need to be challenged. Students will engage in exciting, “bee-style” contests in which they will compete against and alongside other bright, motivated students.

**Men of Distinction** is a club for boys in grades 6-8 with an emphasis on service, mentoring, and etiquette.

**National Beta Society (Beta Club/Junior Beta Club)** promotes the ideals of character, service, and leadership, rewards meritorious achievement, and encourages education after high school. Participating students must have all As or no more than two Bs as well as outstanding character references from their teachers. Club activities include community service.

**National Junior Honor Society** recognizes and encourages academic achievement while developing good citizenship. Open to 7th and



8th graders with a 3.0 GPA or higher and exemplary conduct. Activities include community service.

**News Club/Video and Audio Production** informs the school of events and news pertaining to the school to increase the language skills of students presenting and to increase the listening skills of those hearing the news. Membership is open to any student with good standing in the classroom. Activities include preparing, interviewing, gathering, and editing the news for the school. Students may work with all types of video/audio equipment.

**Patriot PRIDE University** – provides an opportunity for students to explore the opportunities available to them as aspiring leaders in their school and community. Members are responsible for serving as tour guides, learning about and promoting college and career opportunities, and participating in outreach events.

**Principal's Reading Club** – Students read a book and complete a reading response form. They are then invited to the Principal's Book of the Month Chat where they eat a catered lunch with the Principal and discuss the book. The discussions center around the characters exhibit, connections students make with the text, themes and problems of the text, and narrative elements of the text. The Chat occurs the last Friday of each month and the forms, which can be picked up in the office, are due the Wednesday before.

**Reading Bowl Club** members will read at least four Georgia Book Award Nominees and discuss the books in preparation to compete for spots on the Reading Bowl Team. Ten members will be selected to compete in the annual Rockdale County Reading Bowl.

**Ritz Players Club** builds a spirit of goodwill and entertains the masses with all aspects of theater. Open to all students. Members are expected to adhere to the policies of attendance and grades for Rockdale County Public Schools. Activities include socials, drama games, theater maintenance parties, rehearsals for productions, and individual help with monologues.

**Robotics Club** enhances student interest in science using LEGO robotics. The students use LEGO bricks and other elements such as sensors, motors, and gears to create working robots. Teams gain hands-on experience in engineering and computer programming principles as they construct and program their unique robot inventions. Students participate in the FIRST LEGO League competition at local, regional and state level.

**R.O.C.C.C. Mentoring Program** is Students "Rising on Character, Courage and Commitment." This progressive mentoring group for male students that was founded to empower and teach the next generations of leaders to lead. Our principles are Character (integrity), Courage (not just bravery, but diligence), and Commitment (being a person of your word).

**Rockdale County Sheriff's Office Explorers** is an introduction to various phases of law enforcement. It is sponsored by the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office and chartered annually through the Explorer/Learning Division of the Boy Scouts of America. Students age 14 - 20 who have an interest in Law Enforcement are eligible. Explorers participate in community service.

**Science Olympiad** requires preparation, commitment, coaching and practice throughout the year to compete in 23 events. Encourages group learning by designing events that forge alliances. Students select events that interest them.

**Seminole Ambassadors** is a student leadership group that assists at school functions, serves as mentors for new students, serves as mediators, and serves on the student PBIS team.

**Spanish Club** promotes understanding of Hispanic cultures, language(s), and history. It aims to promote teamwork, courtesy, social skills, thinking skills, and making connections with Spanish class activities. Membership is open to all grade levels. Activities may include various group and individual games, sports-related activities, and team-building projects.

**Student Council** provides an opportunity to contribute to school governance, to act as conduits of information, to expose students to the democratic process of electing representatives, and to promote leadership, respect, responsibility, courtesy, and belonging among the students. Membership is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who are elected by their peers in school. Club activities include planning and conducting election campaigns; representing the student body at meetings conducted by the sponsors, administration, and other staff; participating in student focus groups to discuss school matters and provide feedback to the administration and/or staff; planning activities to promote good order, school pride, and a sense of belonging in the school; and planning, conducting, and/or participating in activities or projects that promote positive community relations.

**Student Technology Ambassador Team (STAT)** allows students to share their knowledge of technology with others. Members gain skills in cooperation, communication, and technology while assisting in incorporating the RCPS 1:1 technology initiative in the classroom. Students are chosen through application by the school's technology staff. All students may apply.

**Tech Club** is for all CMS students interested in technology and media who seek to learn more about technology trends. Students will engage in activities to connect with opportunities and recruiting resources for the industry.

**Technology Student Association (TSA)** prepares students for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving, resulting in personal growth and opportunities. Membership is open to students who are interested. Club activities include fund raising, gaming competitions, state and national competitions, and leadership activities.

**Teen Girls in Technology (TGI Tech)** is YWCA of Greater Atlanta's STEAM initiative for girls, established to excite girls about careers in science, technology, engineering, arts/design, and math through after-school instruction, college prep workshops.

**Teens for Christ Club** shares the love of Jesus and is open to all EMS students. Activities include praise and worship music, fellowship with peers, guest speakers, lessons planned by club members, skits/plays performed by club members, Visits with the high school-level group, and school-wide projects such as: Holiday Helpers, Biggest Heart Contest, We Care Beads, and cards to staff members.

**Tri-M Music Honor Society** is the international music honor society for middle and high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and inspire others to excel at music and leadership. Tri-M is a program of the National Assn. for Music Education.

**Yearbook Club** allows an opportunity to learn writing and photo editing skills and to contribute to the development of the school yearbook. Activities include taking photos, designing page layouts, writing, and using computer skills.

**Young Ladies of Elite** – provides mentorship with women to encourage thinking and provide positive, successful role models for girls. The mission is to provide opportunities for empowerment by developing self-awareness, self-confidence, and leadership through community exposure and activism.

**Young Men of Distinction** (see "Men of Distinction")

## High School Club Listing

### Alpha Academy

S.A.D.D. Club  
Chess Club

### Heritage High

Art Club  
Beta Club  
Book Club  
Esports/Gaming Club  
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
French Honor Society  
Gardening Club  
HHS Fashion Club  
HHS Patriot Ambassadors  
Italian Club  
Mathematics in Motion  
MCJROTC - Marine Corps Junior Reserve Training Corps  
MCJROTC Drill Team  
MCJROTC Rifle Team  
Mock Trial  
Mu Theta Alpha (Math Honor Society)  
National Art Honor Society  
National Honor Society  
National Honor Society of Dance Arts  
No H8 Club/Gay-Straight Alliance  
Orienteering Team  
Patriot Players  
Political and Social Activism Club  
Rockdale Youth Leadership  
Royal Essence Dance Team  
Spanish Honor Society  
Student Council  
The Poets Society  
The Voice Peer Club  
Tri-M Music Society  
Writing Club

### Rockdale Career Academy

DECA  
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)  
Future Educators of America (FEA)  
Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA)  
National FFA Organization  
RCA Ambassadors

RCA Media Production Team  
SkillsUSA  
Technology Student Association (TSA)

### Rockdale County High

Beta Club  
Black Diamonds Step Team  
Bulldog Bratz Dance Team  
Book Club  
Christ in You (CIU)  
College Prep Initiative  
Drama Club  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)  
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)  
French Honor Society  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
G.I.F.T.S. (Girls In Focus To Succeed)  
International Thespian Society  
Latino Student Union  
Mock Trial Club  
Mu Alpha Theta National HS  
Mathematics Honor Society  
National Art Honor Society  
National Honor Society  
Podcast Club  
Rockdale Youth Leadership  
Spanish Honor Society  
Student Council  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
T.R.E.E. Environmental Club

### Rockdale Magnet School

Magnet Ambassadors  
Magnet Asian American and Pacific Islanders STEM Student Union  
Magnet Association of Artists  
Magnet Black STEM Student Union  
Magnet Book Club  
Magnet Camera Club  
Magnet eSports Club  
Magnet Gay-Straight Alliance  
Magnet Green Team  
Magnet Incorporated  
Magnet LatinX  
Magnet Math Team  
Magnet Model United Nations  
Magnet Peer Mentors  
Magnet Peer Tutors

Magnet Reading Bowl  
Magnet Robotics, Engineering, and Computer Science Team  
Magnet Science Team  
Magnet Speech and Debate  
Magnet Student Council  
Magnet The Gathering  
Magnet Youth eSports League  
Sophisticated Men of Excellence (SME)  
Women on the Way to Success (WOWS)

### Rockdale Virtual Campus

Beta Club  
Cinema Appreciation Society of RVC  
Gamers Guild of RVC  
Nature Conservancy Club of RVC

### Salem High

Anime Club  
AVID Club  
Beta Club  
Book Club  
Debate Team  
Distinguished Ladies of Salem  
Drama Club  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Students Club  
Foreign Language Club  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
Interact Club  
International Thespian Society  
Key Club  
Math Team/Club  
Mock Trial Club  
National Honor Society  
Peer Leaders  
Rockdale Youth Leadership  
Salem Student-Athlete Association (SSAA)  
Science Club  
Seminoles Ambassadors Club  
Student Government Club  
The Voice Peer Club  
Tri-M Music Society  
Writers Oasis Club  
Yearbook Club  
Young Men of Distinction Club

## High School Club Descriptions

**Anime Club** allows students to experience the Japanese culture through animation. Open to all interested students. Club activities include weekly Anime viewing, conventions, and possibly a culture festival.

**Art Club** provides opportunities for personal enrichment through trips to museums, art exhibits, etc.

**AVID Club** aims to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society. AVID Club is run by AVID students that work together to support the Salem High School AVID Program.

**Beta Club** promotes the ideals of character, service, and leadership among secondary school students to award meritorious achievement and encourages and assists students in continuing their education after high school. Membership is by invitation and is open to 10th - 12th grade students who maintain a 3.5 weighted GPA.

**Bulldog Bratz Dance Team** is a competition dance team empowering young women with a goal to develop and foster a positive environment where members are encouraged to grow, learn, and thrive through their experience and relationships.

**Black Diamonds Step Team** is a high energy after-school program built on leadership, self-esteem, discipline, creativity, and sportsmanship. Stepping is a form of dance with rhythmic beats made by your hands and feet with precise movement. The Step Team performs at events throughout the year. Tryouts are held in October and a sports physical is required.

**Book Club** encourages students to explore reading for pleasure. Open to all interested students. Club activities include reading appropriate books selected by club members, conducting informal book discussions, reviewing new books for the Media Center, promoting reading throughout the school, and promoting literacy related celebrations and activities.

**Chess Club** gives students the opportunity to learn the game of chess and experience competition with other students. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include games, tournaments, and individual instruction which bring about an understanding of the larger concepts of chess.

**Christ In You (CIU)** is a student led organization that focuses on weekly encouragement of the student body. Everyone is welcome to join as they encourage one another through devotionals, inspirational messages, and prayer. This group prides itself on loving others and being a light of the school. CIU members focus on serving others and outreach through community service projects.

**Cinema Appreciation Society of RVC** engages students who love movies, movie trivia, and how movies are made. We will also research and discuss possible opportunities to pursue careers in the motion picture industry.

**College Prep Initiative** serves as an initiative to further develop the connections between the student body and college counselors on campus and to maximize opportunities for all; it collaborates with college counselors to act as an aid in helping build confidence in students to be able to reach out for help, focusing on students coming from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Debate Club/Team** offers students an opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, logic, public speaking, and collaboration. Students hone their research skills, expand their world view, and increase their understanding of multiple sides of important issues as they prepare for debates.

**DECA** supports the development of marketing and management skills in career areas such as hospitality, finance, sales and service, business administration and entrepreneurship. Programs and activities are tailored to the specific career interests of students. DECA provides recognition and leadership activities directly related to attainment of specific occupational and leadership skills. Activities include special projects, leadership training, and competitive events.

**Distinguished Ladies of Salem** is a club that aims to instill confidence and self-esteem in its members through community service, leadership and skill building activities. By embracing the 'NOLES Expectations, we will encourage young ladies to raise the standards of excellence and blossom into leaders of tomorrow.

**Drama Club** promotes arts in the community with opportunities to develop talents and gain confidence, and serves as a gateway to the International Thespian Society. Membership is open to all students. Activities include producing community plays and attending professional, community, and other educational theater performances.

**Esports/Gaming Club** is an opportunity for students to get together after school, socialize, and have fun playing video games and board games. The HHS Esports/Gamers Club is an active member of the High School Esports League (HSEL).

**Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** is for students who have taken a family and consumer science class in middle or high school. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life — planning, goal setting, and problem solving.

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes** fosters a Christian environment where athletes and students can learn about God and compete in athletic competition. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include bowling, flag football, Christmas stocking stuffer party, goodie bags to other teams, and motivational speakers.

**Foreign Language Club** celebrates different cultures and languages, including the French, Spanish, and Chinese cultures. This organization gives students a chance to learn about different cultures that exist around the world and provides a chance to experience a culture that is not often represented in RCPS.

**French Honor Society** stimulates interest in the study of French, promotes high standards of scholarship, rewards scholastic achievements, and creates enthusiasm for and an understanding of francophone culture civilization. Students must take French 3 or higher and maintain a GPA of 3.0 in order to be qualified.

**Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** brings business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. We bring our mission to life through the application of our motto: Service, Education, and Progress. FBLA is an important partner in the success of school-to-work programs, business education curriculums, and student leadership development. Membership is open to all interested students. Club activities include career development and leadership activities, conferences, competitions, and community service.

**Future Educators of America (FEA)**, sponsored by PDK International, is a professional organization that supports students who are interested in education-related careers. FEA helps students to explore teaching as a career, provides them with a realistic understanding of teaching, and encourages students from diverse backgrounds to think seriously about the teaching profession.

**Gamers Guild of RVC** is for students who love video games and might be interested in pursuing a career in the video game industry.

**Gardening Club** — students work to beautify the school campus and learn about green gardening techniques.

**G.I.F.T.S. (Girls In Focus To Succeed)** is open to all positive females at RCHS. The focus is to develop leadership, conduct community service projects, discuss peer-related issues, through various activities and programs at RCHS. The goal is to create sisterhood among members and encourage positive relations leading to the overall success of the individuals.

**HHS Fashion Club** helps students interested in fashion design, fashion styling and modeling build portfolios for schools or to show clients, with seasonal shows and commercial modeling opportunities. It helps students interested in photography, creative direction, and digital editing /graphic design build skills through a monthly fashion magazine.

**HHS Patriot Ambassadors** will be the official hosts and hostesses for campus events and act as student guides for visitors. These students will be positive role models for their peers.

**Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA)** is open to students studying health occupations. HOSA's purpose is to allow students interested in Healthcare as a profession to have experiences and competitions in activities learned in the classroom. Activities will include community service, Health Fair, and competition at Fall Conference.

**Interact Club** involves students in community service to better serve our area. It meets monthly and is open to all students.

**International Thespian Society** is a theater honor troupe active in community service, fundraising and theater activities. Members go to the annual Georgia Thespian Conference where they attend workshops and shows with other state troupes.

**Italian Club** promotes conversational skills in Italian and improves cultural understanding of Italian people. Activities include preparing/providing your own food for meetings, field trips to relevant cultural productions, and community service projects.

**Key Club** members around the world learn how to lead and stand for what's right through service and volunteerism. In partnership with their local Kiwanis club, high school students are making a positive impact as they serve others in their schools and communities.

**Magnet Ambassadors** provides an opportunity for students to serve as leaders in our school community. Ambassadors are responsible for serving as tour guides, making presentations across the district, and participating in outreach events.

**Magnet Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) STEM Student Union** meets to embrace culture and to support the empowerment of AAPI students in not only their daily life but future STEM careers.

**Magnet Association of Artists** is an organization whose goal is to incorporate more artistic elements into all Magnet extracurricular activities and to enhance the artistic abilities of members.

**Magnet Black STEM Student Union** meets to embrace culture and to support the empowerment of black students in not only their daily life but future STEM careers.

**Magnet Book Club** meets monthly to discuss popular books of interest. Open to students who enjoy reading for leisure.

**Magnet Camera Club** is a student interest club that explores the principles of photography, videography, and the digital arts. They document events throughout the year and build the annual Memory Book.

**Magnet eSports Club** is where members build their skills and compete in local tournaments throughout the year.

**Magnet Gay-Straight Alliance** is a social networking organization that promotes diversity, inclusion, and acceptance throughout the school and community and provides a safe, non-judgmental space in support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, questioning, and straight youth who share a common vision.

**Magnet Green Team** is a leadership/community service group for students focused on sustainability, gardening, and other projects to support protecting the environment.

**Magnet Incorporated** inspiring entrepreneurs meet to develop business ideas and innovate in their respective fields.

**Magnet LatinX** is a student led organization created to support the Latino community within Rockdale County. The club also serves to spread knowledge and awareness of Latino culture and traditions while also encouraging members of the Latino community to pursue STEM fields.

**Magnet Math Team** participates in contests and tournaments throughout fall and spring semesters. Contests are held in-house where the Math Team Sponsor (or designee) proctors the students and then mails in the results. The tournaments take place off-campus at various high schools and universities. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to participate. Students enrolled in Magnet Accelerated Math I and II join the Junior Varsity Team; all other students are eligible for the Varsity Team. There is no special selection process. Students are simply required to attend one practice per week.

**Magnet Model United Nations** allows students to experience a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and its other multilateral bodies where students perform in an ambassador role while finding solutions to worldwide problems such as gender equality, climate action, global health and more. Students are able to learn about current events, improve writing skills, work as a team to develop leadership abilities, and attend public conferences with other schools.

**Magnet Peer Mentors** was established to create a support system for 9th graders entering Magnet School. Rising 10th -12th graders apply and are selected based on their grades and leadership characteristics. Mentors are responsible for planning and executing activities for Summer Adventure as well as scheduling other social events and meetings with their peer group. Mentors speak to the students about getting acclimated to high school and Magnet school life.

**Magnet Peer Tutors** are selected for each Magnet course and work closely with the teacher to determine tutoring needs, and activities. Students who work well with others, have strong content knowledge and the ability to explain information clearly are encouraged to apply.

**Magnet Reading Bowl** tasks students with reading the 20 GA Peach Book Award nominees and answering questions in a quiz bowl format.

**Magnet Robotics, Engineering, and Computer Science Team** is a team that participates in robotics, engineering and computer science competitions. All competitions include designing, building and competing with a robot as well as promotional, presentation and spirit aspects.

**Magnet Science Team** participates in a variety of science competitions throughout the year. Examples include Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, Envirothon, United States National Chemistry Olympiad, USA Biology Olympiad, and more. Practice takes place after school and most competitions occur on weekends. Open to all Magnet students.

**Magnet Speech and Debate** is a competitive team which encourages and expands public speaking abilities, promotes logical thinking skills, and encourages students to think on their feet.

**Magnet Student Council** serves the school community and participates in regional/national leadership organizations.

**Magnet The Gathering** is a club for students who enjoy strategy gaming. Students meet weekly to play various board and card games that help with memory, logic, and forward thinking.

**Magnet Youth eSports League** — eSports team members build their skills and compete in local and national tournaments during

Fall Semester and in the Youth eSports League (YeL) during the Spring Semester each year.

**Math Club** engages students in problem solving strategies, recreational mathematics, and applied math. The goal is for students to gain a greater appreciation of mathematics in the world around them.

**Mathematics in Motion** provides community outreach by connecting mathematics and the arts and entertainment through various productions and activities. We will partner with local mathematics organizations and participate in programs that serve to educate our community about mathematics.

**Marine Corps Junior Reserve Training Corps (MCJROTC)** offers a full range of courses, introductory through advanced, in leadership. It provides instruction in the development of good habits and attitudes, problem-solving, characteristics for successful civic and group leadership, and planning to meet the challenges of adult life. Students may participate in competition in Marksmanship, National Drill team, parades, ceremonies, Color Guards, and many civic activities.

**MCJROTC Drill Team** is an exciting extension of the discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills learned in the JROTC class. The team performs at JROTC ceremonies and inspections, as well as competitions as required.

**MCJROTC Rifle Team** - JROTC Units that are eligible to compete in air rifle marksmanship are invited to participate in the JROTC Air Rifle Postal Competition. The JROTC Postal gives all Cadets who participate in air rifle marksmanship an opportunity to experience a National-level competition.

**Mock Trial Club** – learn about the legal process by taking on the various roles of a civil or criminal case.

**Mu Alpha Theta National High School Mathematics Honor Society** promotes scholarship in and enjoyment and understanding of mathematics among high school students. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include The Rockdale Mathematics Competition, in which RCHS students help to coordinate 600 students from various schools around the state as they vie to become the top mathematics students; and Pi-Day Poster Contest, in which RCHS students make posters on March 14 about the history or mathematics of pi.

**National Art Honor Society** gives students with artistic talent the opportunity to create artwork and teaches appreciation of art through visits to local areas of interest. Membership is open to interested students with 3.0 or higher GPA in art. Club activities include creating personal artwork, designing artwork for school groups and events (dance decorations, band backdrops, etc.), taking field trips to museums and historical places of interest, and creating artwork in the community.

**National FFA Organization** is the student leadership organization for agriculture students. Members are engaged in community service, leadership development, agricultural and professional competitions and award programs based on their occupational experiences and classroom/lab instruction. FFA represents relevancy in agricultural science through over 300 career choices in the food, fiber, and natural resources industry.

**National Honor Society** recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service, and who exhibit high moral character. Membership is open to selection as prescribed by the national guidelines. Selection is made in the spring and induction occurs in the fall.

**National Honor Society of Dance Arts** is the nation's leading dance honor society for middle and high schools. The program recognizes the importance of dance as an art form and an academic discipline that contributes toward academic achievement, workforce skills, and life skills, and brings well deserved recognition to outstanding students and schools.

**Nature Conservation Club of RVC** gives students the opportunity to participate in cookouts, hikes, and environmental support opportunities. Students will also learn about what career opportunities might be available in the forest industry.

**No H8 Club/Gay-Straight Alliance** is a social networking organization that promotes diversity, inclusion, and acceptance throughout the school and community and provides a safe, non-judgmental space in support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, questioning, and straight youth who share a common vision of equality and social justice.

**Orienteering Team** is a military based sport that involves a combination of cross country with maps and has local, regional and national level competitions.

**Patriot Players** promotes creative collaborations in the theatrical arts by offering opportunities for students to develop self-expression, confidence, and performance technique. Patriot Players produces shows, hosts guest artist workshops, and provides community service events. This club is the gateway into International Thespian Troupe #4048.

**Peer Leaders** receive extensive training by serving as listeners, advocates, and helpers to peers. They promote ideals of academic achievement, personal responsibility, and nonviolent behavior by acting as role models, advocating for equitable treatment of all students, and assisting their peers with academic and social skills learning.

**Podcast Club** gives students the opportunity to express their voices and listen to other perspectives on issues facing their everyday life.

**Political and Social Activism Club** is a student-led and founded club for students who want to host fundraisers, attend events, and help our community. Each week, there are debates on politics and current issues in our society and ways we can bring awareness.

**RCA Ambassadors** consist of students representing each of the different pathways offered at RCA. The program is designed to provide students with a mechanism to contribute to the success of RCA. In essence, this will be the governing body for student activities. These students will help set the tone for RCA by modeling responsible behavior and being a positive role models.

**RCA Media Production Team** is an opportunity for students to experience everything that goes into a live production. With access to hundreds of events each year including athletics, awards ceremonies, musical theater and more, the RCA Media Production team provides hands-on training in the areas of audio production, producing live broadcasts, as well as play by play announcing for sports telecasts.

**Rockdale Youth Leadership** fosters and builds student leadership qualities and is a division of the Rockdale County Public Schools Youth Leadership program. Membership is restricted to students who are nominated to attend the school system's summer student leadership retreat. Club activities include various service projects throughout the year and attending the Georgia School Counselors

Association meeting and conducting a workshop on student leadership.

**Royal Essence Dance Team** is a group of spirited, energetic dancers that perform for HHS halftime shows and local community events. The team incorporates specific dance styles and technical work into performances. Students will demonstrate strong dance and conditioning training ethics.

**S.A.D.D. Club** (Students Against Destructive Decisions) operates on the belief that positive peer pressure, role modeling and environmental strategies can prevent destructive decisions and set a healthier, safer course for the lives of young people. S.A.D.D. is a peer-to-peer education, prevention, and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, teen violence, and teen suicide.

**Salem Student-Athlete Association (SSAA)** is a Life Skills Workshop series for student athlete growth and development.

**Science Club** focuses on environmental issues like school-wide recycling and alternative fuels. Students may put together scientific demonstrations to perform for other students. Various environmental, biological and physical science topics are explored through hands-on activities and discussion.

**Seminoles Ambassadors Club** creates school connectedness for new students. Student ambassadors create a fun and new transition for all new students from school tours and staff introductions to lunch buddies; student ambassadors will help new students get settled into Salem High School. Student ambassadors help create a welcoming school atmosphere, one student at a time.

**SkillsUSA Club** prepares America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. Membership is open to interested students in career tech. Club activities include competitions, workshops, conferences, and community service.

**Sophisticated Men of Excellence (SME)** – a leadership/community service group for young men focused on improving community.

**Spanish Honor Society** is for students enrolled in Spanish who have high academic achievement. Any student who has maintained an honor average in the study of Spanish for a minimum of three semesters and is in 10-12th grade is eligible.

**Student Council** develops democratic ideals, teaches respect for law and order, maintains the highest standards of cooperation and school spirit, and promotes general social life in the school. Membership is open to students in good standing who meet academic eligibility and are able to perform the duties of the elected office. Club activities include community service, campus service, homecoming, publicity, faculty relations, fund raising, and leadership training.

**Student Government Club** serves as a link between students and administrators to examine student concerns about school policy. Open to 15 - 20 students from all grades. Activities include meeting to discuss school policy with the principal.

**The Poets Society** is a club consisting of poets, aspiring poets, and lyricists meeting twice monthly. The goal of this club is to encourage and promote the writing of poetry in all forms and aspects. The bi-monthly meetings will include mini-workshops to expose students to assorted styles of poetic writing while creating a safe space for writers to share and critique theirs and others' original poems or lyrics.

**The Voice Peer Club** serves as the voice of students who are doing positive things and making good choices.

**T.R.E.E Environmental Club** (Treehuggers Responsible for the Earth and Environment) is a project-based club designed to educate students on environmental issues while keeping the environment clean and beautiful.

**Tri-M Music Honor Society** is the international music honor society for middle and high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and inspire others to excel at music and leadership. Tri-M is a program of the National Association for Music Education.

**Women on the Way to Success (WOWS)** is a leadership/community service group for young women focused on community improvement.

**Writers Oasis Club** provides an opportunity for Salem students to write and to share their creative endeavors with a community of writers. Our goal is to inspire and to celebrate student achievement in creative writing.

**Writing Club** brings together students of all writing abilities who have an interest in creating fiction, nonfiction, scripts, poetry and other types of writing. It provides a collaborative workspace for members to write, share ideas, and provide feedback for each other's work.

**Yearbook Club** provides an opportunity to learn basic photojournalism skills, layout planning and design, copy preparation, and desktop publishing as students produce a written and photographed history of the school year. Yearbook is both an academic class and an extracurricular activity. Students work activities during the school day and outside the classroom.

**Young Men of Distinction** brings together young men of various cultural backgrounds and promotes awareness of multicultural issues on campus and in the surrounding communities. YMOD promotes leadership, multiculturalism, and self-improvement through academic excellence, involvement in and service to the campus and community, as well as being living examples of brotherhood across different races, ethnicities, religions, lifestyles, and backgrounds.

## **Deliveries**

We do not allow deliveries of flowers/gifts for students at school in order to avoid interruption of instructional time.

## **Discipline Code of Conduct**

Please see "Discipline Code of Conduct" section in the back of the Parent Handbook. For the full, most up-to-date Discipline Code of Conduct, see Board Policy at [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).

## **Emergency Management Plan / Emergency Drills**

Rockdale Emergency Management Agency (REMA) reviews and approves the school system's comprehensive School Safety Plans and each school's Emergency Management Plan. A copy of these confidential plans is maintained by the principal and the Office of School Safety. An annual safe schools audit of each school in the district will be conducted by the Office of School Safety and may include local first responders, the Rockdale Emergency Management Agency (REMA) or RCPS Buildings and Grounds. Fire/evacuation drills will be held in accordance with the State of Georgia Office of Insurance and Fire Commission. Each school will conduct the following drills:

1. Within the first 10 days of school a fire drill must be completed
2. Within the first 30 days of school a second fire drill must be completed.
3. A fire drill must be completed every month that the school is in session.
4. During the months of February and November, fire drills can be substituted for a severe weather drill or a lockdown drill.
5. Hard Lockdown/Intruder Drill Requirement: 1 per semester. First drill must be completed before October 1st. Second drill will be completed in the second semester.
6. Tornado/Severe Weather Drill Requirement: 1 per semester.
7. Reverse Evacuation Drill Requirement: 1 per school year.
8. Bomb Threat Drill Requirement: 1 per school year.

## **ESOL Program**

The English to Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL) provides educational opportunities to students who have a primary language other than English. This program, beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, provides each qualifying child the opportunity to develop English proficiency in order to be a successful student in RCPS.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

### **Eligibility for Competitive Extracurricular Activities**

Academic eligibility must be maintained for a student to participate in any interscholastic competitive event. This includes athletics, cheerleading, literary events, and competitive band. Basic eligibility requirements include:

1. Passing a minimum of five courses each semester.
2. Maintaining a 1.0 grade point average each semester.
3. Having a current physical for athletics and completing all required permission forms (if appropriate).

Students with concerns about eligibility should see the Athletic Director or their counselor. State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. §20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Rockdale County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The Sports Equity Coordinator for the school system is the Director of Athletics, 770-483-4713. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be directed to that office.

## **Student Activities**

Students are encouraged to participate in school life outside the classroom. A variety of clubs and sports are available to help students develop character. Details may be obtained from a school counselor, administrator, or faculty member.

## **Georgia Student Health Survey**

Students participate in the Georgia Student Health Survey administered by the Georgia Department of Education. The survey is designed to collect information on various topics including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; school violence; school climate; and nutrition. The data will be used to identify critical areas of need for our Safe and Drug-Free Schools. The survey is completely anonymous and voluntary. Students have the right to opt out. If you would like your student to opt out of the survey, please visit [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) and complete GSHS Opt-Out Parent Letter.

## **Gifted Education**

RCPS has been serving students identified as gifted for more than 20 years. During those years, the state legislature has expanded the definition of "giftedness" on several occasions. Under the most recent definition adopted by the state, a gifted student is one who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual or creative ability, exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction or services to achieve at levels commensurate with their abilities. Gifted services are designed to: provide academically challenging opportunities, integrate multiple disciplines, allow for independent work, encourage complex, abstract critical thinking, encourage the development of "new" ideas and products, increase self-understanding and self-evaluation.

### **Process of Identifying Gifted Students – Screening and Referral**

Twice a year, the Gifted Support Team will screen referrals and determine whether a student should be given further evaluation for possible gifted services. A student may be referred by a teacher, parent, peer, administrator, or the student may refer themselves. Students may also be referred from scores on system-wide tests. The person making the referral completes forms used by the

gifted program. These forms are available from the counselor's office and should be completed by October 1st for fall referral and March 1st for spring referral. The chairperson of the Gifted Support Team or the school counselor will provide information on the referral, evaluation, and placement processes.

## Grading System

**Kindergarten** - The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) is a performance based assessment aligned to Kindergarten Georgia Standards of Excellence. GKIDS allows teachers to assess student performance during instruction, and record student performance in an online database. At the end of each 9 weeks, teachers evaluate student performance on the following scale:

- **Not Yet Demonstrated**
- **Emerging**
- **Developing**
- **Demonstrating**
- **Exceeding**

**Grades 1 and 2** - Teachers in these grades report progress to parents using a standards based grading system. Each 9 weeks, progress on specific standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies is reported using the following scale:

**1 = Little to no progress toward meeting the standard**

**2 = Progressing toward the standard**

**3 = Meeting the standard**

**4 = Exemplary performance on the standard**

**Grades 3 to 12** - report progress to parents in each subject using the following grading scale:

**A = 90-100    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    F = 69 and below**

## Graduation Requirements

The Board of Education defines as a major role of secondary schools the responsibility of providing learning experiences needed to acquire and apply life skills — the skills which enable one to successfully address decisions and opportunities presented in a free, technological society. Secondary school instruction and support services shall reflect the high school graduation requirements and assist all students in developing their unique potential to function in a global society.

### General Requirements

**(For complete requirements, see policy IHF and corresponding regulations/exhibits at: [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).)**

- To be eligible for graduation from a Rockdale County high school, a student must meet requirements in Attendance, Carnegie units of credit, Core curriculum courses, and End of Course (EOC) assessments. Some courses, as identified by the Georgia Board of Education, require an EOC assessment. Students must take the EOC exams in order to earn credit for those courses. By meeting all appropriate criteria, students earn a High School Diploma. Students who complete Carnegie unit requirements of Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology earn a Magnet Diploma.
- Students with disabilities may obtain a special education Diploma by meeting criteria specified in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). A special education diploma is a document awarded to students with disabilities who have not completed the requirements for a high school diploma but have completed their IEP.
- Students who enroll from another state must meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class they enter.
- Students entering or returning to a Rockdale County high school from a non-accredited private school or home school must be enrolled by the end of the first six weeks of their senior year, or must be enrolled for two consecutive semesters, which may include summer school, during their senior year in order to receive a diploma from a Rockdale County high school. Graduation is contingent upon meeting all RCPS graduation requirements. Notice of this requirement will be given to parents at the time of their enrollment in home school.

### Honor Graduate Requirements

Honor graduates will be identified on the basis of the grade point average resulting from the procedure outlined in Board policy IHD-R. Honor graduate status will be conferred on graduates who meet the following requirements:

- Cum Laude (Honors): minimum 3.5 GPA through 3.69, unrounded
- Magna Cum Laude (High Honors): minimum 3.7 cumulative GPA, unrounded
- Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors): overall GPA of at least 3.9, unrounded

### Carnegie Units

Middle school students may obtain Carnegie unit credit in foreign language, math, science, and some CTAE courses. To receive credit for these courses, a middle school student must earn a grade of 70 percent or above for **both** semesters. If a student does not receive an 70 percent or above during both semesters, he or she is not eligible to earn a Carnegie unit credit for that course. Middle school students may not earn 1/2 Carnegie unit credits. Carnegie units in middle school will be recorded on the high school transcript as the numerical grade earned. In accordance with the current Georgia Student Finance Commission rules for the HOPE scholarship, courses will NOT be calculated in the high school GPA, which determines class rank, valedictorian, honor graduate, etc.

Students who do not successfully complete a Carnegie unit course with a minimum 70 percent grade for both first and second semesters will need to repeat the entire course in order to receive Carnegie unit credit.

Carnegie unit credit is granted only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the state-approved curriculum for grades 9-12. Carnegie unit credit will be awarded for successful completion of a course based on a minimum of 150 clock hours of instruction over the school year. One-half unit of credit will be granted for the successful completion of a semester course with a minimum of 75 clock hours of instruction. Credit for summer school shall be based on a minimum



of 120 clock hours of instruction per unit.

Carnegie units of credit may be granted to students for out-of-school work as part of an approved Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program. The maximum number of units earned in this way is two per year. Any Work-Study Program for which such credit is granted must be part of the approved High School Program of Studies for Rockdale County and must meet guidelines of the Georgia Board of Education. Students who are high school juniors or seniors and meet the qualifications as specified in Policy IDCH and Policy JB may earn Carnegie unit credit for successful completion of college courses as part of an approved college dual enrollment program.

A course shall count only once for satisfying any Carnegie unit requirement for graduation. The same course cannot be used to satisfy a Carnegie unit requirement in more than one core area of study. Carnegie units of credit for graduation shall be awarded to high school students participating in any dual enrollment program using the ratio delineated in Policy IDCH Dual Enrollment. With the exception delineated in General Requirements, section D, a student shall meet the graduation requirements in effect at the time of enrollment in the ninth grade, regardless of the changes in requirements affecting subsequent classes.

### **End of Course (EOC) Testing for AP/IB/Dual Enrollment Students**

Students enrolled in courses for which an EOC exists, as prescribed by the Georgia Board of Education, must participate in the EOC in order to obtain credit for those courses. The EOC will count for 20% of the final grade for the semester for which the EOC is given. Dual Enrollment students in prescribed EOC courses must also participate in the EOC. All EOC courses must be passed to meet graduation requirements.

State Board of Education (SBOE) Rule 160-3-1-.07 was adopted and changed End of Course (EOC) requirements for students taking Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB)/Dual Enrollment (DE) courses in American Literature and Composition. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, students are not exempt from taking the End of Course (EOC) assessment in American Literature and Composition; therefore, all students enrolled in American Literature and Composition must take the EOC.

**Which EOCs are required regardless of AP/IB/DE course enrollment?** Students enrolled in American Literature and Composition, Algebra I or Coordinate Algebra, and Biology must take the corresponding EOC to satisfy federal accountability requirements.

**Are students taking AP/IB/DE American Literature and Composition and Biology for elective credit required to take the associated EOC?** Students enrolled in AP/IB/DE American Literature and Composition and Biology who have previously earned core credit for the required courses shall not take the EOC a second time for elective credit in the associated AP/IB/DE course.

**Which EOCs can AP/IB/DE students exempt?** Students who pass the AP, IB, or DE courses in U.S. History are exempt from the EOC.

**Can students take the EOC if they are exempt?** No. The intent of the SBOE rule amendment is to reduce high-stakes testing. Students who exempt the EOC by taking and passing a U.S. History course shall not take the EOC.

### **Subject Area Competency**

Students are allowed to take an EOC exam to earn credit for an EOC course in lieu of seat time. Please refer to the details of testing out in RCPS Board policy IHF.

### **State and Local Graduation Requirements**

The state requires 23 units for graduation. Rockdale County Public Schools requires our students to have 24 units. RCPS requires four units of social studies while the state requires three. Our goal is to assure our students have the knowledge/skills necessary to pursue the world of work, higher education, or both.

### **CTAE/Fine Arts/World Language/Latin**

Students may earn industry certification in certain areas under Career/Technical/Agricultural Education (CTAE) by following specific pathways. To be eligible for certification, a student must earn three units in the same pathway. Students planning to attend a University System of Georgia college/university must take a minimum of two years of the same world language or Latin to meet admission requirements. CTAE, Fine Arts, World Language, and Latin are grouped in the same graduation area in State Board Rule. Students planning to complete a CTAE Pathway (recommended for all) and attend college, need to devote two of their four elective credits to foreign language/Latin courses to meet college/university entry requirements.

**RCPS Diploma Options** - Regular High School Diploma, Magnet Diploma, Special Education Diploma.

### **Graduation Specialists**

Graduation specialists provide a comprehensive prevention/intervention process for students at risk of grade retention and/or dropping out of high school. There is a graduation specialist at each traditional high school.

### **Homeless Education Program**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines “homeless children and youth” as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence.” However, because the circumstances of homelessness vary with each situation, determining the extent to which the family or youth fits the definition must occur on a case-by-case basis. The RCPS Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth must gather information from the family or youth and make the determination of eligibility. For more information, please call the Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth at 770-483-4713.

## **HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships**

Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) is a program funded by the Georgia Lottery. The HOPE Scholarship is a merit based scholarship that provides assistance towards the cost of tuition at eligible public and private Georgia postsecondary institutions. A student must graduate from an eligible high school with a minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA (as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission - GSFC) and meet specific rigor course requirements.

The Zell Miller Scholarship is also a merit based scholarship funded from the same source. It provides full tuition at a public postsecondary institution and tuition assistance at an eligible private postsecondary institution. A student must graduate from an eligible high school as valedictorian or salutatorian (meeting the requirements of the HOPE Scholarship) or graduate with a minimum 3.7 Zell Miller GPA (as calculated by GSFC) along with a minimum combined score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of a national administration of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 26 on a single national or state/district administration of the ACT, and meet specific rigor course requirements. For more information visit [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org).

## **Hospital/Homebound**

Hospital/Homebound instruction is a teaching service provided for students who are expected to be absent from school for ten days or longer due to illness. These students must be enrolled in RCPS and will remain enrolled while receiving hospital/homebound instruction. This is not designed to serve students with communicable disease.

## **Infinite Campus Parent Portal**

Infinite Campus provides students and parents/guardians with real-time access to their information as it is entered by teachers, counselors, and staff about grades, attendance, report cards, classes, and enrollment as well as parent contact information. There is a convenient Campus Portal mobile app accessible from any Apple IOS and Android device. Details on setting up an account can be found in the parents section on the district website or at [www.rockdaleschools.org/infinitecampus](http://www.rockdaleschools.org/infinitecampus).

## **Internet Acceptable Use and Safety**

Each employee, parent, and student of Rockdale County Public School's (RCPS) information system is expected to be familiar with and follow the expectations and requirements of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). The purpose of the AUP is to ensure that individuals are aware of their responsibilities regarding the Internet and related technology and equipment. This AUP also helps ensure the safety and privacy of current and former employees and students.

RCPS is committed to complying with applicable information security requirements and relevant information security standards and protocols. These requirements include, but are not limited to the following:

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Users of RCPS's network are required to adhere to state and federal law as well as board policy. Any attempt to break those laws or policies through the use of RCPS networks may result in discipline or litigation against the offender(s) by the proper authority. RCPS will provide any information necessary in order to fully cooperate with the appropriate authorities in the civil and/or criminal process.

### **A. Acceptable Use**

RCPS provides computer, network, e-mail, and Internet access to individuals as part of the learning environment. The use of these resources is a privilege and not a right. While these systems have the power to deliver a vast number of resources to classrooms and enhance education, their effectiveness depends on the responsible and ethical use by every individual. Violation of this administrative rule will result in the loss of this privilege and may result in discipline or litigation in accordance with board policy and state and federal law.

#### **I. Student Acceptable Use**

RCPS strongly believes in the educational value of electronic services and recognizes the potential to support curriculum and student learning by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Access to the Internet allows students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and repositories of information. All Internet access from RCPS shall be through the RCPS network except as may be required by the State Department of Education for specified administrative use.

Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are inappropriate, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use electronic resources for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. The District believes that the benefits to students from electronic services in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But, ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, the District supports and respects each family's right to deny electronic services to their child by simply not signing the Acceptable Use Agreement.

Authorized student use of information resources must be consistent with the educational purposes for which these resources have been provided. The use of RCPS electronic services is to assist students in completing educational activities and should be used in a manner that enhances educational experiences and complies with RCPS policies. All student users must adhere to the provisions of this Acceptable Use Policy as a condition for continued use of the RCPS network. This policy must be

followed anytime there is a connection to the District's wired or wireless network via any electronic device. RCPS reserves the right to monitor any user's online activities. Users should have no expectation of privacy regarding their use of RCPS property, including devices, the network, Internet access, documents, files, chat rooms, learning management system, cloud storage, and e-mail.

### **A. Internet Safety**

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA") [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], RCPS is required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing: (a) access by minors to inappropriate material on the Internet; (b) the safety and security of minors when using cloud storage, e-mail, learning management system, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online; (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and (e) measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them. Furthermore, each campus educates students on cyberbullying, appropriate online behavior, social networking, and other aspects of digital citizenship as required by CIPA.

- RCPS has implemented filtering/blocking software to restrict access to Internet sites containing pornography or other materials harmful to minors under age 18, to the extent practicable, while using its network. However, no software is fail-safe, and there is still risk a user may be exposed to a site or message containing such materials.
- Student's parent/guardian is responsible for monitoring all computer usage that occurs outside the RCPS network.
- Students will not disclose personal information, including name, home address, phone number, photos, and the like on the Internet or through software installed on RCPS electronic devices. Students are advised to never access, keep, or send anything that they would not want the general public to see.
- Students will not meet in person with anyone they have met only online via the Internet.
- The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources.
- Students must abide by all laws, regulations, Student Code of Conduct, Acceptable Use Policy, related security policies. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection may be disabled/minimized for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

### **B. Acceptable Actions**

RCPS students may use the network and electronic services provided by RCPS to pursue educational activities. Students will learn how Internet resources can provide valuable educational information. Students will be expected to follow accepted rules of digital citizenship. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be courteous and respectful. Do not send or display offensive messages or pictures.
- Use appropriate language in any type of communication. No profane, abusive, or impolite language will be used nor should materials be accessed that are not in line with the rules of school behavior.
- Keep personal information such as logins, passwords, addresses, and phone numbers confidential.
- Use electronic services for educational purposes only.
- If you encounter materials that violate the rules of appropriate use, disconnect immediately and notify an adult.

### **C. Unacceptable Actions**

Improper use of electronic services provided by RCPS is prohibited. Students should be prepared to be held accountable for their actions and for the loss of privileges if this Acceptable Use Policy is violated. In addition to the paragraph below labeled "Penalties for Improper Use," the RCPS Student Discipline Code of Conduct addresses the consequences for violations. Actions that constitute unacceptable use include, but are not limited to the following:

- Do not use a device to harm other people or their work.
- Do not damage or deface the device or the network in any way,
- Do not interfere with the operation of the network by installing software, shareware, or freeware, including the alteration of any controls designed to provide Internet safety or alteration of RCPS's default computer settings.
- Do not violate copyright laws or participate in any criminal activities.
- Do not view, send, or display offensive messages, pictures, or other inappropriate content.
- Do not share your password with another person or offer access to any person via your account.
- Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers or those of other students, including completion of profile data.
- Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
- Do not distribute advertisements, solicitations, commercial ventures, or political lobbying.
- Do not trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
- Do not pursue internal or external "hacking," use anonymous e-mail sites or proxies, access illegal file sharing networks, spread viruses, intentionally transmit spam, or attempt to access inappropriate material.
- Do not take digital photos or video without teacher or administrator permission for anything other than academic use.

## **II. Other Terms of Use.**

### **A. Penalties for Improper Use**

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. Misuse, damage, or vandalism of RCPS technology resources may also lead to disciplinary and/or legal action, including suspension, expulsion, or criminal prosecution by governmental authorities.

### **B. Expectation of Privacy**

Individuals should not have an expectation of privacy in the use of RCPS email, systems, or equipment. RCPS may, for a

legitimate reason, perform the following:

- Obtain e-mails sent or received on RCPS email.
- Monitor an individual's use on RCPS systems.
- Confiscate and/or search District-owned software or equipment.

## **Disclaimer**

RCPS makes no guarantee about the quality of services provided and is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or other obligations arising from the use of its network. Any charges accrued to the user of the RCPS network are borne by the user. Statements by the user on the Internet are from the author's individual point of view and do not represent the views of RCPS, its employees, or members of the Board of Education. **Student and Parental/Guardian signatures on the Acceptable Use Agreement on the parent portal represent consent to conform to the Acceptable Use Policy IFBG.**

## **JROTC**

The Leadership Education Program known as JROTC is a consolidated program available to qualified students in all of our high schools. It is designed to help the cadets develop into responsible, productive citizens. The curriculum is designed to enhance and complement the cadet's academic efforts in all classes. The development of character, self-discipline, and academic performance is the primary focus.

## **Locker Inspections**

Each student may be assigned a locker with a built-in lock to store personal items and books. Students should not share their locker combination with others. Lockers are the property of the school and are subject to inspection at any time. Students shall have no reasonable expectation of privacy in lockers. Students are advised to keep money, jewelry, and other valuables on their persons and avoid bringing them to school. Students attending PE class may be provided with a dressing room locker. Students should bring a lock to use during PE class. Schools cannot replace missing/stolen money or valuables.

## **Lost and Found**

Each school has a "lost and found" area for personal items. Due to limited space, found items cannot be kept for a long period of time. Unclaimed items are turned over to charitable organizations in the community.

## **Make-Up Work Following Absences**

When a student is absent from school, the student has the responsibility to initiate all make-up work on the first day he/she returns to school. If a student will miss three or more days, the parent or guardian should contact the school to make arrangements for collecting assignments. Work will not be collected for fewer than three absences. Teachers must be given a full school day to gather assignments. All work should be made up within seven school days. See RCPS Attendance Protocol on the RCPS website [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) under the Parent tab for more information.

## **Make-Up work with more than 10 days of absences**

Students will be allowed to make up work for up to 10 days of excused/pre-arranged absences in each class per semester. Make-up work will not be issued for unexcused absences. If students are absent more than 10 days in a semester, make-up work will not be given unless a parent/guardian-initiated conference is held with the teacher to arrange for make-up work.

## **Media Center Services**

Most books are checked out for a two-week period. ID cards must be presented to check out materials. Late books are fined \$.10 per day and overnight books are fined \$.50 per day. Lost materials are charged by actual replacement cost plus a processing charge. Students' use of the Media Center computers will be in an appropriate setting as directed by staff at all times.

## **Medication, Illness, and Screenings at School**

All medication must be brought to school by a parent/guardian and checked in through the clinic or front office. Medications cannot be administered by school staff if they are not accompanied by a "Request for School Staff to Administer Medication" form (please request this form from the school clinic). All medications, prescription/nonprescription/OTC, must be sent in the original container. Medication will be administered only in accordance with written instructions from the physician/pharmacy. The school is not obligated to provide medication of any kind. Parents/guardians are responsible for unused medication at the end of the school year. If a student becomes ill or is injured while at school, parents will be notified in order to obtain medical care. In case of serious illness or injury, Emergency Medical Services (911) will be called for immediate transport to the nearest hospital. A parent will be asked to pick up their student if they have a temperature of 100° F or more. To return to school, the student must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication. RCPS has a "no-nit" policy for head lice. See regulation JGCD on the district website for details. Elementary schools conduct mass hearing and vision screenings; parent permission is not required for mass school screenings. Permission is required for screening of individual students screened as part of a special education or RTI/Student Support Team (SST) evaluation or due to specific concerns noted by school staff. Screening for scoliosis is conducted annually during middle school years and Georgia mandates screening for a minimum of two grades between the ages of 10 - 15. Upon receipt of a parent/guardian scoliosis screening permission form, students will be screened by trained clinic staff in the fall of the school year. Students will be screened unless Form 4400, signed by the student's physician, is received before the screening.

## **Non-Discrimination Statement and Complaint Procedure**

The Rockdale County Board of Education (“Board”) desires that all students receive the benefit of an adequate education. With this view in mind, the Board prohibits unlawful discrimination against students because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or other protected group status or activity (e.g. opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the statutory complaint process) in its programs and activities or employment in its programs or activities. In keeping with this commitment, the Board will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful treatment of its students. It is the policy of the Board to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. As set forth herein, the Board designates the following employees of Rockdale County Public Schools (“District”) to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination: Student Title IX Coordinator (student inquiries) and Chief of Human Resources (employee inquiries), 960 Pine Street, Conyers, Georgia 30012, 770-483-4713. The Non-Discrimination Policy is set forth in its entirety in Board Policy JAA and GAAA on [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org), or you may ask for a copy at any school office.

## **Open Campus (at EPIC Center)**

Open Campus alternative secondary program (part of the EPIC Center; EPIC stands for “Empowering through Personalized Instruction and Collaboration”) provides a flexible educational opportunity to students who may be unlikely, for a variety of reasons, to reach their full potential in a traditional high school structure. This program is available to qualifying students who are not currently serving long-term suspension or expulsion. Students who are accepted into the program must adhere to strict expectations for attendance and follow all rules as outlined in the Rockdale County Public Schools Student Discipline Code of Conduct. Failure to meet attendance and behavioral expectations may result in withdrawal from the program. The school operates on a mini-semester (minimester) plan. The school year is divided into four nine-week academic terms with students receiving final grades at the end of each nine-week period. A standard RCPS high school curriculum is delivered by a qualified faculty with computer supported instruction. All Open Campus students participate in an intensive advisor/advisee mentor program. Students participating in the graduation ceremony will be included in the procession at their home schools. Open Campus applications are available through school counselors and graduation coaches.

## **Parent Academy**

All parents are invited to attend the Parent Academy events. These are free, district-wide learning opportunities for adults and teens in the community. For dates and times, visit [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).

## **Parent Liaisons**

Parent Liaisons serve as a link between schools and parents. Their responsibilities include conducting workshops, sharing news on district initiatives, and developing strategies for increasing parental involvement. The liaisons work closely with schools to develop community partnerships that enhance the learning environment and ensure federal compliance with each school’s parent involvement policy.

## **Parent’s Right to Know**

In compliance with requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1112, you have the right to request information from the principal about your child’s teachers’ training/credentials. The following may be requested:

- Whether the teacher met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject area in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration; and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

## **Post-Secondary Options**

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Classes**

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are high school courses based upon college level curriculum. They are taught at the high school during the regular school day. A national exam is given at the end of the course and graded by readers employed by the College Board. Many post-secondary institutions either award post-secondary credit for a successfully completed exam or allow a student to exempt certain courses. Some post-secondary institutions do not honor AP credit. The exam is optional, and the student is responsible for fees if the Georgia General Assembly does not continue to fund payment. Individual colleges determine guidelines for the awarding of credit.

### **Articulated Credit**

Articulation is a partnership agreement between Georgia Piedmont Technical College or Gwinnett Technical College and the school system that provides an opportunity for students to earn college credit for courses that they take in high school that are the same as technical college courses. For example, through an articulation agreement, a student enrolled in Introduction to Drafting in high school could earn college credit for Introduction to Drafting at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. To be eligible to receive articulated credit, the course must be considered an articulated course and students must meet all college admission requirements for the college with which the course has been aligned. Students must earn a numeric grade of 85 or above in the articulated high school course, enroll at the technical college within 18 months of high school graduation, and pass the

technical college exemption exam with a score of 70 percent or above.

## **Dual Enrollment**

Dual Enrollment allows qualified high school students to begin working toward a college degree while still pursuing a high school diploma. Students who meet specific criteria may enroll in eligible courses at participating colleges and earn high school Carnegie credit and college credit simultaneously. For more information, please talk with your counselor.

## **Prevention and Intervention Specialists**

All students in Rockdale County Public Schools have access to a Prevention and Intervention Specialist (P&I) as part of our student support programs. A P&I has been trained to help students avoid behaviors that would result in suspension or expulsion and achieve success in school. Each campus has an assigned P&I who can assist students with their behavioral and social/emotional needs through individual and/or group sessions. Keeping students in school with limited interruptions is the Prevention and Intervention Department's top priority.

## **Release of Information**

### **General - Directory Information**

Directory information, student information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) has designated the following information as directory information: 1) Student's name; 2) Student's participation in official school clubs/sports; 3) Weight/height (student athletes only); 4) Awards received during RCPS enrollment; and 5) Photographs, videotape film, or other likeness/image of the student.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. You have the right to refuse to allow all or part of the above to be designated as directory information and to be disclosed to the public upon request. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify your school principal in writing within 15 calendar days from the first day of the school year for students or within 15 calendar days of enrollment, whichever is later. A Release of Directory Information Opt-Out form is available on [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) under the forms link or from your school office.

### **Military Recruitment**

Federal law requires RCPS to provide names, addresses, and phone numbers of students to military recruiters. Parents/guardians may ask in writing to remove all or part of the student information required to be given to military recruiters within 15 calendar days from the first day of the school year for students or within 15 calendar days of enrollment, whichever is later. A Release of Information to Military Recruiters Opt-Out form is available on [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) under the forms link or from your school office.

## **Student Records: Annual Notice About Your Rights Concerning Student Records**

State and federal law gives parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights concerning the student's school records. These rights are listed as follows.

1. You have a right to look at your school records. Provide the principal with a written request listing the records you want to see. The principal must allow you to see the records within 45 days of receiving your request.
2. You have a right to request changes in your school records if you believe the records are inaccurate, misleading, or that they violate your privacy rights. Notify the principal in writing what you want changed and why you think it should be changed. If the principal agrees, your records will be changed. If the principal disagrees, you may request a hearing.
3. You have the right to let other people see your school records; however, the law allows some people to see your records without your consent. For example, a school official or a parent or student serving on an official school committee may see your records if they need information from the records to do their job.
4. The school district has the legal duty without prior consent to send your school records, including disciplinary records, to another school in which you seek to enroll.
5. In accordance with the law, federal/state agencies may require RCPS to release student records without prior consent.
6. Both parents have a right to see the school records of their child unless a court order specifically denies the right to access school records or terminates parental rights.
7. Copies of school records are available for a copying charge of 10 cents per page.
8. You have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if you believe the school has violated any of your rights with respect to school records. If you have a complaint, send it in writing to:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202

## **Student Surveys, Data Collection, and Parental Rights**

Federal law gives parents rights before minor students are required to take part in certain surveys and before the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling. These rights will be stated in policies developed and adopted with the involvement of parents by the Board of Education. Upon adoption, these policies will be posted on the school system's website at [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).

## **Report Cards - Reporting to Parents**

Individual student progress is reported to parents/guardians at the end of each instructional period. Midway through the

instructional period, parents/guardians shall be provided a progress report showing the student's progress in each class. Progress and semester report cards should be accessed on Infinite Campus Parent Portal. For information on accessing the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, visit <https://www.rockdaleschools.org/infinitecampus>.

For dates of Report Cards, Progress Reports, and Deficiency Reports, visit <https://www.rockdaleschools.org/calendars>.

## **Reporting Criminal Conduct**

Any action or failure to act by a student which is a violation of any law or which an administrator or teacher believes may be a violation of a law may be reported to the School Resource Officer.

## **Response to Intervention/Student Support Team**

Each school has a Response to Intervention (RTI)/Student Support Team (SST) process based on the Georgia Department of Education guidelines to address specific academic and behavioral needs of students. Summative and/or formative assessments are used as indicators to determine the need to initiate this process for a student or group of students. It is the process by which instructional programs and teaching interventions can be identified and documented to help students achieve in the regular classroom.

## **Rockdale Career Academy (RCA)**

RCA is a comprehensive career technical high school. Courses are aligned with Georgia's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) which has historically provided the quality education necessary to prepare for careers in the Georgia economy. CTAE offers a challenging curriculum and ensures that students graduate from high school with the academic skills, hands-on experience in real work environments, and intensive career guidance required to succeed in college/employment. Students may specialize in a career pathway during high school and into post-secondary education/training. To obtain pathway completion, students must complete three courses (units) in the SAME pathway. Please discuss CTAE programs with your counselor.

## **Rockdale Virtual Campus (RVC) (at EPIC Center)**

RVC (at the EPIC Center; EPIC stands for "Empowering through Personalized Instruction and Collaboration") offers a variety of courses in an online format. This experience prepares students for the demands of higher education, the workplace, and personal life-long learning. An online class requires students to complete assignments, meet deadlines, practice appropriate online behavior, and effectively collaborate with others in an instructional setting while working independently. Interested students should speak with their counselor. RVC summer session is tuition-based. Each student must provide his/her own device for summer school.

## **Safety and Restraint General Parental Notification**

Physical restraint may be used with a student as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the person or others, as permitted under state board rule 160-5-1.35. If a student is physically restrained, an attempt shall be made to notify the parent on the day of/within twenty-four hours after. Notification shall be made by phone, e-mail or other method which may include, but is not limited to, sending a note home with the child. The parent of such child, regardless of whether he or she received such notification, shall be sent a copy of the incident report no later than two business days after the emergency use of physical restraint.

## **School Closings**

In the event of severe weather or other emergency, schools may be closed or students may be dismissed early. Using the rapid telephone communication system, every family with a current phone number in our student information database will be called. Announcements will be made on the school and district websites and major Atlanta media outlets. If no report is made, school will be in session. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOLS. Phone lines must be open for emergencies.

## **School Counselors**

The mission of the Rockdale County Public Schools Counseling Program is to create a data-driven comprehensive counseling program that promotes the highest level of student achievement. Students will be engaged in their learning and master the knowledge and skills to achieve post-secondary goals. Through collaboration with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community, professional school counselors will empower students to realize their greatest potential and equip them with the necessary skills to be productive members in a global society.

Students are invited to meet with their counselors in a confidential setting regarding all academic and personal concerns. Students may make appointments with counselors during the school day. Appointments may also be held before/after school. School counselors address three main areas: academic achievement, career development, and personal/social development. Counselors may also provide support during times of personal crisis.

## **School Food Services, Meal Prices, and Charge Policies**

RCPS Food and Nutrition program provides students with an opportunity to have low-cost, high-quality, nutritious meals each day. Administrators are committed to providing equipment, space, and staff to ensure quality food preparation, increase student participation, and increase nutritional education resources. Breakfast is offered in all schools. Salads with fresh fruit and vegetables are offered as a lunch option in all schools. RCPS participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and offers free or reduced-price meals to eligible students. Application forms for the program are available on the district website [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) and in each school from the school nutrition manager.

MySchoolBucks.com is a prepayment system that allows you to make online deposits into student meal accounts

Students are allowed to charge meals. Charge procedures are set by each school principal. Students/parents are held accountable for money owed to the cafeteria. If charges accumulate, this privilege may be suspended and alternate meals provided to the student. Other school privileges may be denied until outstanding balances are paid. Meal prices can be found on the RCPS website at [www.rockdaleschools.org/meals](http://www.rockdaleschools.org/meals).

### **School Hours of Operation**

Elementary Schools	7:35 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.	earliest arrival - 7:05 a.m.	latest departure - 2:40 p.m.
Middle Schools	8:45 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.	earliest arrival - 8:15 a.m.	latest departure - 4:25 p.m.
High Schools	8:05 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.	earliest arrival - 7:30 a.m.	latest departure - 3:30 p.m.
Rockdale Career Academy	8:05 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.		

Maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment is a top priority for Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS). It is essential that we ensure our campuses/facilities are adequately supervised during operating hours. We have established guidelines for earliest arrival and latest departure times. Students who are not under the direct supervision of a teacher and/or administrator will not be allowed to stay on campus before early arrival or after late departure times. Parents should be advised that students who remain on campus outside hours of operation will be asked to vacate the premises and an investigation of residency will begin. RCPS will make every effort to provide students/parents with guidance to avoid these safety issues.

### **School Nurses/Clinic Aides**

School Nurses/Clinic Aides administer/document student medication use and assist those who are ill or have medical needs while at school.

### **School Psychologists**

School psychologists provide supportive intervention services to students, parents, and faculty including student evaluations, teacher and parent consultations, the implementation of behavioral strategies, the delivery of crisis intervention and counseling, academic remediation, and community outreach. School psychologists play an integral role in the evaluation of students with disabilities, but also routinely provide support services to all students.

### **School Resource Officers**

The primary goal of the School Resource Unit is to provide a safe learning environment for students and teachers. It is the responsibility of the School Resource Officer (SRO) to uphold the constitution, all applicable laws, and protect the citizens. The presence of the SRO on school campuses and at school-sponsored events helps deter criminal activity. The SRO seeks to establish positive relationships with the school community, and is a valuable resource for students, parents and teachers regarding matters of safety, security, and criminal law. Whenever incidents of crime or threats to safety occur, the SRO can respond within his or her capacity as a law enforcement officer.

### **School Safety Zone**

School safety zones are defined as in, on, or within 1000 feet of any real property leased, owned, or occupied by the Rockdale County Public School District. It is unlawful for any person to carry, possess, or have under his/her control any weapon or explosive compound while within a school safety zone, at a school building or school function, or on school property or a vehicle furnished by the school. Violation of this law is a felony. However, an individual over the age of 21 years old (except students) who are in possession of a weapon and/or has a weapon locked in a compartment of a motor vehicle and has a lawful gun license or permit, may transit through a designated school zone to carry or pick up a student. However, it is unlawful for any person to remain within the school safety zone without a legitimate cause or need. Failure to leave the premises when requested is grounds for a charge of disruption of or interference with the operation of any public school.

### **School Social Workers**

School Social Workers are a critical link between school, family, and community. They work to encourage regular school attendance, connect families with community resources, provide individual and small group counseling, and support parents and teachers. School social workers extend services to students in ways that build individual strengths and empower families to effectively use formal and informative community resources. They assist students with difficulties in the school, home, or community. This may include emotional, health, attendance, behavior, academic failure/underachievement, substance abuse, and/or family issues.

### **Searches, Interrogations, and Surveillance**

School authorities have the right and responsibility to establish and enforce behavior codes to regulate student conduct on campus and at school activities. Likewise, school officials have the authority to conduct reasonable interrogations of students without prior parental approval to properly investigate student misconduct.

It is the desire of the Board of Education to maintain all its facilities in a safe condition and to assure the safety of all persons in its facilities and at all school activities. In an effort to assure such safety, the Board desires that no weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, or contraband be brought onto school property. In keeping with this desire, the Board authorizes school authorities to conduct lawful searches of students and authorizes the use of surveillance cameras.

Student lockers, desks, and automobiles are subject to routine, unannounced examination for items forbidden by school rules or applicable laws, including, but not limited to, drugs, tobacco, alcohol or weapons. Such searches may be conducted by school officials or by use of trained canines provided by law enforcement agencies and under direction of a trained canine



handler. Such searches and surveillance may also include all areas of the school buildings or properties accessible by students to include such areas as hallways, commons areas, locker rooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums, stadium areas, classrooms, parking lots, and other similar areas of school facilities, and school buses.

## **Section 504 - Students with Disabilities**

Under Section 504, an eligible student is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Rockdale County Public Schools must provide such accommodations necessary to ensure that an eligible student has equal access to school services, programs, and activities. Decisions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of students with disabilities are subject to procedural safeguards for parents/guardians including timely notice of the action, the right to examine relevant records, and to request an impartial hearing to challenge the district's decision prior to implementation. For more information or questions, contact the Section 504 Coordinator at 770-483-4713.

## **Special Education**

Special education services are provided for students with disabilities who require a specially designed instructional program based on eligibility. Services are available for ages 3-22. Special education services/supports are determined based on individual student needs. Information on the eligibility process can be found on the district website [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) under Learning Support.

### **Entrance/Exit Procedures for Special Education**

#### **Entrance:**

1. A student who is three years old may be enrolled in the Pre-School Program (READY) after meeting eligibility.
2. A student may receive services until they have either:
  - Graduated with a High School Diploma.
  - Reached the end of the semester in which they turn 22 years old. Although services will continue, an adult student who remains after their 22nd birthday will have no individual entitlement to services or other rights under IDEA afforded to them.

**Exit:** Students may exit from special education if they do not meet eligibility or have reached the maximum age.

## **Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (SB-10)**

As the parent of a student who receives special education in Rockdale County Public Schools, you have the option to exercise public and private school choice. Under the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship, such parents may choose to transfer their child to another public or private school in Georgia. Transfer acceptance to other public schools within RCPS is based on service needs and capacity. To qualify for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship award with a Section 504 Plan, the student must meet three requirements outlined on the following Georgia Department of Education website: <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program-%20INFO%20504.aspx>. Additional information about the Special Needs Scholarship can be accessed on the district website [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) under Learning Support or Community and Student Support - Section 504.

## **Specialty and Choice Programs**

RCPS has expanded personalized learning through multiple Specialty and Choice Programs throughout the district. These are designed to give students the opportunity to attend an academic program based on interest or talent, and are not restricted by attendance zones for middle and high schools. There may be limited space available. Specialty and Choice Programs have an application process with an audition requirement for performing and visual arts. A lottery may be held for non-audition programs if there are more qualified applicants than available space. The application window is typically during first semester for selection for the following school year. Please check the district website [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) for exact dates and times.

Note: Rockdale Virtual Campus, Rockdale Career Academy, Rockdale Open Campus, and Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology are also academic options available to all students; however, they do not follow the same application/selection process as Specialty and Choice Programs. Please see your school counselor for more information about all of the available options for students. RCPS currently has the following Specialty and Choice Programs:

- The Center for Technology at Conyers Middle School
- The Academy for Pre-Medical Sciences at Edwards Middle School
- STEM Academy for Environmental Studies at Memorial Middle School
- Performing and Visual Arts Academy at Davis Middle School
- Performing and Visual Arts Academy at Heritage High School
- The Institute of Advanced Technology at Rockdale County High School
- International Entertainment and Business Leadership Academy at Salem High School

## **Elementary Specialty Programs**

- AVID Elementary (a college prep program) at Sims Elementary
- Dual Language Immersion Program at C. J. Hicks Elementary
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) focus at Honey Creek Elementary
- S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) at Shoal Creek Elementary

## **Student Work**

Any and all student work created for classwork, contests, clubs, or other purposes related to school may be used by the

school and/or the district without permission or compensation for such use.

## **Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct**

Any student or parent or friend of a student who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

As authorized by Georgia law, if it is determined that a student deliberately falsified or misrepresented information alleging employee misconduct, the student will be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion.

## **Summer School, Intersession, Credit Recovery**

High school students who do not successfully complete coursework needed to move on to the next grade or fulfill graduation requirements will be given opportunities through summer school, intersession, or credit recovery to remediate this coursework for the needed credit. Students are encouraged to talk to their counselor about these opportunities and to discuss their eligibility to participate.

The NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse will not accept RCPS credit recovery courses for eligibility. NCAA guidelines only apply to student athletes who may choose to become Division I or II college athletes. For detailed information, please see your counselor or school principal.

Dual Enrollment is now available in summer session. Please see your counselor and college Dual Enrollment supervisor.

## **Substance Abuse Prevention and Education**

Where drugs are concerned, prevention is more effective than remediation. The school system considers "use" and "abuse" to be synonymous when young people are the focus. The Director of School Safety coordinates a variety of drug/alcohol programs for our schools. Resources and school-based intervention programs are available for students who have drug- or alcohol-related offenses. School counselors may be contacted to obtain community resources. RCPS provides a continuum of ATOD instruction in grades 5 - 9; CHAMPS (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) in 5th grade; GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) in 6th grade; TGFD (Too Good for Drugs) in 7th and 8th grades; and ADAP (Alcohol Drug Awareness Program) in 9th grade.

CHAMPS and GREAT are sponsored by the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office and address issues including decision-making, life skills and gang-resistance education. TGFD is an evidence-based curriculum that helps students develop skills to address peer pressure, stress, and temptation. ADAP is a 4-hour course that most teens complete during their freshmen year of high school as part of their health/physical education classes. In Georgia, teens under age 18 are required by law to show proof that they have completed ADAP in order to obtain their Class D driver's license.

## **Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA)**

This law significantly changes the way young motorists earn and maintain the privilege of driving by providing a controlled means for new drivers to gain experience and by reducing high-risk driving situations. Students are encouraged to become familiar with this law. Information may be found at [www.gahighwaysafety.org](http://www.gahighwaysafety.org).

The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act applies to all minors who are at least age 15 and under age 18. When such a minor submits an application for a Georgia driver's license or instruction permit, the applicant must present proof that he/she satisfies one of the following conditions as specified in O.C.G.A. 40-5-22 (a.1):

1. Is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school;
2. Is enrolled in a home education program that satisfies the reporting requirements of state laws governing such program;
3. Has received a high school diploma, general educational development (GED) diploma, special diploma, or certificate of high school completion;
4. Has terminated his/her secondary education and is enrolled in a postsecondary school or pursuing a general educational development (GED) diploma.

Local school districts are responsible for certifying that students enrolled in public schools within district satisfy requirements in (1) above by using the Certificate of School Enrollment form which replaces the Certificate of Attendance.

## **Telephones/Cell Phones**

Parents are asked not to call students during school hours unless an emergency exists. Students will not be called from class except in extreme emergency. Non-emergency messages will be held until the end of the day and students will be called to the office to pick up messages. It is the responsibility of the student to listen to afternoon announcements and pick up messages in the office. Students may NOT use the phone during class time or between classes due to time constraints. Rules for cell phones are covered in the Student Discipline Code of Conduct (Rule 1.6) in this Handbook.

## **Cell Phones During State Mandated Testing**

Students are not permitted to use, or bring into the testing environment, any electronic device that could allow them to access, retain, or transmit information (For example, but not limited to: cell phone, smart phone/watch, PDA, electronic recording, camera, or playback device). Announcements will be made prior to testing that such devices are not allowed in the testing environment and that possession or improper use of such devices during testing may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the RCPS Code of Conduct and /or test invalidation.

## **Technology Fee**

Each student will be assessed a \$10 Technology Fee to be used to enhance instructional technology resources. All electronic devices issued to students by Rockdale County Public Schools are covered by the district in the event of accidental damage on or off campus. All devices are also covered by theft insurance. This protects devices only in the event of theft – not if they are lost.

## **Test Preparation Information**

Ample preparation information for college admission tests is available online and in each high school counseling office at no charge. The best way to prepare for any college admission test is to participate in rigorous coursework, take the PSAT 8/9 test in 9th grade and the PSAT in 10th and 11th grades. Using these tests as guides, students learn what to expect and how to prepare. Also, visit these websites: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT), [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org).

## **Textbooks and Media Center Materials**

Textbooks and library books are furnished without cost for student use, but remain the property of Rockdale County Public Schools. Students and their parents are held accountable for textbooks and library books that are lost or damaged, and the school must be reimbursed. The continued use of textbooks and/or media center materials may be suspended until payment has been made.

## **Title IX**

Title IX states that: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

## **Students**

The Rockdale County Board of Education (“Board”) prohibits unlawful discrimination against students because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or other protected group status or activity (e.g. opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the statutory complaint process) in its programs and activities or employment in its programs or activities. In keeping with this commitment, the Board will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful treatment of its students. It is the policy of the Board to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations.

Please see Rockdale County Public Schools “Student Non-Discrimination Policy and Complaint Procedure” (JAA) section, or see Board policy at [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).

For any questions regarding Title IX, or to submit a formal complaint, please contact the RCPS Title IX Coordinator for students in person, or by mail, email, or phone: Title IX Coordinator, Rockdale County Public Schools, 960 Pine Street, Conyers, Georgia 30012, Phone: (770) 483-4713, Email: [studenttitleixcoordinator@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:studenttitleixcoordinator@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

## **Visitors**

A close relationship between home and school is an important part of each student’s education. We invite parents to serve as volunteers, guest speakers, assistants for special projects, and chaperones for school events, visit classes or have lunch with us. For security reasons, parents and other visitors to our schools should make an appointment ahead of time with teachers/ staff and must check in at the office and receive a visitor’s pass. We do not allow students to bring visitors from other schools without special permission from the principal.

## **Volunteers**

Georgia law includes volunteers in the list of mandated reporters. O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 is designed for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. Rockdale County Public Schools protocol mandates school staff and volunteers to receive information about child abuse and contact the principal or designee immediately to report suspected child abuse.

## **Water Safety**

According to the American Red Cross, it only takes a moment. A child or weak swimmer can drown in the time it takes to reply to a text, check a fishing line or apply sunscreen. Death and injury from drownings happen every day in pools, hot tubs, at the beach or in oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams, bathtubs, and even buckets. Rockdale County Public Schools encourages all

families to learn water safety. There are many online resources and swimming lessons for all ages are available locally through the Rockdale County Parks and Recreation Department and Johnson Park Pool. Please take advantage of these resources and learn to stay safe around water.

- Rockdale County Parks and Recreation Department – Johnson Park: 770-278-7529, <https://www.rockdalecountyga.gov/parks-and-recreation>
- American Red Cross Water Safety: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety.html>
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Water Safety: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/safety/water-safety.htm>

# **Student Discipline Code of Conduct JCDA-R Part I**

(Full, most up-to-date Discipline Code of Conduct can be found in Board Policy at [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org))

## **Discipline Code of Conduct**

The Rockdale County Board of Education (“Board”) has the authority and reserves the right to develop and implement a Discipline Code of Conduct (“Code”) for all students. The Code focuses on creating a safe, supportive, and secure learning environment that promotes academic, social, and emotional development for all students. Administrators in Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) may develop and create additional rules and regulations as are necessary to manage their schools. The Code shall apply to students from their arrival on school property until their departure from school property. The term “school property” means all property owned, rented, or used by the Board, including, but not limited to, school buses and other modes of transportation.

The Code may also apply to students who are not on school property if the student engages in misconduct that could or does create a direct or potential danger or disruption to the general welfare and discipline of the school or other students. Additionally, the Code shall apply to students when they are at school functions, activities, events, virtual classes/forums, or under the supervision of the school.

Reasonable efforts will be made to use a behavior support process to avoid student disciplinary problems. These efforts may include but are not limited to school-based counseling, Response to Intervention (“RTI”), social and emotional behavior programs, referral to community agencies, prevention and intervention services, mentoring, alternative counseling education and nurturing programs. A failure to use a behavior support process will not necessarily preclude a school from disciplining a student.

Parents/Guardians and students are advised that school administrators, teachers and coaches will take a student's disciplinary history into account when disciplinary action is required.

Within each school, assistant principals, classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, media specialists, or any other adult in a supervisory role over students have the responsibility to maintain order and enforce this Code. The principal of the school has the ultimate responsibility and authority to oversee the application, interpretation, and enforcement of the Code according to policies and regulations.

Rockdale County Public Schools will strive to:

1. Provide a quality public education to all students.
2. Provide a safe learning environment where students and parents/guardians are treated courteously, fairly, and respectfully.
3. Provide students and parents/guardians with an opportunity to express their opinions, concerns, and complaints in a respectful manner.
4. Address known concerns of students and parents/guardians in a timely and professional manner.
5. Notify students and parents/guardians about policies and procedures of Rockdale County Public Schools.

Rockdale County Public Schools expects each student to:

1. Read and become familiar with the Code of Conduct.
2. Behave in a responsible manner and follow the Code while at school, on school buses, at school bus stops, and at all school related functions that occur on and off campus.
3. Take ownership of your school community and work to improve your school community by cooperating with other students, staff, and volunteers.
4. Be courteous and respectful to others, even if the student disagrees with them.
5. Attend all scheduled classes, regularly and on time.
6. Prepare for each class by completing assignments and having required materials.
7. Communicate with their parents/guardians about their academic progress and ask for help if needed.

## **Student Discipline Placement Protocol**

Students who have been out of school due to incarceration or detention often need a period of transition before returning to their home school. A protocol has been established for determining whether a student returning from a period of incarceration or detention due to alleged or adjudicated criminal or delinquent conduct should be placed in an alternative school program or returned to the student's home school. RCPS offers an alternative school program that affords these students an opportunity to rebuild their academic and social skills so that the transition to their home school will go smoothly. The primary considerations in making this determination are the educational needs of the returning student and the safety of other students and staff.

In many cases, the conduct at issue is very serious, ranging from property offenses to serious sexual violations or other violent acts. Students adjudicated for these offenses may be placed on a safety plan by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or the Juvenile Court. These plans may impose certain restrictions on the returning student; for example, the student may not be allowed to be around children of a certain age or may have to be always supervised by an adult.

In some cases, these students have been expelled or suspended from RCPS or another school system or private school and the term of suspension or expulsion has not yet been completed. This brings other questions into play, such as whether the student should be excluded altogether for the remainder of the expulsion or suspension or offered an alternative placement (O.C.G.A 20-2-751.2).

Before these students return to school, they will be referred to a case management meeting. In this meeting the Case Management Committee will gather and review all appropriate information, including any information that the student's parents may wish to provide, and make a placement determination. Parents may be present for this review and may provide input. Attorneys will not be allowed to attend.

The protocol described above may be used in other types of student placement situations as deemed appropriate by the

Superintendent or his designee. All placement determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Various factors including, but not limited to, age, length of incarceration, nature of charges, existing discipline order, potential safety concerns, disruption of education process, and present/prior discipline history may be used in making placement determination at all levels.

RCPS is authorized to refuse to readmit or enroll any student who has been suspended or expelled for being convicted of, being adjudicated to have committed, being indicted for, or having information on file for the commission of any felony or any delinquent act under O.C.G.A. § 15-11-28 which would be a felony if committed by an adult. If refused readmission or enrollment, the student or the student's parent or legal guardian has the right to request a hearing pursuant to the procedures provided for in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-754.

If a student receives services under IDEA or Section 504, the school assignment decision will be subject to a final review and approval by the student's individualized education program team or Section 504 team to ensure that the assigned school is able to implement the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

Any discipline infractions committed after the last day of school/during the summer may be enforced during the first semester of the upcoming school year.

## **Parent/Guardian Responsibility**

Rockdale County Public Schools expects each parent/guardian to:

1. Read and become familiar with the Code of Conduct and discuss the Code with their student. Parents should contact school administrators if they have questions about the Code.
2. Make sure their student attends school regularly, on time, and notifies the school before the start of the school day if their student is going to be absent.
3. Give the school accurate and current contact information and update their contact information, as necessary.
4. Inform school administrators and teachers about any concerns in a respectful and timely manner.
5. Work with their student's school-based team to help their student find academic and behavioral success.
6. Support their student's learning and school activities.
7. Work to improve the school community by being respectful and courteous to school personnel, other parents/guardians, and students.
8. Respect other students' privacy rights.

## **Parent/Guardian Responsibility – School-Sponsored Clubs and Organizations**

In accordance with O.C.G.A § 20-2-705, parents/guardians may decline permission for his or her student to participate in a club or organization. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their respective schools to review the complete list of clubs/organizations offered at the school site. Additional information relative to costs associated with individual clubs as well as club sponsorship is available at school sites. Parents/legal guardians may withhold permission for students to join or participate in a club or organization. If you do not want your child to participate in any clubs or organizations, please complete the opt-out form, "Withhold Permission to Participate in Clubs and Organizations" and return it to your school within the first 15 official days of the school year or within 15 days of being provided access to the Student Discipline Code of Conduct. This form is available on the school system's website ([www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org)) under the forms link or from your school's office.

## **Parent/Guardian Responsibility – Informing Children of Criminal Penalty**

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735, parents/guardians are encouraged to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

In accordance with O.C.G.A § 20-2-751.2, a local board of education which has a student who attempts to enroll or who is enrolled in any school in its school system during the time in which that student is subject to a disciplinary order is authorized to refuse to enroll or subject that student to short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion for any time remaining in that other school system's or school's disciplinary order upon receiving a certified copy of such order if the offense which led to such suspension or expulsion in the other school system or school was an offense for which suspension or expulsion could be imposed in the enrolling school.

## **Teacher Authority/Responsibility**

A teacher has the authority to remove from his or her class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. School administrators shall establish at each school a Placement Review Committee who will have the authority to do the following:

1. Return the student to the teacher's class upon determining that such placement is the best alternate or the only available alternative; or
2. Refer the student to the principal (or designee) for appropriate action.

For each committee established, the faculty shall choose two teachers to serve as members and one teacher to serve as an alternate member and the principal shall choose one member of the professional staff of the school to serve as a member. The teacher withholding consent to readmit the student may not serve on the committee. Teachers who have knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is a violation of the student code of

conduct, are required to file a report with the principal. Such report shall not exceed one page in length and shall include a description of the behavior.

## **Behavior Code**

The philosophy of Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) is that all students have the right to learn. RCPS supports this goal by giving each student access to a safe and secure learning environment. The Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students establishes guidelines that help create an atmosphere where students can maximize their learning opportunities.

RCPS developed the Code of Conduct to help school administrators create a safe learning environment where students receive fair and consistent discipline if they violate the Code. The Code of Conduct allows for flexible application between the elementary, middle, and high school levels. This Code applies to students in virtual and in-person educational settings, which includes virtual and in-person school sponsored events and activities. The purpose of the Code is to help students learn how to take ownership of their learning environment, to help students prevent problems from reoccurring, and to keep parents informed of misbehavior. The administration of discipline should be fair and consistent and school administrators should issue discipline in a progressive manner, when appropriate. A school's failure to use progressive discipline shall not prohibit a school from recommending a serve punishment for the student. Discipline will draw on the professional judgment of educators and administrators. The level of discipline imposed should be based on the severity of the misbehavior, include a consideration of the student's behavior history and the age of the student. Parents/Guardians and students are advised that a student's behavior history will be considered when behavior action is required. The welfare of and respect for the individual student, as well as that of other students in the school, are of utmost importance in deciding proper courses of action.

The following discipline procedures are outlined to ensure that all students are aware of the actions that violate school rules and the consequences of such actions. This list is not all-inclusive and Rockdale County Public Schools reserves the right to modify the Code in its sole discretion and as required by law. Please visit [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) for the most up-to-date copy of the Code. You may also obtain a copy of the Code of Conduct by visiting the front office of your child's school. A student committing an act of misconduct not listed will be subject to the discretionary authority of the administrator. Any violations warranting in-school suspension (ISS) or out-of-school suspension (OSS) shall result in a loss of privileges consistent with the duration of the suspension. Loss of privileges includes but is not limited to participation in athletic events (games/practices), afterschool activities, field trips, or any other school-related functions not related to classroom instruction.

When a Code of Conduct violation is reported or suspected, the principal (or designee) will determine the best way to investigate the allegation. If the principal (or designee) deems appropriate, the investigation may include interviewing employees and students for relevant information. The principal (or designee) has the responsibility and authority to question students about alleged violations of the Code of Conduct to maintain the safety and order of the school environment. An administrator does not need prior parent/guardian permission or notice to interview or collect witness statements from students. If appropriate, an administrator will try to notify parents/guardians about the interviews and/or the collection of witness statements. An administrator's failure to inform a parent/guardian will not be a defense to the admissibility of the interview and/or witness statement. If the principal (or designee) deems appropriate, the investigation may include reviewing and securing a copy of school video surveillance or student-created videos, images, texts, or other media that captures the alleged violation.

The principal (or designee) will contact the parents/guardians at an appropriate time during or after the investigation. Administrators reserve the right to contact emergency medical services if a student is injured during or after an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct. Georgia law may require administrators to contact law enforcement if alleged misconduct violates criminal law. In either instance, administrators will strive to contact parents/guardians as soon as practical.

Parent involvement is necessary for correcting behavioral problems. Disciplinary actions may include any or all the consequences addressed in this Code of Conduct. Any student who receives 15 or more cumulative days of suspension for disciplinary reasons or who is guilty of violating of Rule 27 of this Discipline Code of Conduct may be recommended to the Student disciplinary hearing Committee for possible long-term suspension or expulsion. Once a student has appeared before a Student disciplinary hearing Committee, the principal is authorized to request another hearing at any future time during the student's educational career in the school system.

A student who is suspended/expelled from school may not be on any property owned, leased, or used by Rockdale County Public Schools, including school buses and bus stops, during the term of his/her suspension/expulsion without the prior written permission of school authorities. A violation of this directive could result in a charge of trespass and additional disciplinary action.

This Discipline Code of Conduct applies to all students, K-12, enrolled in the Rockdale County Public Schools. The Discipline Code of Conduct shall not infringe on any right provided to students with Individualized Education Programs pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), or any other applicable federal and state policies, procedures, and regulations, including those established by Title IX of the Civil Rights Act. Copies of the Discipline Code of Conduct will be available in each school and in each classroom will have access to the Code of Conduct. The most up-to-date version of the Code of Conduct shall be on the district/school website ([www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org)). The content of the Discipline Code of Conduct shall be explained to all students at the time of their enrollment in a manner deemed appropriate by the school administrator. Any discipline infractions committed during summer school or school-sponsored summer activities may be enforced during the first semester of the upcoming school year. Parents/Guardians and students must sign acknowledging receipt and review of the Discipline Code of Conduct. A parent/guardian or student's failure to return an acknowledgment of receipt shall not prevent RCPS from disciplining a student.



As a school leader and a role model for other students, each student shall pledge the following:

- I shall conduct myself with propriety, dignity, morality, integrity, honesty, and consistency with the student code of conduct and all policies of the Rockdale County Board of Education;
- I shall not engage in any activity likely to bring reproach, disgrace, infamy, or public ridicule to myself, my school, or the school system; and,
- I shall always adhere to this pledge at all times including when on campus, at school-related events, and off campus.

### Part I ~ Substantive Rules

Rule 1	Disruption and Interference with School	Rule 15	Gambling on School Property or at a School Function
Rule 2	Damage, Destruction, or Theft of School Property	Rule 16	Misbehavior on Bus
Rule 3	Damage, Destruction, or Theft of Private Property	Rule 17	Criminal Law Violations
Rule 4	Assault and/or Battery on a School Employee	Rule 18	Sexual Misconduct or Inappropriate Display of Affection
Rule 5	Fighting and/or Battery to a Person Not Employed by the School	Rule 19	Rude and Disrespectful Behavior
Rule 6	Bullying/Teasing	Rule 20	Tobacco/Smoking-Related Offenses
Rule 7	Weapons and Dangerous Instruments	Rule 21	Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty
Rule 8	Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Stimulant Drugs, Controlled Substances or Medications	Rule 22	Altering Records, Misrepresenting Information, Forgery
Rule 9	Disregard of Directions or Commands	Rule 23	Misuse of Computer, Network, Internet, or Intranet
Rule 10	Unexcused Absences and Tardiness	Rule 24	Loitering, Trespassing, or Breaking and Entering
Rule 11	Dress and Grooming	Rule 25	Other Misbehavior
Rule 12	Parking and Traffic-Related Violations on Campus	Rule 26	Misbehavior While Off School Property
Rule 13	Refusal to Accept Disciplinary Action	Rule 27	Cumulative Offenses
Rule 14	Use of Profane, Vulgar, or Obscene Words, Gestures, Pornographic/Vulgar Materials or Other Actions Which Disrupt School System Operations		

### Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary actions that may be used for student violations of the Code of Conduct include but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written warning
- Removal from classroom
- Removal from bus
- Referral to principal's office
- Parent Conference
- Loss of Privileges
- Student Behavior Contract
- Detention before or after school hours
- Reassigned to another class
- Transfer to alternative placement
- Suspension or removal from extracurricular activity
- In-School Suspension
- Short-Term Suspension
- Long-Term Suspension
- Expulsion
- Permanent Expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement
- Referral to CHOICES (It must be a CHOICES offense. CHOICES is designed for students grades 4-12)
- Combination of any of the above

A student in Pre-K through third grade cannot be assigned to out-of-school suspension for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving support through a multi-tiered system such as response to intervention, unless the student possesses a weapon or other dangerous instrument, illegal drugs, or the behavior endangers the physical health of other students or employees.

### Range of Recommended Disposition

The decision to charge a student for violation of this Student Code of Conduct shall be made by the administration of the local school. The range of consequences for misconduct that may be assigned by a local school administrator may be any of the above disciplinary actions and shall be reported as:

**Level I Discipline:** any combination of in-school (ISS) or out-of-school (OSS) suspensions ranging from one (1) to five (5) days

**Level II Discipline:** any combination of in-school (ISS) or out-of-school (OSS) suspensions ranging from one (1) to ten (10) days or on a case-by-case recommendation for long-term suspensions and expulsions

**Level III Discipline:** up to a 10-day out-of-school suspension pending a disciplinary hearing for long-term suspension, placement in an alternative program, or permanent expulsion.

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

**DISCIPLINE RULE****MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION****Rule 1: Disruption and Interference With School**

1.1	A student shall not block any entrance, occupy any school building, prevent any class or function from taking place, prevent any student, guest, or employee from using any facilities, or block any normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or otherwise deprive others of free access to, or use of, any facility, program, or activity associated with Rockdale County Public Schools. Georgia law prohibits the upbraiding, insulting, or abusing of any teacher, administrator, or bus driver upon the premise of any school in the presence and hearing of a student.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.2	A student shall not cause false fire alarm or discharge a fire extinguisher in the absence of fires.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.3	A student shall not intentionally make noise, engage in horseplay, or act in any other manner so as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct his/her class.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.4	A student shall not bring toys, games, radios, laser pointers, or other electronic devices to school. Electronic devices will be confiscated and may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.5	A student shall not act in any manner that disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others. (Includes disruptive behaviors on school buses).	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
1.6	A student shall not use or otherwise operate a cell phone, tablet, or similar electronic communication device during the school day without the approval of the building administration and/or classroom teacher. Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in confiscation and electronic devices may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privilege of possession of device on school property and confiscation of device; loss of privileges.
1.8	A student shall not urge, encourage, or counsel other students to violate any portion of this Student Discipline Code of Conduct.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days. May refer to discipline hearing on a case by case basis; loss of privileges.
1.9	A student shall not cause or participate in a disruption in the school cafeteria (such as throwing food, leaving trays on the table, causing spills of foods, or similar behavior).	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.10	A student shall not inappropriately use an electronic device for purposes such as hacking school networks, modifying school records, cheating, harassing, bullying (aka cyberbullying during the school day and/or that which causes a disruption with school), or photographing/video recording others or test material.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 1.11 The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) is strictly prohibited and it may constitute a CRIME under state and federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries.
- 1.12 The receipt or possession of obscene, pornographic, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, are strictly prohibited and may constitute a CRIME under state and federal law. Any person receiving or possessing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries. This rule will not be enforced if the possessing or receiving student self reports the receipt or possession to a school official.
- 1.13 School officials have the authority to search confiscated electronic devices if there is reasonable suspicion that electronic devices were used to violate school policies or laws.
- 1.14 A student shall not plan, encourage others, or participate in a physical altercation that causes or contributes to the disruption or interference of the school environment or operations. Examples of prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to planning or encouraging other students to participate in a group fight or disturbance (three or more individuals), participating in a group fight or disturbance, or engaging in conduct that disrupts the school environment or operations.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Refer to law enforcement. May refer to student discipline hearing on a case by case basis; loss of privileges.

Same disposition as 1.11.

Same disposition as 1.10.

Level III - Automatic OSS 10 days; mandatory referral for disciplinary hearing with recommendations for long-term suspension or expulsion with option to attend Alpha. May refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.

### Rule 2: Damage, Destruction, or Theft of School Property

- 2.1 A student shall not cause damage to or destroy school property, or attempt to cause damage to or destroy school property, which includes library books, textbooks, reference materials, computer hardware or software, school buildings or facilities including furnishings and contents, school buses or other vehicles operated, leased, or owned by the school system, or any other materials or equipment owned by the school or school system.
- 2.2 A student shall not steal school property or attempt to steal school property which includes library books, textbooks, reference materials, computer hardware or software, school buildings or facilities including furnishings and contents, school buses or other vehicles operated, leased, or owned by the school system, or any other materials or equipment owned by the school or school system.
- 2.3 A student shall not possess, use, sell or attempt to sell, or transmit stolen school property.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days. Substantial damage to property will result in a mandatory recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; restitution for damages; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

Same disposition as 2.1.\* Loss of privileges.

Same disposition as 2.1.

### Rule 3: Damage, Destruction, or Theft of Private Property

- 3.1 A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 3.2 A student shall not steal or attempt to steal private property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 3.3 A student shall not possess, use, or transmit stolen private property.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days. Substantial damage to property will result in a mandatory recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; restitution for damages; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

Same disposition as 3.1.

Same disposition as 3.1.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

### Rule 4: Assault and/or Battery on a School Employee

- 4.1 A student shall not threaten to cause physical injury or mental anguish to a school employee or school resource officer on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 4.2 A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or mental anguish to a school employee or school resource officer on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 4.3 **Aggravated Battery:** (State Code) A student shall not maliciously cause or intend to cause bodily harm to school personnel by depriving him/her of a member of his/her body, by rendering a member of his/her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his/her body or a member thereof.  
Note: For purposes of aggravated battery, serious injuries and documented medical damage to internal organs can be sufficient to show serious disfigurement. Aggravated battery, "serious disfigurement", may be proven when serious damage or injury occurred to a person's body or a part of a person's body, which affected the appearance of the body of body part.

### Rule 5: Assault and/or Battery to a Person Not Employed by the School

- 5.1 **Fighting:** A student shall not fight or cause a fight on school grounds or during a school function.  
  
Note: School administrators (and disciplinary tribunals if applicable) will investigate all incidents of physical aggression, including but not limited to affray, assault, battery, and fighting. School administrators may consider a self-defense argument, but when a student raises an affirmative defense of self-defense in a school disciplinary proceeding, the student bears the burden of proving that defense.
- 5.2 A student shall not threaten to cause physical injury or mental anguish to any student or guest or any individual not employed by the school but approved to be on the school grounds or during a school function.
- 5.3 **Battery:** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or mental anguish to any student or guest or any individual not employed by the school but approved to be on the school grounds or during a school function.
- 5.4 **Aggravated Battery:** (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-24) A student shall not maliciously cause or intend to cause bodily harm to another person by depriving him/her of a member of his/her body, by rendering a member of his/her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his/her body or a member thereof.  
Note: For purposes of aggravated battery, serious injuries and documented medical damage to internal organs can be sufficient to show serious disfigurement. Aggravated battery, "serious disfigurement", may be proven when serious damage or injury occurred to a person's body or a part of a person's body, which affected the appearance of the body of body part.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

- Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may recommend long-term suspension or expulsion on a case by case basis; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
- Same disposition as 4.1.  
Note: A student who intentionally commits any act of physical violence resulting in physical injury to a school employee shall be permanently expelled from all public school programs. The student may be allowed by the tribunal to attend alternative education programs. Students in grades K-5 may be allowed by the tribunal to re-enroll in the regular public school programs.
- Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension.  
Mandatory referral to Student disciplinary hearing; mandatory permanent expulsion; mandatory referral to law enforcement; loss of privileges.
- 1st Offense:** Suspension permissible 1-5 days; mandatory parent conference prior to student's return from suspension to develop disciplinary contract; loss of privileges.
- 2nd Offense:** Suspension permissible 1-10 days; mandatory referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension; referral to law enforcement; ; loss of privileges.  
Note: (Maintain documentation of parent conference, disciplinary contract and chronic disruptor notification, and Prevention and Intervention services.) Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; refer to law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. School official will develop behavior contract at mandatory parent conference.
- Same disposition as 5.1.
- Same disposition as 5.1.
- Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension.  
Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing with a recommendation for expulsion or permanent expulsion; mandatory referral to law enforcement; loss of privileges.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

**The Rockdale County Board of Education (“Board”) believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying of a student by another student is strictly prohibited.**

### **Rule 6: Bullying**

A student shall not bully or attempt to bully another student. This applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school-related functions, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a school system.

Any teacher or other school employee who has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal or his/her designee. Any teacher or other school employee who sees a bullying incident is expected to immediately intervene or seek assistance.

Upon notification, the principal or his/her designee shall promptly investigate the matter as outlined in the regulation as established by the Superintendent to determine whether bullying has occurred. Students, parents, guardians, and other stakeholders may report incidents of bullying verbally or in writing to an administrator, teacher, counselor, or other staff member or by calling the Georgia Department of Education’s hotline 1-877-SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867) COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL, AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.

Acts of bullying shall be addressed by a range of age-appropriate interventions, counseling, or disciplinary actions as stated in the RCPS Student Behavior Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student. Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the RCPS Parent Handbook. The policy and the RCPS Student Code of Conduct shall be on the district website.

Retaliation towards participants of a bullying investigation shall be strictly forbidden. Reports of retaliation will be investigated and addressed by the school administration.

**6.1 Bullying:** Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by apparent present ability to do so; any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate attention, that:

1. Causes another person substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm. "Visible bodily harm" means bodily harm capable of being perceived by a person other than the victim and may include, but is not limited to, substantially blackened eyes, substantially swollen lips or other facial or body parts, or substantial bruises to body parts;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education;
3. Is severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
4. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Retaliation towards participants in an investigation related to reporting bullying is strictly prohibited.

Note: Bullying may be physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual in nature and may overlap with prohibited harassment under Rule 18.5.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days.

Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. School official will develop behavior contract at the mandatory parent conference; loss of privileges. Threat assessment.

For third instance of bullying involving students in grades 6-12, assignment to Alpha Academy as a minimum, but more severe punishment, or long-term suspension, or expulsion may be applied.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

**DISCIPLINE RULE****MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION**

6.2	<b>Teasing:</b> No student shall intentionally tease or aggravate another person either verbally or physically so that the person is distracted from learning.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days. Parent conference; loss of privileges.
6.3	A student shall not place a person in reasonable fear of substantial harm to his or her emotional or physical well-being or substantial damage to his or her property.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.4	A student shall not create a hostile threatening, humiliating, or abusive educational environment.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.5	A student shall not interfere with a student having a safe school environment that is necessary to facilitate educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.6	A student shall not perpetuate bullying by inciting, soliciting, or coercing an individual or group to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional, psychological, or physical harm to another person.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.7	A student shall not retaliate against another student for reporting bullying.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; mandatory parent conference to develop discipline contract; maximum penalties may be applied if injuries result; loss of privileges.
6.8	<p><b>Cyberbullying</b> applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is directed specifically at students or school personnel,</li> <li>2. Is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and</li> <li>3. Creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.</li> </ol> <p>Electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.</p>	Same disposition as 6.1.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

### Rule 7: Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

- 7.1 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a knife with a blade less than 2 inches in length, an ice pick, or any other bladed instrument unless authorized by the teacher. (See 7.3 for knife with larger blade.)
- 7.2 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any firearm. A firearm is considered to be any weapon (including a starter gun, shotgun, stun gun, Taser or other hunting or sporting gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device, including, but not limited to, bombs, grenades, rockets, mines, or any other explosive material. Antique firearms are not included in this term when used for classwork as authorized by the teacher. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751)
- 7.3 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any object which could reasonably be considered a hazardous object, to include but not limited to such items as dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of 2 or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chukka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or sword canes, or machetes or any weapon of like kind. This paragraph excludes any of these instruments used for classroom work as authorized by the teacher.
- 7.4 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit tear gas, mace, pepper spray, or any other similar agent.
- 7.5 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit explosive type materials to include but not limited to bullets of any type, fire crackers, caps, or cap pistols, smoke or odor bombs.
- 7.6 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any object which could reasonably be considered a hazardous object, to include but not limited to BB or pellet guns, airsoft guns, loaded canes.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

- Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may recommend long-term suspension to expulsion. All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee; loss of privileges; threat assessment.
- Automatic referral to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; mandatory referral for a Student disciplinary hearing with mandatory recommendation for expulsion for one calendar year.  
All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement; loss of privileges.
- Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; mandatory referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may recommend long-term suspension to expulsion; loss of privileges; threat assessment.  
All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement.
- Same disposition as 7.1.
- Same disposition as 7.1.
- Same disposition as 7.1.

### Rule 8: Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Stimulant Drugs, Controlled Substances or Medications

- 8.1 A student shall not share nor be involved in transmission of his/her over-the-counter medication with anyone else. (Ex. NoDoz, Vivarin, asthma medicines, energy/diet pills, supplements, aspirin, herb pills, cough medication [pseudoephedrine, dextromethorphan or DXM], etc.) This also includes prescription drugs.  
Note: Transmit/Transmission is defined as: buying, selling, receiving and/or delivering, sharing (the act of "changing hands" of a substance).  
Note: A student using over-the-counter medication is required to complete a "Permission to Dispense Medication" form and leave the medication in the office or clinic. The student shall be supervised when taking this medication. Medication must be brought in the original container. A student can be punished for failing to complete and return the form.

- Suspension permissible 1-10 days.\* Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; loss of privileges.

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 8.2 A student shall not possess or attempt to possess, buy or attempt to buy, use, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, edible marijuana/treats, inhalant, anabolic steroid, or any drug requiring a prescription controlled by the Georgia Board of Pharmacy not prescribed to the student, or bath salts or synthetic drugs, or substance represented to be a drug. This prohibition shall include: unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, being under the influence of any controlled drug, narcotic substance, or any mind-altering substance or intoxicant (illegal or legal), specifically including any product with cannabidiol (CBD), whether hemp or cannabis and regardless of the amount of THC in the product or the extent to which it is legal or illegal under state law.
- 8.3 A student shall not possess, consume, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage of any kind or any substance represented to be alcohol.
- 8.4 A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit drugs or substances represented or thought to be drugs by the buyer, on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with the permission of the owner or within 1,000 feet of school property.
- 8.5 A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit alcohol or substances represented or thought to be alcohol by the buyer, on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with the permission of the owner, or within 1,000 feet of school property.
- 8.6 A student shall not possess, use, sell, transmit, or solicit, or attempt to possess, use, sell, transmit, or solicit any drug-related paraphernalia which includes, but is not limited to, pipes, water-pipes, clips, rolling papers, or any other items directly related to drug use.

### Rule 9: Disregard of Directions or Commands

- 9.1 A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, principals, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel when on school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision. Note: This applies with the clear book bag policy. The student will be cited with insubordination.
- 9.2 A student shall not attempt to evade school personnel or attempt to avoid a conference or search by school personnel. This applies to attempted evasion of Open Gate screening procedures.  
Note 1: General searches of school property (including personal items found in or on school property) may be conducted at any time when there is reasonable cause for school employees to believe that something which violates a law or school rule is located on school property.  
Note 2: A student's person may be searched by school employees when there is reasonable cause to believe that the student has on his/her person illegal items that may interfere with the school program. (Refer to Board of Education's policy JCAB).

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Level II - Automatic 5-10 days OSS; student to remain in home school. May refer to Seven Challenges, a short-term drug and alcohol treatment program offered at RCPS, or another program at the parent's expense, which is equivalent to the Seven Challenges Program.

Level III - repeated offense (2nd or more) automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; automatic 10-day suspension (pending hearing); notify Superintendent or designee for disciplinary hearing with recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion; may refer to Seven Challenges program.

Same disposition as 8.2.

Note: All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

Automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction and 10 days out-of-school suspension (OSS); may refer to Seven Challenges program; mandatory referral for a Student disciplinary hearing with recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion; loss of privileges.

Same disposition as 8.4.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days and referral to law enforcement agency at discretion of Superintendent or designee; loss of privileges.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; Parent notification; loss of privileges.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.



## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 9.3 A student shall not refuse to identify himself/herself or give false identity upon request of teachers, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, school food service personnel, principals, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel.

### Rule 10: Unexcused Absences and Tardiness

- 10.1 A student shall not be unlawfully absent or truant from school or fail to comply with compulsory attendance under O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1. Note: Lawful absences are defined by Georgia law as:
1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others.
  2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
  3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including preinduction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
  4. The observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
  5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
  6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
  7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave.
    - a) A student whose parent or legal guardian is currently serving or previously served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, in the Reserves of the armed forces of the United States on extended active duty, or in the National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, not to exceed two school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence from: A provider of care at or sponsored by a medical facility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or
    - b) An event sponsored by a corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.
  8. Serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly, successful participation in the Georgia Student Teen Election Participation Program, registering to vote for a period not exceeding one day, or voting for a period not exceeding one day.
  9. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.2.
  10. A student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall be credited as present by the school in which enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip, and such participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school. Upon request from a school principal or the principal's designee, a 4-H representative shall provide documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H. As used in this subsection, the term "4-H representative" means an individual officially recognized or designated by the University of Georgia Extension 4-H Program as a 4-H professional or a 4-H adult volunteer.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges.

1-5 Unexcused Absences:

Referral to local Attendance Support Team, disciplinary actions determined by the local school (i.e. parental notification from teacher, parental conference with school administrator, etc.)

10 Unexcused Absences:

Referred to local Attendance Support Team. Parent conference required; contract signed.

10 Absences:

Principal may require a medical excuse for subsequent absences.

10 Unexcused Absences:

Referred to the school social worker. Possible referral to Juvenile Court or Department of Family and Children's Services.

Please refer to the RCPS Attendance Protocol for further information.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 10.2 A student shall not skip any class.
- 10.3 A student shall not be chronically tardy to school or to class.
- 10.4 A student shall not leave campus without permission.
- 10.5 A student shall not be in an unauthorized and/or unsupervised location

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Suspension permissible 1-5 days

Suspension permissible 1-5 days.

Suspension permissible 1-5 days; loss of privileges.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges; may recommend long-term suspension and referral to a student disciplinary hearing for the 3rd or cumulative offense; all incidents recommending long-term suspension will be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

### Rule 11: Dress and Grooming

The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any mode of dress or grooming results in a violation of the spirit or intent of the following rule. The spirit and intent of this rule is to maintain an atmosphere, at all times, conducive to learning by having all students dress in conformity with the accepted standards of the community, including but not limited to the following standards.

A student shall not dress or groom to distract unreasonably the attention of other students or otherwise cause disruption or interference with the operations of the school. Obscene pictures or symbols or the depiction of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, or contraband shall not appear on clothing, nor shall inflammatory, provocative, lewd, profane, or suggestive language or symbols appear on clothing. Clothing identifiable with any gang shall not be worn. Hats, rollers, visors, caps, do-rags, bonnets, and bandannas are not allowed. Wallet chains are not allowed.

A student shall not dress in an immodest or extreme fashion. Examples of such extreme prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Shoeless
- Bare midriffs
- "Tank" tops/Halter tops
- "Short-shorts"/Mini-skirt
- Skirts & shorts above the knee
- Spaghetti straps
- Lack of cleanliness in person or dress (clothes must be clean and in good repair)
- See-through clothing
- Spandex pants/skirts
- Extremely baggy pants
- Bedroom slippers
- Pajamas
- Flip-flops/Slides

This is not to be an all-inclusive list.

- Low-cut blouses, low-cut dresses, or low-cut shirts are not appropriate for school. Any shirt or blouse that is sleeveless must have a collar and any shirt or blouse that is collarless must have sleeves.
- Under no circumstances can shirts be worn in such a way as to conceal oversized/extremely baggy pants. A student's waist must be visible at all times.
- Leggings or Jeggings may not be worn without a skirt or shirt that reaches the knee.
- Pants must be worn at waist level.
- Hats, bonnets, scarves, and other headpieces will not be worn within the school building unless approved for special occasions by the principal or the principal's designee. Head wraps, scarves, or dress worn in observance of a cultural or religious tradition/belief are acceptable.
- Shorts, skirts, culottes, split skirts, or dresses must be fingertip length and appropriate for school.
- Jewelry, clothing, or other items that have pictures, logos, lettering, writing, or other symbols that the principal considers vulgar, profane, offensive, suggestive, or disruptive, or that reflect sexual or obscene overtones, or that advertise any alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances are prohibited. Spiked jewelry, clothing, shoes, or chains are not permitted.
- Wearing any clothing, jewelry, or other item symbolizing gang affiliation is prohibited.
- Uniforms for cheerleaders and drill team participants are permitted in the classroom.
- Shoes are required for safety and hygiene reasons and may be worn with or without socks. Slip-ons may be worn but must be secured to the foot with a strap around the ankle to aid in preventing slipping, falling, or tripping.
- Earrings or other jewelry of such size or style that, in the opinion of the principal or the principal's designee, would interfere with learning, would cause a disruption of the educational environment, or would be a health or safety hazard, are prohibited. Body piercing jewelry (or the facsimile of) on any visible area of the body (including the tongue) other than the ear is prohibited.

**1st Offense:** Student warning and parent contact.

**2nd Offense:** Automatic two-day in-school suspension, mandatory parent contact, and mandatory behavior contract.

**3rd Offense:** Automatic two-day out-of-school suspension, mandatory parent conference, and review of behavior contract.

**4th Offense:** Automatic three-day out-of-school suspension, mandatory parent conference, possible alternative placement.

**5th Offense:** Referral to Student disciplinary hearing for chronic behavior violation(s); loss of privileges.

**DISCIPLINE RULE****MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION****Rule 12: Parking and Traffic Violations on Campus**

A student shall not abuse school parking regulations nor operate a motor vehicle in such a way as to cause damage to public or private property located on school grounds or in such a way as to endanger life or limb of persons utilizing school facilities, driveways, or parking areas.

Suspension permissible 1-5 days for repeatedly violating rule. Driving privileges may be restricted.  
 Note: As determined by the principal, a student's vehicle may be removed from a campus of RCPS at the owner's expense for repeated campus vehicle violations; loss of privileges.

**Rule 13: Refusal to Accept Disciplinary Action**

A student shall not refuse to accept assigned consequences and/or fail to serve assigned consequences.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days which may include but not be limited to, establishment of a behavior contract, parent contact, mandatory parent conference prior to student's return from suspension to develop behavior contract, and/or loss of privileges.  
 Long-term suspension or expulsion for 2nd violation

**Rule 14: Use of Profane, Vulgar, or Obscene Words, Gestures, Pornographic/Vulgar Photographs or Materials, or other Actions Which Disrupt School System Operations**

14.1 A student shall not use or publish electronically or in writing, profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures, or other action that disrupts school system operations.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. May recommend long-term suspension on a case by case basis; loss of privileges.

14.2 A student shall not curse or verbally abuse any person, including remarks intended to demean a person's race, religion, sex, creed, national origin, disability, or intellectual ability.

Same disposition as 14.1.

14.3 A student shall not possess, view, create, or distribute any illegal materials nor such items as pornography, any materials demeaning another person, or containing lewd, profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures or actions or gang-related materials or photographs. This rule includes materials both in person, stored within a school-provided online platform, and stored on any electronic device.

Same disposition as 14.1.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

14.4 **Gang-Related Activity** - Includes any of the following activities which can or may cause danger/disruption to the school environment and threaten the safety of students, faculty, or other employees of the school system. Gang activities include those behaviors exhibited while using any online environment within the school, or while using school-provided online environments in any location. Behavior includes but is not limited to gang affiliation: exhibiting gang affiliation, as evidenced by a common identifying sign, symbol, tattoo, graffiti, attire, or other distinguishing characteristic.

Exhibiting gang affiliation and/or engaging in any gang-related activity is not permitted. For the purpose of this handbook, a gang is defined as any group or association of three (3) or more persons, whether formal or informal, as evidenced by a common name or common identifying sign, symbol, tattoo, graffiti, attire, or other distinguishing characteristic, that encourages, solicits, promotes, condones, causes, assists, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity. Students shall not use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang-related activity, including, but not limited to the following Code of Conduct Violations.

- 14.41 - A student shall not display or create gang signs and symbols on personal and/or school property.
- 14.42 - A student shall not wear clothing that symbolizes gang affiliation (shirts, hats, bandanas, belts, jewelry, etc.).
- 14.43 - A student shall not display gang hand signs, tattoos/brands, or other actions/items which symbolize gang affiliation.
- 14.44 - A student shall not deface school buildings and structures with gang graffiti, symbols, or messages.
- 14.45 - A student shall not solicit/recruit membership or participation in gang activity.
- 14.46 - A student shall not perform or participate in any act of violence which includes, but is not limited to, intimidation and gang recruitment, which can adversely affect the educational process.

### Rule 15: Gambling on School Property or at a School Function

A student shall not gamble or assist others to gamble on school property or at a school function, using school-provided/sanctioned online platforms, or through any school issued electronic device.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

**1st Offense:** Suspension permissible 1-5 days. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Mandatory parent conference. Mandatory behavior contract (specific to gang-related activity) before returning to school; loss of privileges.

**2nd Offense:** Mandatory 10 days OSS. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Automatic Student disciplinary hearing; loss of privileges.

Suspension permissible 1-5 days; loss of privileges.

### Rule 16: Misbehavior on Bus

A student shall not violate any bus rules of Rockdale County Public Schools. All rules and recommended dispositions in the Discipline Code of Conduct shall apply to students on school buses, at school bus stops, or in vehicles used by the school to transport students. Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices with or without headphones or ear buds during the loading and unloading process. Students should keep electronic equipment packed away when preparing to board and when getting off the bus. Use of electronic devices while onboard the bus with headphones or ear buds is permitted if it does not interfere with the driver's operation of the school bus. Using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the driver's operation of the bus is prohibited. Students must maintain silence at all railroad crossings until the driver has crossed and gives the all clear.

At the principal's discretion and in cooperation with the Transportation Department, suspension from bus and/or school is permissible for 1-5 days. Loss of privileges.

**DISCIPLINE RULE****MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION****Rule 17: Criminal Law Violations**

17.1	Violent Criminal Offenses: An enrolled student may not remain on any Rockdale County Public Schools campus if he/she has been found by official action to have committed an offense in violation of a school rule that involved one or more of the following violent criminal offenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aggravated battery (O.C.G.A.§16-5-24)</li> <li>• aggravated child molestation (O.C.G.A.§16-6-4)</li> <li>• aggravated sexual battery (O.C.G.A.§16-6-22.2)</li> <li>• aggravated sodomy (O.C.G.A.§16-6-2)</li> <li>• armed robbery (O.C.G.A.§16-8-41)</li> <li>• first degree arson (O.C.G.A.§16-7-60)</li> <li>• kidnapping (O.C.G.A.§16-5-40)</li> <li>• murder (O.C.G.A.§16-5-1)</li> <li>• rape (O.C.G.A.§16-6-1)</li> <li>• voluntary manslaughter (O.C.G.A.§16-5-2) or</li> <li>• terroristic threat (O.C.G.A.§16-11-37).</li> </ul>	Automatic 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to Student disciplinary hearing. School may recommend threat assessment administered by School Social Worker in cases involving terroristic threats; automatic referral to law enforcement that has jurisdiction. Loss of privileges.
17.2	A student may not remain on campus if the student has been charged with a criminal law violation if the student's presence endangers the safety of other students or causes disruption to school operations.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to Student disciplinary hearing; loss of privileges.

**Rule 18: Sexual Misconduct or Inappropriate Display of Affection**

18.1	A student shall not indecently expose himself or herself, or engage in any inappropriate heterosexual or homosexual act on school property, using school-provided/sanctioned online platforms, or through any school issued electronic device, during school functions, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner, or while under school supervision.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to student disciplinary hearing on a case-by-case basis. Mandatory meeting upon return to discuss behavior plan; loss of privileges.
18.2	A student shall not molest or rape another person on school property, during school functions, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner, or while under school supervision.	Automatic 10 day suspension; recommendation for expulsion; refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. Mandatory meeting upon return to discuss behavior plan; loss of privileges.
18.3	A student shall not engage in any form of inappropriate bodily contact or display of affection.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may recommend long-term suspension on a case by case basis. Mandatory meeting upon return to discuss behavior plan; loss of privileges.
18.4	A student shall not engage in inappropriate activities such as mooning (pulling one's own pants down) or ankling (pulling another student's pants down) or deliberately entering a restroom with the purpose of engaging in affectionate or inappropriate behavior(s).	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. May recommend long term suspension on a case by case basis. May recommend to law enforcement agency having jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 18.5 A student shall not engage in sexual harassment toward any person on school property, including school buses, or at a school function, or on any property, using school-provided/sanctioned online platforms, or through any school issued electronic device, used by the school with permission of the owner. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
- A. An employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (i.e. quid pro quo harassment).
  - B. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to an education program or activity [i.e. a hostile environment claim. See Examples listed in Board Policy JAA (Equal Educational Opportunity).]
  - C. "Sexual Assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v).
  - D. "Dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10).
  - E. "Domestic violence" as defined in 24 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8).
  - F. "Stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30).

- 18.6 A student shall not engage in acts of lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the student's own body; lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the body of another person.

### Rule 19: Rude and Disrespectful Behavior

A student shall not use profane, vulgar, obscene, or abusive language, talk back, "sass," or intentionally argue in a demanding or disruptive manner with any school employees or while using any online environment within the school or while using school-provided online environments in any location or with persons attending school-related functions or otherwise show disrespect for school employees or others attending school-related

### Rule 20: Tobacco/Smoking-Related Offenses

- 20.1 A student shall not possess tobacco paraphernalia, such as but not limited to lighters, pipes, cigarette papers, and matches on district property, and this restriction shall include non-school hours, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
- 20.2 A student shall not possess tobacco products including cigarettes, tobacco, and snuff in any form on the school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity, and this restriction shall include non-school hours, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
- 20.3 A student shall not use tobacco products, including cigarettes, in any form on the school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity while under school supervision.
- 20.4 A student shall not possess, use, sell and/or transmit electronic cigarettes (JUUL), personal vaporizer or nicotine delivery system products or paraphernalia, and this restriction shall include non-school hours, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

### Rule 21: Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty

A student shall not cheat on tests, examinations, projects, homework, or reports by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance nor be involved in plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty. This rule includes all acts of cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty committed in person or through electronic devices regardless of whether the device is personal, or school issued.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Refer to Board Policy JCAC (Sexual Harassment of Students) for procedures and available punishments for allegations related to Sexual Harassment.

Refer to Board Policy JCAC (Sexual Harassment of Students) for procedures and available punishments for allegations related to Sexual Harassment.

functions.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; may be referred to CHOICES; discipline contract for repeatedly violating rule; loss of privileges.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.

Same disposition as 20.2.

Same disposition as 20.2.

0 grade; suspension permissible 1-5 days.  
Mandatory parent meeting; loss of privileges.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion.

**DISCIPLINE RULE****MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION****Rule 22: Altering Records, Misrepresenting Information, Forgery**

22.1	A student shall not alter or misrepresent information on school records or forms, (including electronic records/forms), forge signatures or statements, or make false statements, written or oral or electronically.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
22.2	A student shall not alter or attempt to alter grades in a teacher's grade book, records, or any permanent records.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract; loss of privileges.
22.3	A student shall not falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.	Suspension permissible* 1-5 days. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract; loss of privileges.

**Rule 23: Misuse of Computer, Network, Internet, or Intranet**

All of Rockdale County Public Schools ("RCPS") are networked so that they may provide technologies that allow students and staff members to share information and access data or information inside their school. Each school has been provided with technology necessary to allow students and teachers access to the internet. We believe the system-wide networks (intranet) and access to the internet will greatly enhance and support research activities and provide additional educational opportunities for students and teachers. Regulation IFBG-R describes the acceptable use procedures of the Rockdale County Public Schools' system-wide network and internet connections available in all schools. All students, parents, teachers, and staff members will be required to sign Form IFBG-F1 or IFBG-F2 acknowledging that they have read and agree with the system's intranet and internet network acceptable use policies before they access the intranet or internet in any fashion or they are issued an RCPS electronic device.

**INTERNET SAFETY**

It is the policy of RCPS to:

1. Prevent user access over its computer network to (or transmission of) inappropriate material via the internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communication;
2. Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
3. Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and,
4. Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)] and the Federal Education Rights and Protection Act (FERPA) [20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99].

**ADOPTION**

The Rockdale County Board of Education adopted this Internet Safety Policy to be in compliance with CIPA and FERPA rules at a public meeting, following procedural policy adoption protocol.

23.1	No student shall use a computer or any electrical device, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet by such activity as importing, exporting, viewing, distributing, printing, or creating inappropriate, illicit, or illegal materials including but not limited to pornography; any materials demeaning another person or containing lewd, profane, or vulgar words, pictures, gestures or actions; or any records, files, or materials to which the student should not have access.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days and prosecution under laws of Georgia; may refer to law enforcement that has jurisdiction. May revoke school computer access and request restitution for damages; loss of privileges.
23.2	No student shall use a computer, any electronic device, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet to create disruption of school operations or the normal use of a computer, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet.	Same disposition as 23.1.
23.3	A student shall not engage in computer electronic device theft, digital trespass, digital invasion of privacy, digital forgery, or digital password disclosure.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days and prosecution under O.C.G.A. § 16-9-93; may refer to law enforcement that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

### Rule 24: Loitering, Trespassing, or Breaking and Entering

- 24.1 A student shall not enter the premises of a local school other than his/her home school, except for scheduled classes or school system-sponsored and/or approved activities, unless prior permission is received from an administrator of the school to be visited.
- 24.2 A student shall not enter any school building or school system facility on weekends or after school hours without authorization from school officials.
- 24.3 A student shall not loiter on any school campus or school system property.
- 24.4 A student shall not enter or read school records, including computer files, software, and other related materials, without authorization from school officials.

Suspension permissible\* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract; loss of privileges.  
Note: Remaining on or returning to campus while on suspension will result in referral to police for trespassing.

Same disposition as 24.1.

Same disposition as 24.1.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction and may permanently revoke user access to Internet on campus. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract. Review and reinforce Internet use agreement; loss of privileges.

### Rule 25: Other Misbehavior

The administration of the school system and the local school reserve the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the Rockdale County school system, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written discipline rules.

### Rule 26: Misbehavior While Off School Property

If a student engages in misbehavior that would be a felony or a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, while a student is not on school property or at a school function, activity, or event and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process, the school may take disciplinary action(s) against that student. This rule includes any disruptive activities carried out online through any electronic device (school issued or not), both on campus and off campus.

OSS 5-10 days; may result in long-term suspension or expulsion on a case-by-case basis; mandatory meeting with parent to develop/review behavior contract; loss of privileges.

- 26.1 If a student engages in misbehavior which could result in the student being charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school, the school may take disciplinary action against that student.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; long-term suspension or expulsion on a case-by-case basis; may refer to law enforcement agency having jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

### Rule 27: Cumulative Offenses

Multiple violations of the Student Discipline Code of Conduct committed simultaneously or accumulated during the school year may result in out-of-school suspension or a recommendation for a student disciplinary hearing and recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

- 27.1 Students who exhaust a behavior contract developed with school administrators may be recommended for a student disciplinary hearing.

OSS 1-10 days; may recommend long-term suspension or expulsion; mandatory meeting with parent to develop/review behavior contract; loss of privileges.

---

\* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.