


**Committed to World-Class**



 **Rockdale County  
Public Schools**  
**RCPS**  
[rockdaleschools.org](http://rockdaleschools.org)

## A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Stakeholders,

As we embark upon the 2019-20 school year, we remain committed to our pursuit of world-class status as a district. At its core, this pursuit is about facilitating optimal student learning, achievement, and growth.

As I began my tenure last spring, I articulated five Strategic Priorities that are aligned to our district's Strategic Plan. These include:

- 1) ensure a common understanding of the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) and formative instructional practices;
- 2) ensure the consistent delivery of effective standards-based and standards-aligned instruction / instructional strategies;
- 3) maintain a balanced system of assessment;
- 4) ensure the integration of appropriate digital resources that extend / enhance students' learning experiences; and
- 5) ensure the implementation of a viable, multi-tiered system of student support that is responsive to students' learning needs. We have made significant strides toward achieving these priorities which remain in place for this school year.

Ensuring our students' and staff's safety remains our highest priority. Thanks to our citizens for their vote on E-SPLOST V which passed with a record high of nearly 70% support. We prioritized safety within E-SPLOST V and have begun to make improvements by reasonably balancing access and security. We have great partnerships with our local law enforcement agencies that now have immediate access to our surveillance systems in the event of an emergency. Upon returning this school year, all schools will have safety vestibules to restrict full access to our buildings upon entering. While we made tremendous progress, we will not relent in our ongoing efforts to maximize student and staff safety.

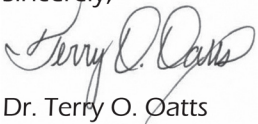
Fostering greater community engagement and involvement is paramount. As such, I personally committed to an unprecedented level of engagement by raising both my accessibility and visibility throughout our school communities. This included participation in various co-curricular and extracurricular performance and competitive events; joining community forums that enabled citizens to directly engage with me; visiting churches for community outreach; and expanding our advisory structure to inform our decision-making. All these efforts are made to enlist constructive partnerships to support our continuous improvement.

I am pleased to share that RCPS received top scores after completing its five-year accreditation renewal process. The RCPS Index for Education Quality (IEQ) score is 308.06 which falls in the highest scoring tier. The average IEQ score range over the last five years for all institutions accredited by AdvancED is 278.34 – 283.33. This gives context to how our district compares with other institutions internationally. The accreditation process highlights our strengths and helps to identify areas for continuous improvement.

Last spring, I committed to working tirelessly in pursuit of world-class status for our district. I believe that my team and I have made good on this commitment, but it's only the beginning. We are proud that the class of 2019, with over 1,200 graduates (our largest graduating class to date) received over \$20 million in scholarship offers. This affirms our work and pursuit of world-class status.

I remain excited and proud to serve as Superintendent for the staff, students, and families of Rockdale County Public Schools!

Sincerely,



Dr. Terry O. Oatts



Dr. Terry Oatts

## Rockdale County Board of Education



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The Rockdale County Board of Education continues to hold the highest designation of Exemplary Board by the Georgia School Boards Association for going beyond the minimum required training, setting annual goals, and its dedication to continuous improvement in our district. It is comprised of seven members elected at-large for four-year terms and is the official governing body of the school system. All Board meetings are open to the public. For the current meeting schedule and more information about the Board and its policies, please visit: [rockdaleschools.org](http://rockdaleschools.org).



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**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.**

## **2019-20 RCPS School Calendar Dates** Inclement Weather Make-up Days may be used during intercessions.

July 29, 2019	.....First Day of School for Students
September 2, 2019	.....Labor Day Holiday (schools closed)
September 16, 2019	.....Independent Learning/Professional Learning
September 30 - October 4, 2019	.....Fall Intercession (schools closed)
October 7, 2019	.....Teacher Work Day/Conference Day (no school for students)
November 4, 2019	.....Independent Learning/Professional Learning
November 25 - 29, 2019	.....Thanksgiving Break (schools closed)
December 20, 2019	.....Last Day of First Semester
December 21, 2019 - January 3, 2020	.....Semester Break (schools closed)
January 6, 2020	.....Professional Learning/Teacher Workday (no school for students)
January 7, 2020	.....First Day of Second Semester
January 20, 2020	.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (schools closed)
February 3, 2020	.....Independent Learning/Professional Learning
February 17 -21, 2020	.....Winter Intercession (schools closed)
March 9, 2020	.....Teacher Workday/Conference Day (no school for students)
April 6 - 10, 2020	.....Spring Intercession (schools closed)
May 22, 2020	.....Last Day of School for Students/Early Release

### **Alpha Academy**

An alternative and complement to the traditional elementary/middle/high school program is Alpha Academy. 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. Student assignment to Alpha Academy may be made by a placement committee or as the result of a disciplinary tribunal.

### **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 may jeopardize the future eligibility of the student athlete to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

### **Attendance Policy**

Regular student attendance is a high priority in our schools. It is crucial to each student as it directly affects academic progress and the development of attitudes for adult life. For the purposes of this policy, students in grades K - 12 are affected and the parents and students are the responsible parties. The Georgia compulsive attendance law requires all children between their 6th and 16th birthdays to attend public, private, or home school. Any parent/guardian in violation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to:

- A fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00,
- Imprisonment not to exceed 30 days,
- Community service,
- Or any combination of such penalties at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction.
- Each subsequent absence shall constitute a separate offense.

Absences and tardies will be considered excused for the following reasons only:

1. Personal illness or when attendance would endanger their health or the health of others.
2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
3. Observance of a religious holiday.
4. Absences mandated by government agencies such as court order or an armed services pre-induction physical.
5. Conditions that render attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting for a period not to exceed one (1) day.
7. Absences for a student whose parent is in military service in the U.S. Armed Forces/National Guard and that parent has been called to duty for, or is on leave from, overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat supporting post. Student shall be granted excused absences up to a maximum of five days per school year to visit with his/her parent.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as a page in the Georgia General Assembly. Written excuses will be accepted within three days of the student's return to school. Rockdale County Board of Education Policy JB, Student Attendance, can be viewed in its entirety by accessing the Board Policies link on the district website. For additional information/requirements, please see the Attendance Protocol on the district website – [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).

### **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 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.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

Rockdale County Public Schools has approved the following clubs and organizations for school year 2019 - 20. 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 Georgia Code 20-2-705, parents/guardians may decline permission for their students to participate in a club or organization. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their school to review the complete list of offerings. Information on the cost associated with individual clubs and club sponsorship is available at the school. If you do not want your child to participate in clubs or organizations, please complete the opt-out form, "Withhold Permission to Participate in Clubs and Organizations" and return it to your school by August 16, 2019. This form is available on the district website [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org) under the forms link or at your school's front office.

## Elementary School Club Listing

### Barksdale Elementary

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

### Flat Shoals Elementary

4-H Club  
Art Club  
Chorus Club  
Math Club  
Modern Band Club  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Running Club  
Safety Patrol Club  
Sister-to-Sister Club

### C.J. Hicks Elementary

Chess Club  
Chorus/Music Club  
DUDES  
Girl Scouts  
Junior Music Club  
Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Safety Patrol Club  
Senior Music Club  
Student Council  
Technology Club  
Wee Music Club  
World Languages Club  
Young Ladies of Distinction Club

### Hightower Elementary

4-H Club  
Annual Spring Musical  
Blazin' I.C.T. Club  
Chorus Club  
Digital Media Club  
Drum and Orff Club  
Foreign Language Club  
Good News Club  
Hightower Hoopers Basketball  
(continued)

### 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.

**Art Club** engages students in creative self-expression through art. Open to 4th and 5th graders. 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.

**B2B (Boys 2 Books) Club** is geared towards developing boys interest in books.

**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

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### Hightower Elementary

HTE Postal Workers Club  
Intramural Program  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Peer Mediator Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rockbots - LEGO Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Running/Hightower Sprinters  
Safety Patrol Club  
School Store Helper  
Sisters of the Circle

### Honey Creek Elementary

Bee TV  
Chorus Club  
Fire Patrol  
I.T. Crowd Club  
Marathon in a Month Club  
Math 24  
Mileage Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Recycling Club  
Safety Patrol  
Science Olympiad  
Student Council

### J. H. House Elementary

Art Club  
Chorus  
Craft Club  
Drama Club at JHH  
Eagle Ambassadors  
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  
Good News Club  
Math Club/Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Robotics Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Running Club  
Science Club at LES  
Student Council

### Peek's Chapel Elementary

4-H Club  
Art Club  
(continued)

### Peek's Chapel (continued)

B2B (Boys 2 Books) Club  
Beginning Piano  
Drama Club  
Fitness Club  
Girls and Boys Mentoring  
Literature Circle  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Robotics Club  
STEM Girls and Boys  
Safety Patrol Club  
Student Council

### Pine Street Elementary

4-H Club  
Chorus Club  
MAPs (Mediator/Ambassador Program)  
Math 24  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Crew Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Robotics/Lego Club  
Rockdale Honor Chorus  
Safety Patrol Club  
SciAPs  
Yearbook Club

### Shoal Creek Elementary

4-H Club  
Chorus Club  
I.T. Crowd Club  
National Junior Beta Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Rubik Cubes Club  
Student Council

### Sims Elementary

Art Club  
AVID Ambassadors  
Cheer Club  
Culinary Arts Cooking Club  
Drama Club  
Gaming Club  
Gardening Club  
I.T. Crowd Club  
Math Team Club  
Men of Tomorrow  
National Junior Beta Club  
Newspaper/Journalism  
Robotics  
Running/Track Club  
Scholar Council (same as Student Council)  
Sims Singers (same as Chorus Club)  
Social Butterflies  
Sports Club  
Technology Club

recommendations, and available slots.

**Beginning Piano** will provide beginning piano lessons by the music teacher to students who apply to join the program.

**Blazin' I.C.T. Club** 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.

**Cheer Club** - Sims Scholars have the opportunity to learn various chants and cheers.

**Chess Club** Students learn to play and challenge each other in Chess tournaments. This club will increase logical reasoning skills.

**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.

**Clean & Beautiful Club** brings awareness to keeping the earth beautiful, reducing air pollution and traffic congestion, supporting clean air programs, encouraging the use of alternative modes of transportation (mass transit, carpooling) and promoting the benefits of recycling.

**Cooking Club** Students will utilize math and science skills to create delicious snacks to eat and share.

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

**Dance Club** promotes self-confidence through creative design. Membership is open to 1st through 5th graders. Activities include learning songs and dances from given shows, learning to use stage props, and building self-esteem through solo performances.

**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** develops abilities to respond to characters and themes in dramatic texts through reading and writing English. It enhances speaking and listening skills by encouraging members to play different roles in different dramatic contexts. Open to all grade levels.

**Drama Club at JHH** - 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.

**DUDES** is a mentoring program led by the men of C.J. Hicks for boys in grades four and five. 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.

**Eagle Ambassadors** is a student leadership group that will assist at school functions and serve on the student PBIS team.

**Explorer Clubs** are created by teachers for grades 3-5 and focus on extending learning beyond regular curriculum. Clubs focus on math, ELA, computer and technology, fine arts, science, social studies, and P.E. Each quarter, students select a club from those offered.

**Fire Patrol Club** gives students ownership in the implementation of school safety procedures and rewards students' good citizenship and loyalty to the Barksdale school community. Membership is selected by the principal from students who have a school record of following the conduct and citizenship rules in the Barksdale Promise Book. Activities include a training exercise held in August to teach the Fire Drill procedures for evacuation of the school building. A follow-up conference is held between the principal and the team after every fire drill.

**Fitness Club** meets once a week for an hour after school to incorporate health and fitness into the lives of each member involved. 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.

**Foreign Language Club** learn about languages and multiculturalism to become global students and prepare for 21st Century learning.

**Gaming Club** - Sims Scholars will learn how to create video games.

**Gardening Club** - Sims Scholars will work on the school garden.

**Girl Scouts** meet twice a month at C.J. Hicks. The troop is Brownie level and members work on badges out of the Brownie Handbook by completing various activities at troop meetings as well as activities on the weekends.

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

**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.

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

**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.

**I.T. Crowd Club** allows students to share their knowledge of technology 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 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.

**Junior Music Club** allows 3rd graders to focus on building music performance skills in preparation for participation in Senior Music Club.

**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.

**Literature Circle** is an enrichment program for 3rd - 5th graders who express a strong interest in reading/writing beyond the classroom.

**MAPs (Mediator and Ambassador Program)** is a leadership club for students in grades 4 - 5 that are referred by staff and apply to serve. Students assist as student helpers in lower grade classrooms and serve as greeters during special school functions.

**Marathon in a Month Club** promotes cardiovascular fitness. Students run Monday - Friday in October and November. Volunteers keep individual distance records. The goal is to run a total of 26.2 miles (distance of a marathon). Membership is open to 2nd - 5th graders.

**Math 24/Math Team 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.

**Men of Tomorrow** empowers boys in grades 3 - 5 through positive relationships while promoting excellence in mind (self-esteem and self worth), body (image and nutrition), and spirit (purpose in life).

**Mileage Club** (March - May) promotes fitness and running ability. Open to 1st - 5th graders and kindergartners with parent participation.

**Modern Band Club** is an exploratory music club open 4th and 5th graders to sing, play guitar, keyboard, bass guitar, drums, and other classroom instruments to recreate popular music and to create new music.

**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.

**National Junior Honor Society Club** was established for the purpose of recognizing students for demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, personal responsibility, and leadership qualities at BES. Membership is open to fourth and fifth grade students who achieve and maintain Rockdale County Public School's criteria for Principal's List for an entire school year and meet the recommendation specifications of the Faculty Council. Activities may include service projects for the school and/ or community each year.

**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..

**Newspaper/Journalism** Sims Scholars will produce a quarterly newsletter.

**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.

**Recycling Club** allows students to learn about keeping the planet green and maintain recycling bins throughout the school.

**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.

**Rubik Cubes Club** will explore and use Rubik Cubes to develop critical thinking, math, and Mindset skills, using interactive lessons to present information in a new and exciting way.

**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 morning running program. Open to grades 3 - 5. Participants run on the school track and monitor progress in both distance and time.

**Running/Track Club** - Sims Scholars will learn to sprint and run a 5K.

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

**Scholar Council** teaches the democratic method for making decisions that involve the entire school. Council members 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.

**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.

**SciAPs** Science Assistant Program is designed for 5th graders who are interested in learning more deeply about science concepts, inquiry and the use of tools of science. One goal is for students to learn how to teach others about science and be available to assist teachers with mini-lessons on proper usage of tools, such as triple beam balances and microscopes.

**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. Activities include working with local businesses to place and maintain bird houses on campus, and helping to plant and maintain different types of trees. Membership may be limited to 4th and 5th graders.

**Science Club at LES** is a hands-on program that gets 4th - 5th graders engaged in science through six weekly themed classes.

**Science Olympiad** Students work together to solve scientific problems and then compete with other RCPS students.

**Senior Music Club** is for 3rd - 5th grade students to serve the school, community and beyond with musical excellence. Experiences with fine arts (Atlanta Symphony, Dance Theatre of Harlem) and other opportunities are included.

**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.

**Sister-to-Sister Club** seeks to foster a positive self-image as we guide our young ladies through adolescence. Open to interested 4th grade girls. Activities include community service, fundraising, school beautification projects, and etiquette lessons.

**Sisters of the Circle** is designed to encourage a positive self-image and prepare young ladies for future endeavors through academic and social experiences. Members participate in monthly meetings, community service, fundraising, outings, seminars, and host school events.

**Social Butterflies** is a girls mentoring group for 4th and 5th graders.



**Sports Club** - Sims Scholars have the opportunity to explore a variety of sports.

**STEM Girls and Boys** engage in science, technology, engineering, and math related experiments, projects, field trips and guest speakers.

**Strong Girls/Strong Women** 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.

**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.

**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.

**Wee Music Club** will allow 1st and 2nd grade students to begin building the skills of music performance.

**World Languages Club** is offered to 4th and 5th graders twice a month. Students are exposed to a variety of languages and cultures.

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

## Middle School Club Listing

### Conyers Middle

4-H Club  
Art Club  
CMS Coders  
Chess Club  
Civil Air Patrol  
Color Guard  
Glee & Guitar Club  
I.T. Crowd Club  
Interact Club  
Intramurals  
Ladies of Distinction  
Men of Distinction  
National Junior Beta Club  
National Junior Honor Society  
News Club/Video, Audio Production  
Odyssey of the Mind  
Principal's Reading Club  
Robotics Club  
Rockdale Co. Sheriff's Office Explorers  
Six Pillars to Success  
Spanish Club  
Student Council  
Tech Club  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
Top Dog Ambassadors  
Yearbook Club

### General Ray Davis Middle

4-H Club  
Art Club  
(continued)

### General Ray Davis (continued)

Christ in You (CIU)  
DIVAS Mentoring, Inc.  
Eagle Eye News Morning Club  
Girls with POWER  
Intramurals  
Junior Thespian Troupe  
Literary Magazine Club  
Math Team  
National Junior Honor Society  
Robotics Club  
SOAR Mentoring  
Student Council  
Student Tech Ambassador Team (STAT)  
Tri-M Music Honor Society  
Yearbook Club

### Edwards Middle

4-H Club  
Academic Bowl Club  
E-Kids Club  
EMS Players Drama Club  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM)  
Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA)  
I.T. Crowd Club  
Intramurals  
Math Club  
(continued)

### Edwards (continued)

National Beta Society (BetaClub)  
National Junior Honor Society  
Ritz Players Club  
Robotics Club  
Science Olympiad Student Council  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
Teens for Christ Club  
Yearbook Club

### Memorial Middle

4-H Club  
100 Girls of Code  
Anime Club  
Art Club  
Color Guard  
Debate Team  
Drama Club  
Envirothon  
I.T. Crowd Club  
Intramurals  
Math Counts  
Math Team  
National Junior Beta Club  
News Club  
Reading Bowl Club  
Robotics Club  
Science Olympiad  
Student Council  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
Teen Girls in Technology (TGI Tech)  
Yearbook Club

## 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.

**100 Girls of Code** introduces young women to code and computer engineering. We seek to inspire more girls to pursue a future in STEM by providing young women an opportunity to create and gain confidence in what they create.

**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 ten 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** brings together those who enjoy the art of Japanese animation. The purpose is to further one's understanding of both the art and Japanese culture as a whole.

**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.

**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.

**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) 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.

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

**Debate Team** is a performance and competition club with the goal of developing effective communication, collaborative learning, complex thinking, and problem solving.

**DIVAS Mentoring Inc.** provides mentoring to young ladies developing self-confidence, self-awareness, and leadership within the school and community.

**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.

**Envirothon** Students compete for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. Competition centers on four universal testing categories and a current environmental issue.

**Eagle Eye News Morning 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 and production. Technical skills: video, computer skills, camera operation, sound board, video mixer operation, teleprompting, and other various equipment. Language Arts: writing daily and feature scripts. Reading: reading with fluency and expression.

**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.

**Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM)** 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.

**Girls with POWER** is designed to provide support to middle school girls at DMS. The program utilizes a small group mentoring model. Activities range from workshops and mentoring groups to social and cultural field trips. The workshops focus on five main areas: Positive Self Identity and Self Esteem, Personal Vision and Goals, Social and Emotional Skills, Moral Character, and Academic Success and Work Ethic.

**Glee & Guitar Club** is for all CMS students interested in choral singing/playing the guitar.

**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.

**Interact Club** involves students in community service projects to better serve our area. Membership is open to all students.

**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 from 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 Magazine Club** create/produce 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 Counts** helps build confidence in students of all ability and interest levels by giving them opportunities to engage in unique math activities in a relaxed social setting.

**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.

**Odyssey of the Mind** is an international organization that promotes creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in students through competition. Students learn to work in teams. These long-term problems are solved over weeks and months. At the competition, the teams are given an on-the-spot "spontaneous" problem to solve.

**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 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.

**Rockdale Co. Sheriff's Office Explorers** is an introduction to various phases of law enforcement. It is sponsored by the Rockdale Co. 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.

**Six Pillars to Success** is a club for 6th grade boys. The Six Pillars of Character is a framework for teaching good character and is composed of six ethical values: trustworthiness; respect; responsibility; fairness; caring; and citizenship. Each of the six character traits are used within our CHARACTER COUNTS! program for 6th grade boys to help establish a positive learning environment and a culture of kindness. The Six Pillars of Character are not political, religious or culturally biased.

**S.O.A.R. Mentoring** is open to young men focusing on the four core values of S.O.A.R. – Self-Control, On-Task Behavior, Appropriate Attitude, and Responsible Actions. This program will include life lessons, discussions, and guest speakers with the purpose to empower and educate young men about real-world experiences.

**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 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, field trips.

**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, FCY visits (high school group), and school-wide projects such as: Holiday Helpers, Biggest Heart Contest, We Care Beads, and cards to staff members.

**Top Dog Ambassadors** Student leadership and peer mentoring club for boys and girls.

**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.

## High School Club Listing

### Alpha Academy

S.A.D.D. Club  
Chess Club

### Heritage High

Anime Club  
Art Club  
Beta Club  
Drama Club  
Esports/Gaming Club  
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club  
French Club  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
Gardening Club  
HHS Patriot Ambassadors  
International Thespian Society  
Italian Club  
MCJROTC - Marine Corps Junior Reserve Training Corps  
MCJROTC Drone Team  
MCJROTC Drill Team  
Mock Trial Club  
National Art Honor Society  
National Honor Society  
National Honor Society of Dance Arts  
No H8 Club  
Orienteering Team  
Reading Bowl  
Rockdale Youth Leadership  
Spanish Honor Society  
Student Council  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
The Voice Peer Club  
The Poet's Society  
Tri-M Music Society  
Unique Butterflies

### Rockdale Career Academy

4-H Shotgun Club  
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 Assoc. (TSA)

### Rockdale County High

Anime Club  
Beta Club  
Black Diamonds Step Team  
Book Club  
Christ in You (CIU)  
Dart Club  
Drama Club  
Divine Diamonds Dance Team  
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)  
I.T. Crowd Club  
(continued - next column)

### Rockdale County High - continued

Interact Club  
International Club  
International Thespian Society  
Latino Student Union  
Mock Trial Club  
Mu Alpha Theta National HS Mathematics Honor Society  
National Art Honor Society  
National Honor Society Rockdale Youth Leadership  
Rockdale Youth Leadership  
Spanish Honor Society  
Student Council  
Tabletop Games  
Technology Student Association (TSA)  
The Voice Peer Club

### Rockdale Magnet School

Magnet Ambassadors  
Magnet Association of Artists  
Magnet Black STEM Student Union  
Magnet Book Club  
Magnet Camera Club  
Magnet Debate and Speech Team  
Magnet Foreign Film and Food Club  
Magnet Gathering  
Magnet Incorporated  
Magnet Math Team  
Magnet Peer Mentors  
Magnet Peer Tutors  
Magnet Robotics and Engineering Team  
Magnet Science Team  
Magnet Student Council  
Sophisticated Men of Excellence  
Women on the Way to Success

### Salem High

Anchor Club  
Anime Club  
Beta Club  
Debate Team  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Students Club  
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
I. T. Crowd Club  
Interact Club  
International Thespian Society  
Math Team/Club  
Men of Action Club  
Mock Trial Club  
National Honor Society  
Peer Leaders  
Rockdale Youth Leadership  
S.A.D.D. Club  
S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere)  
Salem Student-Athlete Association (SSAA)  
Sankofa Black History Club  
Science Club  
Student Government Club  
Student Council  
Tri-M Music Society  
Ultimate Frisbee Club  
Women of Action  
Yearbook Club

## High School Club Descriptions

**4-H Shotgun Club** is part of 4-H's shooting sports initiative which focuses on firearm safety and clay target shooting.

**Anchor Club**, a branch of Pilots Club International, offers young people an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others by promoting community service. Activities include raising money and collecting items to donate to local charities. The students also attend meetings and assist with the local Pilot Chapter. Open to all students.

**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.

**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.

**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 lead 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.

**Dart Club** provides the opportunity for students to participate in dart matches and tournaments. Students must adhere to strict safety rules and the Dart Club Code of Conduct.

**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.

**Divine Diamonds** 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.

**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 (and Students) Club** 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.

**French Club** is for students who have completed or are enrolled in a French class. It serves to enhance the French program through activities such as dining in a French restaurant, singing French songs, and viewing French films.

**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.

**Gardening Club** teaches students about green gardening techniques which are used to beautify the school campus.

**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 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.

**I.T. Crowd Club** allows students to share their knowledge of technology with other students and teachers while developing skills in cooperation, communication, and technology and assisting with incorporating 1:1 in the classroom. Participants are chosen by application by the school's technology team. This club is open to 4th -12th graders in all schools.

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

**International Club** fosters appreciation and awareness of other cultures. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include service projects, social events, and international pen pals.

**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.

**Latino Student Union** serves as a cultural, educational, political and social outlet for the Latino school community. This club assists, educates and prepares students to voice their opinion and address the needs of the Latino/Hispanic student body by making leaders while educating the school about their heritage and needs.

**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 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** meet's monthly to discuss popular books of interest. Open to students who enjoys 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 Debate and Speech Team** is a competitive team which encourages and expands public speaking abilities, promotes logical thinking skills and encourages students to think on their feet.

**Magnet Foreign Film & Food Club** meets for students to apply their language skills and learn more about cultures from around the work through food and film.

**Magnet 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 Incorporated** inspiring entrepreneurs meet to develop business ideas and innovate in their respective 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. Practices are held in the mornings and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**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 Robotics and Engineering Team** participates in competitions including FIRST Robotics Competition, BEST Robotics, and the MATE underwater ROV competition. All three 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 Student Council** serves the school community and participates in regional/national leadership organizations.

**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.

**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 Drone Team** is the National Youth Cyber Education program created to inspire students toward careers in cyber security or other science, technology, and engineering careers. Involves MCJROTC Cyber competitions. Membership will be restricted to enrolled JROTC cadets for competition purposes.

**Men of Action Club** develops and cultivates the academic, social, spiritual, and ethical principles of young men that they may be equipped to fulfill their purpose in life. Open to all interested males. Club activities include a variety of workshops, roundtable discussions, athletic activities, field trips to post-secondary institutions, etc.

**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.

**No H8 Club** 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.

**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.

**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.

**Reading Bowl** is a competition team where students read selected books among Georgia Children's Book Award nominees in order to be quizzed at the county-level Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. Winning teams move on to the state championship at the Annual Conference on Children's Literature in March.

**Rockdale Youth Leadership** fosters and builds student leadership qualities and is a division of the Rockdale County 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.

**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.

**Sankofa Black History Club** fosters an awareness of the unique and diverse issues concerning the African-American

community and communities of the African Diaspora. We will examine the ways in which issues are evident in history and how they are perpetuated in contemporary society. We will nurture the development of a positive self-image for individual students through the exploration of cultural heritage and history, create awareness of the importance of college education or career training, and foster an environment in which any student, regardless of race or ethnicity, feels welcome to explore his or her interests in Black history and the issues that affect the African-American community.

**S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere)** educates students about the effects and consequences of violence; encourages positive peer influences within the school and community; engages students in meaningful violence prevention efforts; empowers youth with knowledge and skills to provide service to their school and community.

**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.

**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** - 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.

**Table Top Game Club** Students play cooperative and competitive board or card games after school. The games range from strategy games to role playing games.

**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. Open to all interested students. Activities include fund raising gaming competitions, graduation concession, state and national competitions (Tech Day and State TSA competition both in Perry, GA; National TSA competition), leadership activities (CORE Retreat, Fall Leadership Conference).

**The Poets' Society** consists of poets, aspiring poets, and lyricists meeting twice monthly with a goal to encourage and promote the writing of poetry in all forms and aspects. Meetings will include mini workshops to expose students to various styles of poetic writing, while creating a safe space for writers to share and critique original poems or lyrics.

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

**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.

**Ultimate Frisbee Club** - a sport similar to soccer played with a Frisbee. A commitment to practice three days a week is needed. Competition against other area high schools with games once a week during the spring. Officially part of the state league with a tournament ending the season in April. All are welcome, no experience necessary.

**Unique Butterflies** are ladies who become the beautiful, intelligent, independent, and self-confident individuals they aspire to be through formal training in soft skills that are necessary for success in the next phase of life.

**Women of Action** develops and cultivates the academic, social, spiritual, and ethical principles of young women that they may be equipped to fulfill their purpose in life. Membership is open to females at Salem High School. Club activities include weekly devotionals, parent informational meeting, covenant of commitment seminar, etiquette seminar, exposure to colleges and post high school programs, nursing home visitations, community clean-ups, and financial seminars.

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

**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.

## **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**

The Rockdale County Board of Education (Board) has the authority and reserves the right to develop and implement a behavior code for all students. Administrators in RCPS may develop and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary. These rules and regulations shall apply to the student from his/her arrival on school property until his/her departure from school property.

Additionally, the rules and regulations of the Discipline Code shall apply to students while on school owned property, including school buses, or property not owned by the school but used by the school with permission of the owner, while at



school functions, or while under school supervision. The rules may also apply to students who are not on school property and who are not at a school function, activity, or event if a student engages in misconduct that could create a direct or potential danger or disruption to the general welfare and discipline of the school or other students.

Reasonable efforts will be made to use a behavior support process to avoid student disciplinary problems. These efforts will include, but may not be limited to, school counseling, Student Support Team (SST), referral to community agencies, Student Assistance Program (SAP), mentoring, and nurturing programs.

Parents/Guardians and students are advised that a student's disciplinary history will be taken 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 policy and regulations.

### **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 denied enrollment/re-enrollment or 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 supervised by an adult at all times.

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 Chief Officer for Safe Schools and Student Affairs. 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 Code Section 15-11-2 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 Code Section 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.

### **Behavior Code**

The Behavior Code for students enrolled in Rockdale County Public Schools is based on that part of the philosophy of this Board that each student has a right to expect to be able to learn in an environment free from distractions and duress of any sort. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for self and others, demonstrate courtesy to others, behave in a responsible manner, attend classes regularly, be prepared for classes, take seriously the course of study, dress appropriately, cooperate with school officials, respect other's property, and avoid violation of the student Code of Conduct. The Code, as presented on the following pages, lists the substantive rules and explains the potential disposition of rule violations.

The philosophy of the Rockdale County school system is that all students have the right to learn. In order for students to be able to accomplish this goal, each student must be in a safe and secure school climate. The requirements for maintaining an atmosphere that provides students with maximum opportunity for learning are presented in the Code.

The purposes of disciplinary action in our schools are to demonstrate to students how they must have ownership of the problem, to help the student prevent the problem from reoccurring, and to keep parents informed of misbehavior. The administration of discipline will be as fair and consistent as possible. Discipline will be administered in a progressive manner, when appropriate. The level of discipline imposed will be based on the severity of the misbehavior and consideration of student's disciplinary history. Parents/Guardians and students are advised that a student's disciplinary history will be taken into account when disciplinary 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. It should be pointed out that this list is not all-inclusive. A student committing an act of misconduct not listed will be subject to the discretionary authority of the administrator.

Parent involvement is necessary for correcting behavioral problems. Disciplinary actions may include any or all of the consequences addressed in this Code. Any student who receives fifteen (15) or more cumulative days of suspension for disciplinary reasons or who is guilty of violation 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 from school may not be on any Rockdale County school property during the suspension period without the 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, PreK-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 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or any other federal and state policies and procedures. Copies of the Discipline Code shall be available in each school, in each classroom and on the district/school web site. 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. Parents/Guardians and students are provided a form for signatures, acknowledging receipt and review of the Discipline Code of Conduct. Forms are provided by each school and can be found on the district website under the Parent section. 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 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
- Detention before or after school hours
- Long-Term Suspension
- Removal from classroom
- Reassigned to another class
- Expulsion
- Removal from bus
- Transfer to alternative placement
- Permanent Expulsion
- Referral to principal's office
- Suspension or removal from extracurricular activity
- Referral to law enforcement
- Parent Conference
- In-School Suspension
- Combination of any of the above
- Student Behavior Contract
- Short-Term Suspension

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.

### DISCIPLINE RULE

#### Rule 1: Disruption and Interference With School

		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
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 the Rockdale County schools.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
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.
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.
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.
1.5	A student shall not, in any other manner, by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, false report to authorities (i.e. prank calls), or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing the disruption or obstruction of any such lawful mission, process, or function.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.
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.
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.
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.
1.10	A student shall not inappropriately use an electronic device for purposes such as hacking school networks, modifying	Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result;

## DISCIPLINE RULE

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.

- 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.

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

Same disposition as 1.11.

Same disposition as 1.10.

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.

Same disposition as 2.1.

Same disposition as 2.1.

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.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 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.

### 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.

### 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 and consider whether or not the student acted in self 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.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Same disposition as 3.1.

Same disposition as 3.1.

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.

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 referral to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction

Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing; mandatory referral to law enforcement. Mandatory permanent expulsion.

**First Offense:** Suspension permissible 1-5 days; may refer to CHOICES Intervention Program in lieu of out-of-school suspension; mandatory parent conference prior to student's return from suspension or CHOICES to develop disciplinary contract.

**Second Offense:** Suspension permissible 1-10 days, recommendation to a disciplinary tribunal and referral to law enforcement;  
Note: (Maintain documentation of parent conference, disciplinary contract and chronic disruptor notification, CHOICES Program referral 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.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

5.4 **Aggravated Battery:** (State Code) 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.

Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension.  
Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing; mandatory referral to law enforcement.

### Rule 6: Bullying

A student shall not bully or attempt to bully another student. Bullying is defined as follows: An act which occurs 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, that is:

- 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 which means '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.

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. 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.

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.

- 6.2 Teasing: No student shall intentionally tease or aggravate another person either verbally or physically so that the person is distracted from learning.
- 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.
- 6.4 A student shall not create a hostile threatening, humiliating, or abusive educational environment.
- 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.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

Same disposition as 6.1.

Same disposition as 6.1.

Same disposition as 6.1.

## DISCIPLINE RULE

- 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.
- 6.7 A student shall not retaliate against another student for reporting bullying.
- 6.8 **Cyberbullying** 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 (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (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. 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.

## 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 class work 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 two 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 chahka, nun

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Same disposition as 6.1.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to CHOICES; mandatory parent conference to develop discipline contract; maximum penalties may be applied if injuries result.

Same disposition as 6.1.

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.

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 for a student on a case-by-case basis.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; mandatory referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may recommend long-term suspension to expulsion. All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.

**DISCIPLINE RULE**

chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having a 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.

**MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION**

7.4 A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit tear gas, mace, pepper spray, or any other similar agent. Same disposition as 7.1.

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. Same disposition as 7.1.

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. 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, etc.) Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result.

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.

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, 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. Automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; automatic ten-day out-of-school suspension; mandatory referral for a Student Disciplinary Hearing; student participation in Seven Challenges.

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. Same disposition as 8.2.  
Note: All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

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 1000 feet of school property. Automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction and ten days out-of-school suspension with mandatory referral for a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

8.5 A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit alcohol or substances represented or thought to be Same disposition as 8.4.



## DISCIPLINE RULE

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 1000 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.

- 9.2 A student shall not attempt to evade school personnel or attempt to avoid a conference or search by school personnel.

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).

- 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 would endanger their health or the health of others.
2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
3. Celebrating a religious holiday.
4. Absences mandated by other governmental agencies such as court order or pre-induction physical for the armed services.
5. Conditions that render attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting for a period not to exceed one day.
7. Absences for a student whose parent is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for, or is on leave from, overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat supporting post. Such student shall be granted excused absences up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to such parent's deployment or during such parent's leave.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Up to 10 days suspension and referral to law enforcement agency at discretion of principal.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

1-4 Unexcused Absences:  
disciplinary actions determined by the local school i.e. parental notification from teacher, parental conference with school administrator, etc.

5 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.

## 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

### Rule 11: Dress and Grooming

The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular 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 so as 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, and bandannas are not allowed. Wallet chains are not allowed. A student shall not dress in an immodest or extreme fashion. Examples of such extremes include, but are not limited to:

- Shoelessness
- 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

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.

### 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.

### Rule 13: Refusal to Accept Disciplinary Action

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

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

- Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
- Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
- Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
- Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

**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).

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 Rockdale County school campus at the owner's expense for repeated campus vehicle violations.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days  
Long-term suspension or expulsion for second violation

## DISCIPLINE RULE

### 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
- 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.

### Rule 16: Misbehavior on Bus

A student shall not violate any bus rules of the Rockdale County 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.

### 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

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

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.

Same disposition as 14.1.

Same disposition as 14.1.

**1st offense:** Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Mandatory parent conference. Mandatory behavior contract (specific to gang-related activity) before returning to school.

**2nd offense:** Mandatory ten-day home suspension. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Automatic Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

At the principal's discretion and in cooperation with the Transportation Department, suspension from bus and/or school is permissible. Principal may refer to a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing. School may recommend threat assessment administered by School Social

## DISCIPLINE RULE

in violation of a school rule that involved one or more of the following violent criminal offenses:

- aggravated battery (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-24)
- aggravated child molestation (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4)
- aggravated sexual battery (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.2)
- aggravated sodomy (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-2)
- armed robbery (O.C.G.A. § 16-8-41)
- first degree arson (O.C.G.A. § 16-7-60)
- kidnapping (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-40)
- murder (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-1)
- rape (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1)
- voluntary manslaughter (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-2) or
- terroristic threat (O.C.G.A. § 16-11-37).

- 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.

## MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Worker in cases involving terroristic threats; automatic referral to law enforcement that has jurisdiction.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to Student Disciplinary Hearing.

### 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.
- 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.
- 18.3 A student shall not engage in any form of inappropriate bodily contact or display of affection.
- 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 of the other gender or with the opposite gender with the purpose of engaging in affectionate or inappropriate behavior(s).
- 18.5 A student shall not engage in sexual harassment toward any person on school property, 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, unwelcome:
- A. verbal harassment of a sexual nature or abuse;
  - B. pressure for sexual activity;
  - C. sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact; and,
  - D. behavior, verbal or written words or symbols directed at an individual because of gender.
- 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.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; must refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to Student Disciplinary Hearing on a case-by-case basis.

Automatic 10 day suspension; recommendation for expulsion; refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may recommend long-term suspension on a case by case basis.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may recommend long-term suspension on a case by case basis.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

**DISCIPLINE RULE****MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION****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 persons attending school-related functions or otherwise show disrespect for school employees or others attending school-related functions.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days. May refer to CHOICES; develop discipline contract for repeatedly violating rule.

**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.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

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 while under school supervision.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days. In lieu of suspension successful completion of Seven Challenges.

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.

Same disposition as 20.2.

20.4 A student shall not possess, use, sell and/or transmit electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizer or nicotine delivery system products or paraphernalia.

Same disposition as 20.2.

**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.

0 grade.

**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.

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.

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 1-10 days. May recommend long-term suspension.

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

23.1 No student shall use a computer or any electronic 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.

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

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 and prosecution under O.C.G.A. §16-9-93; may refer to law enforcement that has jurisdiction.

**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.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. Note: Remaining on or returning to campus while on suspension will result in referral to police for trespassing.

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.

Same disposition as 24.1.

24.3 A student shall not loiter on any school campus or school system property.

Same disposition as 24.1.

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 and revoke user access to internet on campus.

**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, while a student is not on school property or at a school function, activity, or event, which directly or potentially has an adverse effect on the good order, discipline, and welfare in the school, 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.

Same as for violation of rule(s) while on campus.

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; longterm suspension or expulsion.

**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.

May recommend longterm suspension or expulsion.

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

In accordance with Georgia Code 20-2-735, parents/guardians are encouraged to inform their children on consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of under-age sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

## **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.

## **Teacher Authority/Responsibility**

Teachers have the authority to remove from 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. Local school administrators shall establish at each school at least one Placement Review Committee. 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. The Placement Review Committee shall have the authority to:

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

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/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.

## **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 the Rockdale County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The Sports Equity Coordinator for the school system is the Chief Officer for Safe Schools and Student Affairs, 1143 West Avenue, Conyers, Georgia 30012, 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**

Middle and high school 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 twenty 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 his or her abilities. Gifted services are designed to:

- Provide academically challenging opportunities.
- Allow for independent work.
- Encourage the development of “new” ideas and products.
- Integrate multiple disciplines.
- Encourage complex, abstract critical thinking.
- Increase self-understanding and self-evaluation.

## The Process of Identifying Gifted Students Screening and Referral

Twice a year, the Gifted Support Team will screen referrals and determine whether a student should to be given further evaluation for possible gifted services. A student may be referred by a teacher, parent, peer, administrator, or the student may refer himself/herself. 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, record student performance in an on-line database, and generate report cards. At the end of each 9 weeks, teachers evaluate student performance on the following scale:

- **Not Yet Demonstrated**
- **Emerging**
- **Progressing**
- **Meets the Standard**
- **Exceeds the Standard**

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

- A = 90 – 100**
- B = 80 – 89**
- C = 75 – 79**
- D = 70 – 74**
- 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 in a special education program may receive a High School Diploma by meeting all criteria. Special education students may obtain a Special Education Diploma by meeting criteria specified on their Individual Education Plan (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.
- The Individual Education Plan (IEP) will specify whether core courses taken as part of an IEP shall receive core Carnegie unit credit. Remedial unit credits must be included among the elective unit credits and may not count as meeting specific core curriculum course requirements. For purposes of this policy, developmental special education courses are not considered remedial.

## 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**

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.

Middle school students may earn Carnegie unit credit in foreign language, math, science, and some CTAE courses. To receive credit, a middle school student must earn a grade of 70 percent or above for **both** first and second semesters. Middle school students may not earn half Carnegie unit credits. The entire course must be repeated with the minimum scores met in order to receive Carnegie unit credit.

Carnegie units in middle school will be recorded as a "P" on the high school transcript. 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.

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 IED, Post-Secondary Options. 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** - 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.

**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/Modern 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 modern language or Latin to meet admission requirements. CTAE, Fine Arts, Modern 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.

**Hall Pass** Students who are released from class must have a pass which includes time, destination, teacher's signature.

## **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) or call 1-800-505-4732.

## **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 and/or uncomplicated cases of pregnancy.

## **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:

- The 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 (HIPPA)

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 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 emails 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 charge 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.

## **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 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.

## **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 employee of Rockdale County Public Schools ("District") to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination

policies: Chief of Human Resources, 954 N. Main Street, Conyers, Georgia 30012, 770-483-4713. The Non-Discrimination Policy is set forth in its entirety in Board Policy JAA on [rockdaleschools.org](http://rockdaleschools.org), or you may ask for a copy at any school office.

## **Open Campus**

Open Campus alternative secondary program 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. The program is designed for students who wish to accelerate completion of the remaining required units for graduation. This program is available to students at least 16 years of age who are not currently serving long-term suspension or expulsion. The school operates on a mini-semester plan. The school year is divided into four 36-day terms. Students are required to follow a strict Attendance Policy and may be withdrawn after five absences. 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 one-day Parent Academy events offered at Rockdale Career Academy. These are district-wide learning opportunities for adults and teens in the community. Workshops include a variety of topics, such as the state-of-the-system by the superintendent, financial planning, gardening, resume writing, positive discipline, preparing for college, and more. All activities are FREE. 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 Portal – Infinite Campus**

Infinite Campus provides students and parents/guardians with real-time access to their information as it is entered by teachers, counselors, and staff. 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. You will need to obtain an activation code from your school.

## **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

Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Specialists work with students exhibiting chronic behavior issues. P&I Specialists assist with behavior plans, classroom management, prevention programs, and the transition of students to and from Alpha Academy and the juvenile justice system. The goal of P&I services is to help students avoid behavior that would result in suspension or expulsion. Keeping students in school with limited interruptions in instruction is a 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 no later than August 16, 2019, 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 no later than August 16, 2019, 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.

Elementary School		Middle School and High School		
<u>Progress Reports</u>	<u>Report Cards</u>	<u>Deficiency Reports</u>	<u>Progress Reports</u>	<u>Report Cards</u>
August 23, 2019	October 11, 2019	August 23, 2019	October 11, 2019	January 10, 2020
November 8, 2019	January 10, 2020	November 8, 2019	March 20, 2020	May 29, 2020
February 7, 2020	March 20, 2020	February 7, 2020		
April 17, 2020	May 22, 2020	April 17, 2020		

## 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. RTI consists of four tiers: Tier 1 – standards-based instruction for all students; Tier 2 – needs based classroom interventions; Tier 3 – Student Support Team (SST) – individualized interventions; Tier 4 – specialized learning (special education, ESOL, gifted). Each school has an RTI/SST chairperson.

## 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)

RVC 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. NOTE: RVC courses may not be accepted by the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse for DI and DII athletes.

## 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 major Atlanta radio/television stations as early as possible. 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 RCPS Counseling Program is to provide comprehensive developmental support for academic, career, and personal/social growth of all students so they will make positive contributions to society, apply learning to life, and excel based on personal ability.

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 by scheduling with the counseling secretary. 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 program and offers free or reduced-price meals to eligible students. Application forms for the program are available on the district website 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.

## 2019-20 School Meal Prices

Breakfast:	Student	Adult	Lunch:	Student	Adult
Elementary	\$1.00	\$1.60	Elementary	\$2.10	\$3.25
Middle/High	\$1.20	\$1.60	Middle/High	\$2.35	\$3.25

## **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.
Alpha Academy	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.		
Rockdale Career Academy	8:05 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.		
Open Campus	Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m. - 1 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 special education students, but also routinely provide support services to all students.

## **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 Director of Community & Student Support at 770-860-4273.

## **Special Education**

Special education services are provided for students with disabilities who require a specially designed instructional program based on eligibility. Services are available in grades Pre-K - 12. Special education services/supports are determined based on individual student needs. Information on the eligibility process can be found on the district website 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. RCPS accepts SB-10 transfer requests annually from May 15th - June 10th. Decisions are made by July 10th. The Georgia Department of Education provides information to assist parents with the process. See website: <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Policy/Pages/Special-Needs-Scholarship-Program.aspx>

### **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 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 (featuring Aerospace Engineering) 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.

### **Summer School, Intercession, 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, intercession, 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 Student Support Services 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 Behavior Code (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 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.

### **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 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.

**1** Barksdale Elementary School  
596 Oglesby Bridge Road, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-483-9514

**2** C.J. Hicks Elementary School  
1300 Pine Log Road, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-483-4410

**3** Flat Shoals Elementary School  
1455 Flat Shoals Road, Conyers, GA 30013  
770-483-5136

**4** Hightower Trail Elementary School  
2510 Highway 138, NE, Conyers, GA 30013  
770-388-0751

**5** Honey Creek Elementary School  
700 Honey Creek Road, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-483-5706

**6** J.H. House Elementary School  
2930 Highway 20 North, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-483-9504

**7** Lorraine Elementary School  
3343 East Fairview Road, SW, Stockbridge, GA 30281  
770-483-0657

**8** Peek's Chapel Elementary School  
2800 Avalon Parkway, Conyers, GA 30013  
770-761-1842

**9** Pine Street Elementary School  
500 Sigman Road, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-483-8713

**10** Shoal Creek Elementary School  
1300 McWilliams Road, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-929-1430

**11** Sims Elementary School  
1821 Walker Road, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-922-0666

**12** Conyers Middle School  
400 Sigman Road, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-483-3371

**13** General Ray Davis Middle School  
3375 East Fairview Road, SW, Stockbridge, GA 30281  
770-388-5675

**14** Edwards Middle School  
2633 Stanton Road, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-483-3255

**15** Memorial Middle School  
3205 Underwood Road, Conyers, GA 30013  
770-922-0139

**16** Heritage High School  
2400 Granade Road, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-483-5428

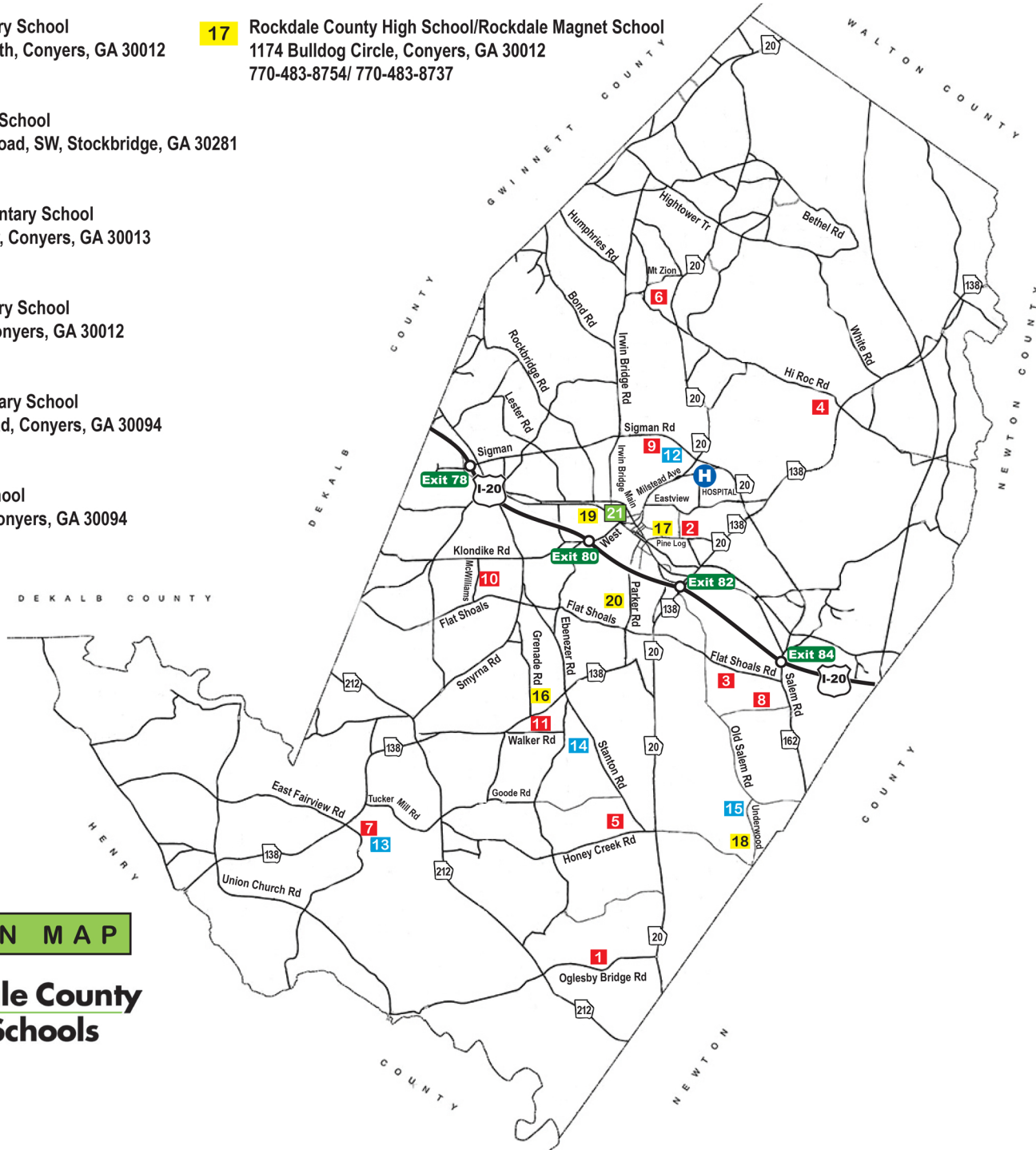
**17** Rockdale County High School/Rockdale Magnet School  
1174 Bulldog Circle, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-483-8754/ 770-483-8737

**18** Salem High School  
3551 Underwood Road, Conyers, GA 30013  
770-929-0176

**19** Open Campus  
1115 West Avenue, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-388-5727

**20** Rockdale Career Academy  
1064 Culpepper Drive, Conyers, GA 30094  
770-388-5677

**21** Central Office  
954 N. Main Street, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-483-4713  
and  
Alpha Academy  
1045 North Street, Conyers, GA 30012  
770-922-8636



**LOCATION MAP**



# RCPS

**Committed to World-Class**

**VISION**  
The Vision of RCPS is to be a world-class learning community where all students graduate college or career ready in a progressive and interconnected society.

**MISSION**  
The Mission of RCPS is to ensure student success for all through a world-class education with advanced opportunities and personalized support.

## Standards for Quality

World-Class  
People

World-Class  
Teaching  
and  
Learning

World-Class  
Operational  
Resources

World-Class  
Culture  
and  
Climate

World-Class  
Community  
Support  
and  
Engagement

## Performance Objectives

Recruit  
World-Class  
Employees

Retain  
World-Class  
Employees

Develop  
World-Class  
Employees

Prepare  
Students for  
College and  
Career Options

Strengthen  
Cohesive  
Academic  
Support Systems

Increase  
Personalized  
Learning  
Opportunities

Expand  
Diverse and  
Sustainable  
Funding Sources

Build  
State-of-the-Art  
Facilities

Deliver Premier  
Operational  
Services

Foster a Positive  
and Welcoming  
Organizational  
Environment

Conduct  
Safe and Orderly  
School  
Environments

Administer  
Customized  
Social/Emotional  
Student Support

Expand Family  
Engagement  
and  
Involvement

Expand  
Community  
Engagement  
and Involvement

Improve Internal  
and External  
Branding and  
Communication

## Initiatives / Action Plans

National & International Employment Recruiting | Staff Development | RCPS Strategic Compensation Model

Expanded Early Learning | Enhanced Reading Support | Rigorous Mathematics | Workforce Readiness

Decrease Operational Expenses | Upgrade Facilities to New Construction Standards | Keep Pace with Advancing Technology

School Safety Training & Equipment | Student Voice | Family Outreach | Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

Alumni Engagement | Build Brand Recognition | Cultural Competency Training | Strengthen Community Partnerships



**Model for Continuous Growth**