

Rockton School District

1050 East Union Street

Rockton, Illinois 61072

(815)624-7143



Student/Parent Handbook 2025–2026

www.rockton140.org

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ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 140

MISSION STATEMENT

To work together with families and the community to inspire each child and to provide an outstanding educational foundation.

VISION STATEMENT

The Rockton School District develops productive, compassionate, responsible, innovative, and well-prepared global citizens.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kelsey Lueshen, President
David Lombardo, Vice President
Trish Burgan, Secretary
Charlie Hart
Derek Erwin
Brendan Caver
Abigail Czaja

BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room at Rockton Grade School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Rockton School District, a district committed to serving the needs of all students. The Rockton staff works hard to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment where each child has the opportunity to succeed. Our school district has many wonderful traditions, including strong parent involvement and dedicated staff participation. Through this vital partnership between home and school, the Rockton School District provides a solid foundation for success in learning throughout the lifetime of our students.

This parent and student handbook provides our school families with detailed information about our school district policies and programs. More importantly, the handbook contains information on how parents can be involved in their child's education. Although it is impossible to cover every item about our schools in this handbook, it does outline how home and school can work together to assure the success of each student.

Our handbook is only a summary of the Rockton School District policies that govern the operation of the district. The complete manual of district policies is available for public viewing at the district office located at Rockton Grade School or on the district website – www.rockton140.org. In addition, this handbook may be amended during the school year without notice.

The last page in the handbook needs to be completed, signed and returned to your child's school. After reviewing the handbook information and talking with your child about the items that pertain to him or her, please have them sign the form and return it to their teacher within two weeks.

We welcome your questions or suggestions regarding the content of this handbook. Please contact the building principal or the superintendent's office with your questions or ideas.

Enjoy a great year of learning and make sure you stay in touch with your school.

Mr. Daniel Phelps
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The Rockton School District is made up of three attendance centers. **The district office is located inside the Rockton Grade School.**

District Office

Daniel Phelps, Superintendent
1050 E. Union Street, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-7143
FAX (815) 624-4640

Rockton Grade School

Home to our Preschool through 2nd grade students
School Hours: 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

Kindyl Etnyre, Principal
1050 E. Union Street, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-8585
FAX (815) 624-1002

Erin Hauser, Assistant Principal
1050 E. Union Street, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-8585
FAX (815) 624-1002

Whitman Post Elementary School

Home to our 3rd through 5th grade students
School Hours: 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

Megan Forsythe, Principal
1060 E. Union Street, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-4006
FAX (815) 624-2125

Nicole Nelson, Assistant Principal
1060 E. Union Street, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-4006
FAX (815) 624-2125

Stephen Mack Middle School

Home to our 6th through 8th grade students
School Hours: 7:42 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

Justin Bonne, Principal
11810 Old River Road, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-2611
FAX (815) 624-5900

Jodie Freeman, Assistant Principal/Technology Administrator
11810 Old River Road, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone (815) 624-2611
FAX (815) 624-5900

BUILDING SAFETY AND VISITORS

For the safety and security of our buildings and individuals, all visitors must register and sign-in in the school office. Individuals desiring to visit a classroom must request approval through the building principal.

Parents and volunteers should not bring children who are not enrolled in our school with them when they are volunteering. Exceptions may be made during assemblies or special class parties.

Visitor Guideline

In order to maintain security in our buildings, the following guidelines are required for all visitors to our schools:

1. All visitors must register in the school office and receive a visitor's pass to wear while in the building.
2. Any person seen in the building without a pass will be required to report to the office immediately and register.
3. Staff members will notify the office immediately when they send a visitor to the office to register.
4. Visitors are not allowed in any classroom without a visitor's pass.
5. Prior to leaving the building, visitors must return their passes to the office and sign out.
6. All persons refusing to comply with these procedures will be reported to the office immediately and the police department will be contacted if appropriate.

POLICE LIAISON

The Police Liaison is a sworn Rockton Police Officer assigned to the school district with a legitimate educational interest in safety, order, and discipline in the school. If the Police Liaison has a reasonable suspicion of a school or legal violation, he/she may act under the Principal's authority and may interview or be present during interviews with students. The same authority is given to other officers designated to substitute for the Police Liaison when the police liaison cannot be present. Police liaison will contact parents after interviews.

Interview of Students

If a Law Enforcement Officer other than the Police Liaison from outside the school building arrives to interview or contact a student as part of a criminal investigation, the following procedures will be utilized:

- A. The Law Enforcement Officer shall first report to the Principal or Associate/Assistant Principals or Police Liaison of the purpose of the visit.
- B. The Principal or Associate/Assistant Principals or Police Liaison will make reasonable attempts to contact the parents or the persons responsible for a student's welfare, prior to permitting a local law enforcement officer to have contact with the student, and notify them that a local law enforcement officer is present at the school and the student is subject to an interview.
- C. In extreme emergency situations, DCFS employees, law enforcement personnel or treating physicians may, in effecting temporary protective custody, request that the District not notify parents until the child's safety is ensured.
- D. If the Law Enforcement Officer is investigating a criminal matter not involving or unrelated to the school, the Law Enforcement Officer will be denied contact with the student unless the parents or persons responsible for the student's welfare consent to the contact, or the Law Enforcement Officer has an arrest or search warrant or a court order ordering the contact. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be given the opportunity to be present and be represented by legal counsel at their own expense. Interviews of minor students without permission of the parent(s)/guardian(s) is not permitted unless a legal process is presented or in emergency situations.
- E. Interviews will be conducted in a private setting. If the parent(s)/guardians(s) are absent, the Building Principal or their designee will be present during the interview.
- F. No minor student shall be removed from the school by the police officer without the consent of a parent(s)/guardian(s), except upon service of a valid warrant of arrest or in cases of warrant less temporary protective custody.
- G. The Police Liaison may act under the Principal's authority and may interview or be present during interviews with students. The same authority is given to other officer designated to substitute for the Police Liaison when the Police Liaison cannot be present.

Search of School Building and Grounds (including lockers and parking lot)

Searches by school officials, including the Police Liaison, will be conducted so as to protect the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the District to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process. School officials have the recognized authority based on the established standard of "reasonable suspicion" to conduct searches. Lockers are the property of the School District and may be subject to search at any time, as there is no expectation of privacy in them.

KEEPING OUR BUILDINGS LOOKING NICE

A nice looking building enhances the learning environment. Students are expected to assist in keeping our building clean. Damage or destruction of school property may result in fines and/or other disciplinary measures.

RESTRICTED PROPERTY

School district buildings and grounds are restricted property, no loitering, soliciting, skateboards or roller blades are allowed without prior administrative approval.

STAFF DIRECTORY

DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

Superintendent	Daniel Phelps
Curriculum Coordinator	Lindy Daniels
Technology Director	Konnor Mogenis
Technology Support	Tyler Spranger
Maintenance Director	Jamie Lunsman
Food Service Coordinator	Kelly Weber
Business Manager	Kim Garst
Administrative Assistant	Tara Kochheiser
Human Resources Specialist	Jessica Peight

ROCKTON GRADE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Kindyl Etnyre
Assistant Principal	Erin Hauser
Secretary	Lisa Rehfeldt
Assistant Secretary	Cheryl Daubert
School Nurse	Carey Hubbell
Pre-K	Miranda Keip
Pre-K & Early Childhood	Arisa Midgett
Kindergarten	Kelly Cleaveland Kaitlyn Feehan Madison Kloster Paige Lanning Rachel Maddix Jamise Roberts Mary Vosberg
1 st Grade	Rachel Wilkinson Faith Hamann Nicole Gorsline Brianna Heitz Kristine Protz Amy Selover Amy Stevens
2 nd Grade	Michelle Anderson Betsy Atkins Brooke Earlywine Sam Hawkinson Jessica Polnow Erin Rollinson Mary Spors
Special Education	Jen Bryant

	Laura Lueshen Hannah Rehfeldt
Speech Pathologist	Erin Parker Keegan Ray Taylor Anderson
Counselor/Social Worker	Rebecca Scheppmann Caitlin Brock
Psychologist	Taylor Daniels Aliko Siao
Title I	Kristin Schmidt
Art	April Graves
Library	Kelly Baumgartner
Music	Stephanie Ballard
Physical Education	Brian Martin
Math Interventionist	Peyton Wilhelmi
ESL Teacher	Abi Krebs

WHITMAN POST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Megan Forsythe
Assistant Principal	Nicole Nelson
Secretary	Emily Sandall
Assistant Secretary	Alison Booth
School Nurse	Whitney Smitley
3 rd Grade	Shelia Ball Cari Benkovich Laura Brooks Caitlin O'Brien Molly Parker Lindsey Tackeberry Taylor Williams
4th Grade	Amy Bigwood Kristin Fish Taylor Jacobi Mikhaela Slovacek Katie Kuhn Emily Larson Carol Rowland
5th Grade	Megan Genens Taylor Hedrington Amanda Mathews Amy Meier Ashley Negri Gina Tuula Lance Tuula
Art	Dan Enderle
Social Worker	Rachel Garbutt Caitlin Brock
Psychologist	Taylor Daniels Aliko Siao
Music	Zachary Newman
Physical Education	Stori Dimke

Reading	Laura Benkovich
Speech and Language	Laura Erwin
Pathologists	Taylor Anderson
Special Education	Paige VanSistine
	Karrie Hounshell
	Kaila Strubhart
	Lexie Robinson
STEM/Coding Teacher	Mindy Clark
Math Interventionist	Andrea Leitner
EL Teacher	Abi Krebs

STEPHEN MACK MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Justin Bonne
Assistant Principal/ Technology Administrator	Jodie Freeman
Secretary	Jenny Middleton
Assistant Secretary	Tina Bottensek
School Nurse	Ricki Hickok-Robles

6 th Grade	Carol Flohr
	Ann Hart
	Amy Hommema
	Ashley Mumma
	Emma Schindler
	Mark Schroeder
	Cori Taylor
	Laura Zimmerman

7 th Grade	Carol Flohr
	Dalton Holcomb
	James Ivacic
	Diana Kelly
	Jessica Krause
	Chad Szarzynski
	Sally Southworth

8 th Grade	Lucinda Balandis
	Bryan Collins
	Matt Hammes
	James Ivacic
	Annie Johnson
	Olivia Spera
	Monica Way

Art	Janessa Fiduccia
Band	Luke McMillian
Technology	Eric Eiss
Spanish	Dulce Martin
Incubator	Cori Taylor
Physical Education/Health	Dan Baumgartner
Physical Education	Grant Oleson
	Leah Carter
Social Worker	Beth DeVries
	Aiesha Rice-Dainty
School Psychologist	Taylor Daniels

	Aliki Siao
Math/Reading Interventionist	Stephanie Bennington
ESL Teacher	Abi Krebs
Special Education	Cynthia Heckman Tania Mutton Kristi Holstein Jenna Arends Karrie Hounshell Morgan DelMastro
IIP	Kristin Kitto

SCHOOL FEES AND ATTENDANCE

FEES

Instructional Material Fees:

Early Childhood	\$30.00
Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2	\$95.00
Grades 3, 4, and 5 (includes assignment notebook)	\$95.00
Grades 6, 7, and 8 (includes assignment notebook and additional book fees)	\$125.00

Athletic Fees

Per Sport	\$50.00
Individual Maximum	\$150.00
Family Maximum	\$250.00

Club/Activity Fees

National Junior Honor Society (one-time fee upon acceptance into society)	\$20.00
Play	\$25.00
Quiz Bowl	\$25.00
Science Olympiad	\$25.00

WAIVER OF SCHOOL FEES

Waivers will be granted to families whose children are eligible for **free** lunches or breakfast under the National Breakfast, Lunch, Milk and Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Program and who request in writing a waiver of those fees. Other families may submit a written request to the superintendent to consider a waiver of fees based on the financial status of the family. The student's parents/guardians are veterans or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line, the student shall be eligible for a fee and fine waiver. Forms for fee waivers are available on the district's website www.rockton140.org and can be filled out and submitted online. All fees for Homeless students are waived.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Physical examinations are required by state law for all pupils prior to their entrance into Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades. Parents must provide a "Certificate of Child Health Examination." Furthermore, section 27-8 of the School Code requires students to receive periodic physical examinations and immunizations against communicable diseases. Illinois students – these requirements must be met before the child is allowed to begin school. New to Illinois students – must submit physical and immunization within 30 days of registration or your child will then be excluded.

The District also requires that students enrolling in our Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Program have a physical examination and provide proof of immunization.

DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

The Illinois Department of Public Health has recently amended the School Code for dental examinations. It is now required that students entering kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades have a dental exam. If you do not have a dentist or dental insurance and need a waiver, please call the nurse at your school.

VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted as mandated by public law for all kindergarten through eighth grade students and new students during the fall of every school year. Vision and hearing screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to participate in this vision and hearing screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months and the evaluation is on file at the school. Vision and hearing screening is not optional. If you have questions, please contact the school nurse.

RESIDENT STUDENTS

Only students who are residents of the District may attend a District school, except as otherwise provided below or in State law. A student's residence is the same as the person who has legal custody of the student.

A person asserting legal custody over a student, who is not the child's natural or adoptive parent, shall complete a signed statement. The statement will affirm: (a) he or she has assumed and exercises legal responsibility for the child, (b) the reason the child lives with him or her, other than to receive an education in the District, he or she exercises full control over the child regarding daily educational and medical decisions. In addition, the child's natural or adoptive parent, if available, shall complete a signed statement or Power of Attorney stating: (a) the role and responsibility of the person with whom their child is living, (b) the person with whom the child is living has full control over the child regarding daily educational and medical decisions in case of emergency, and (c) that custody of the child is by an adult who demonstrates that in fact, he or she has assumed and exercises legal responsibility for the child and provides the child with a regular fixed night time abode for purposes other than to have access to educational programs of the District.

A student whose family moves out of the District during the school year will be permitted to attend school for the remainder of the year without payment of tuition. The District will not be responsible for the transportation of students who do not live in the District.

TUITION PUPILS

New resident families who provide evidence that they **will be** legal residents of the Rockton School District No. 140 may, upon approval of the superintendent, be allowed to enroll their children in the district and must pay tuition to attend school in this district as required by law and as outlined in our non-resident policy (7.60). The tuition rate will be established by the School Code Chapter 105 Section 10-20.12a. One-half day Kindergarten students will be charged one-half the tuition rate. Parents or guardians may appeal to the Board of Education for special arrangements. Tuition paid will not be refunded if the tuition student is suspended or expelled.

Tuition must be paid quarterly in advance of the first day of each quarter. If a student becomes a bonafide resident of the school district during the first quarter of the school year and evidence of residency is presented to the superintendent the first quarter tuition will be refunded. If the student is not a bonafide resident of the school district by the end of the first quarter, the first quarter's tuition is forfeited by the student and the second quarter tuition must be paid. If the student becomes a bonafide resident of the school district during the second quarter of the school year and evidence of residency is presented to the superintendent, the second quarter tuition will be refunded, likewise the third and fourth quarters. All tuition payments will be deposited upon receipt unless other arrangements are made with the superintendent. Payment must be received on or before the due date.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ensures the educational rights and protection of homeless children. A family is considered homeless if they: live in a shelter or motel; share housing with relatives because they have lost their housing; live in a campground, car, old building or other temporary shelter; don't have a permanent address. If you feel your family may be considered homeless, please contact the district Homeless Liaison, Mrs. Tara Kochheiser at 815-624-7143 or kochheiser@rockton140.org.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

Consistent attendance at school is extremely important. If a student is going to be absent from school, the parents must call the school by 8:00 a.m. each day the student is absent. If the school is not contacted regarding a child's absence, we will call the parents' home to find out why the child is not at school. The number of instructional minutes for a full day is

240 minutes for grades kindergarten and first grade and 300 minutes for grades 2 through 8. The number of instructional minutes for a half day is 120 minutes for grades kindergarten and first grade and 150 minutes for grades 2 through 8.

Being on time is also an important habit to develop. Students arriving after 7:45 a.m. at RGS and WPES or after 7:42 a.m. at SMMS will be considered tardy. A student who is tardy must report to the office upon arrival, with a note or phone call from the parent/guardian explaining the reason for being tardy. Students in grades 3-8 who are consistently tardy will make up the time missed at another time during the day or after school. Detention may be used after the third tardy and for each tardy thereafter.

Guidelines for Absences

The Regional Office of Education has issued guidelines to aid parents regarding excessive absences. More than four parent/guardian excused absences in one semester is considered excessive. The school will monitor excessive absences, both excused and unexcused, and the building principal or their designee will determine referral for appropriate services. The determination as to whether an absence is marked as either excused or unexcused will be left to the discretion of the building principals. Parents of children with chronic illnesses/absences should contact their child's school.

The following are some health guidelines that may be helpful in determining if your child should be absent:

1. Fever over 100.4 degrees or higher– if recovering from an illness, temperature should be normal for 24 hours without fever reducers before returning to school
2. Sore throat with fever or sore throat with spots visible in back of throat
3. Cold-with heavy cough and/or profuse nasal discharge (clear or discolored)
4. Unexplained skin rash
5. Vomiting or diarrhea related to illness
6. Headaches or tooth pain requiring medication/treatment
7. Unexplained red inflamed eyes (with or without discharge)
8. Known contagious diseases such as chicken pox, pink eye, impetigo, etc.
9. Unresponsive/lethargic behavior lasting more than one hour
10. If your child has been seen by a doctor, it is always helpful for school personnel to be informed about the doctor's findings and treatment.

Return to School Guidelines after Illness

1. 24 hours fever-free **without** fever-reducing medications
2. 24 hours since the last occurrence of diarrhea
3. 24 hours since the last occurrence of vomiting
4. 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics for strep throat
5. 24 hours after the first dose of prescription eye drops for pink eye

Excused Absences

The school will or may request a note from the doctor for the student to return to school after an illness of 3 or more consecutive days.

A student shall be released from school, as an excused absence for illness (including mental or behavioral health), death in the immediate family, attendance at a civic event, family emergency, religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written or verbal notice to the school office prior to the anticipated absence.

Students leaving school during school hours is not encouraged. If it is necessary for a student to be dismissed for part of the school day, parents must communicate this to the school either by written note or telephone call. If you or someone you designate needs to pick up a child from school during school, it is necessary for you or that person to come to the office and sign your child out. The office will ask for verification regarding who is picking the child up. We will then contact the child in his or her classroom to come to the office. Students should report to the office if they return to school that day.

We request that parents arrange vacations that coincide with days when school is not scheduled. These are noted on the school calendar which is located on our website.

When a day or class is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what assignments must be completed. When an assignment or test date is announced before an absence and the student is absent on that date, the assignment or test must be made up on the day of return or in a reasonable timeframe. For other assignments, students have one school day to make up work for each day he/she was absent. Failure to complete all make-up work will result in not receiving credit for that work.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is for reasons not meeting the requirements of the excused or explained provisions. For unexcused absences no credit shall be granted for any schoolwork and no make-up tests will be given without principal approval. Some reasons for absence that are unexcused according to state and/or local regulations are as follows: missing the school bus, lack of ride to school, oversleeping. The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence. If no reason is provided it will be recorded as an unexcused absence.

TRUANCY

The School Board supports the principle that local school districts must have the responsibility for matters pertaining to student attendance. Further, the Board recognizes the following definitions:

Tuant – a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.

Valid Cause – a child may be absent from school because of illness, religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction, death in the immediate family, family emergency, attendance at a civic event, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the School Board or such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of the student.

The following supportive services may be offered to a student who is experiencing an attendance problem: Parent-teacher conferences; counseling services by social worker; counseling services by psychologist; alternative educational programs. When the supportive services of the school district have been offered to the student and if these measures prove ineffective and inappropriate behavior persists, the building principal shall refer the matter to the superintendent. The superintendent may call upon the resources of outside agencies such as the Juvenile Officers of the local police department or the Truant Office of the Educational Service Center. The school board superintendent, school district administrators and teachers shall assist and furnish information to aid truant officers in the performances of their duties.

In accordance with The School Code of Illinois, no punitive action, including out of school suspension, expulsions or court action shall be taken against a chronic truant for his or her truancy unless available supportive services and other school resources have been provided to the student.

STUDENT HEALTH **EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROCEDURES**

Emergency procedures for any student who is injured:

1. Emergency First Aid given as needed.
2. Notify parents, guardians, or family members indicated on emergency form.
3. If parents or guardians cannot be contacted, call the emergency number as indicated on the emergency or enrollment card.
4. Notify physician indicated on emergency form.
5. Transport as advised, by medical personnel to hospital, per information on designated emergency form.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Teachers and other non-administrative school employees, except registered school nurses, shall not be required to administer medication to students. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for administering medication to their children. Administering medication during school hours or during school-related activities is discouraged unless it is necessary for the critical health and well-being of the student. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may authorize their child to self-administer a medication according to the District's procedures for student self-administration of medication.

Administration of Medication in School

1. Medication is only to be administered during school hours if absolutely necessary.
2. A physician's written order must be received before medication can be administered. This includes over the counter medication.
3. The prescription label may be used as a written order.
4. Medication must be brought in the original container with the prescription label attached.
5. A physician may fax an order for any medication.
6. Delivery of medication to the office must be by parent/guardian or responsible party.
7. Parent/guardian must sign a medication consent form for administration of medication.
8. Any deviation from the above policy must be accompanied by a written order from the physician and parent.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

For further information please review Policy 7:270.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

All students with diabetes, asthma, seizure disorder, life-threatening allergies, and other medical conditions must submit an **Action Plan** to the school nurse. A separate plan for each medical condition must be submitted.

The first step of the action plan is to confirm the physician's treatment protocol for the administration of medication. The second step is to document the student's emergency contact numbers. Parents are requested to notify the school throughout the year if emergency numbers change.

Both the physician and the parent/guardian must sign this form. If needed, the physician may attach specific instructions for the student at school. With parents' permission, this form will be shared with necessary staff at school.

STUDENT CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

All students suspected of having a concussion, whether it was sustained in an interscholastic activity, including practice and competition, in P.E., or at another time are required to progress through the return-to-learn protocol. A student's best chance of full recovery from a concussion involves two critical components: cognitive and physical rest. Continued research has focused on the fact that cognitive rest is essential to the quick resolution of concussion symptoms. It is recommended that students who are experiencing concussion-like symptoms be examined by their physician.

STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

Each student and the student's parent/guardian shall be required to sign a concussion information receipt form each school year before participating in an interscholastic athletic activity. A student shall be removed from an interscholastic athletic practice or competition immediately if any of the following individuals believed that the student sustained a concussion during the practice and/or competition: a coach, a physician, a game official, an athletic trainer, the student's parent/guardian, the student, or any other person deemed appropriate under the return-to-play protocol. A student who was removed from interscholastic athletic practice or competition shall be allowed to return only after all statutory prerequisites are completed, including without limitation, the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols developed by the Concussion Oversight Team. An athletic team coach or assistant coach may not authorize a student's return-to-play or return-to-learn.

A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer. If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

ACCESS TO EPINEPHRINE AND INHALERS IN SCHOOLS

Public Act 97-0361 allows schools to voluntarily maintain a supply of emergency epinephrine injectors (EpiPens) for students that do not have a known allergy and inhaler for students having respiratory distress. A school nurse may administer an EpiPen to **any** student that he or she, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction or an inhaler for students experiencing respiratory distress. It is crucial that children with life-threatening allergies have immediate access to emergency epinephrine when anaphylaxis occurs. The supply of emergency epinephrine and inhalers allowed under this Act is not intended to replace epinephrine prescribed to students with known allergies.

NARCAN IN THE SCHOOLS

Under Public Act 103-0348, which took effect January 1, 2024, public and private schools are now required to keep a supply of an opioid antagonist on hand to be used in the event of an overdose. A school nurse may administer an opioid antagonist to a person whom the school nurse in good faith believes is having an opioid overdose while in school, while at a school-sponsored activity, while under the supervision of school personnel, or before or after normal school activities, such as while in after-school care on school-operated property. A school nurse may carry an opioid antagonist on his or her person while in school or at a school-sponsored activity.

EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY

Under Public Act 97-0361, a school district or non-public school and its employees and agents are to incur *no liability* for the administration of an EpiPen, provided the school nurse acted in good faith when administering the EpiPen to a student who he or she professionally believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction. Only in cases of willful and wanton conduct will liability be incurred. Therefore, if a student is injured or harmed due to the administration of epinephrine that a school obtained under the provisions of this Act, the school, its employees, and its agents will not be held responsible for the injury unless the epinephrine was administered with a conscious disregard for safety.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

Free transportation to and from school is provided to all students living one and one-half miles or more from the assigned attendance center, and to students living within one and one-half miles in areas the State of Illinois had determined dangerous for children to walk. Other students may ride the bus for a fee.

Rockton students are allowed one pick up and one drop off address for bus transportation.

BUS RULES

The State of Illinois has very strict legislation on the matter of school buses. Our district is interested in carrying out these regulations to the letter in order to provide the most efficient and safest transportation possible. Usually, common sense will clearly tell the pupil what his conduct should be in any school bus situation. However, the following rules are included here to provide general information about bus rules. Questions regarding transportation can be directed to the principal or First Student (815-624-0294).

1. Student conduct is subject to school discipline when traveling to and from school and at the bus stop when the conduct has an effect on the school and the learning environment.
2. Students must be on time. Schedule requirements make this important.
3. Students must not get into the bus or off the bus while it is in motion. They must remain seated until the bus has stopped. Entering and leaving the bus will be done in an orderly manner.
4. Students requesting to be let off the bus at any other than the regular stop must have a note from their parents requesting the change of drop off address for that day. The note is to be taken to the principal's office for approval.
5. Any change of the student's transportation to home will require notification from the parent requesting the change that day.
6. Since buses may be loaded to capacity, only assigned students will be allowed to ride the regular bus route. If a bus is at capacity, we will limit the number of guest riders.
7. At all drop off locations where it is necessary for students to cross the road, they must comply with the instructions of the driver.
8. Windows are not to be lowered below the black lines. Students must keep their hands and arms inside the bus.
9. Students must avoid making loud conversations and noises. They must be absolutely quiet at railroad crossings.
10. Students must keep the bus reasonably clean by not littering. Foods, gum, candy and beverages are not to be eaten on the bus.
11. Students taking band instruments on the bus shall carry them at all times. Instruments shall not be placed in the bus aisles or entrances.
12. Students riding buses on field trips, athletic trips, or any trip other than a regular route will be expected to abide by all bus regulations as listed above or any other rules that may be established by their teacher or bus driver.
13. All other rules of conduct for behavior at school apply while students are riding the bus.
14. The bus driver is in complete command of the bus at all times and has the right to enforce all bus regulations. The driver may also issue any other instructions which are deemed necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the bus. Students failing to observe the above rules and regulations will be reported to the principal who will determine whether the student will be permitted to continue to ride the bus. Consequences may include a bus warning with written notification to parents, detention, bus suspensions, and ultimately the cessation of bus services.
15. Video cameras are utilized on school buses to monitor student behavior. Videotapes are used to supplement written disciplinary reports by the bus driver. When disciplinary action is taken as a result of information obtained from the videotape, the driver, supervisor, school administrator, parents/guardians and students will be contacted for a meeting.

Waiting for the Bus

1. Stand at least a few feet from the curb or roadside.
2. Do not move towards the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the door has been opened.
3. Board the bus in an orderly manner and immediately find a seat.
4. Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete halt at the designated stop.

Departing from the Bus

1. Depart in an orderly manner.
2. Children who need to cross the street must walk at least 10 steps in front of the bus and wait for the driver to motion for them to go. The driver will have the warning lights on and the stop sign extended.

Attention Parents – Passing a School Bus

State law requires school buses to utilize the stop signal arm and their flashing stop lights whenever they are stopped for the loading and unloading of students. Directives from the Illinois State Board of Education requires this be done while loading and unloading at school. This means all traffic must stop while approaching a bus when the stop signal arm is out and the lights are flashing.

There are no exceptions to this law! If you pass a bus when the stop arm is out, even if they are on school property or in front of the school in the loading zone, you may be ticketed.

Please do not pass our buses when they are dropping students off at school in the morning or loading them after school at any location. Also, please drop off your child at the right-side curb only. Letting children off on the left side of a stopped bus and having the children run between buses could be very dangerous.

SCHOOL DAY STUDENT ARRIVAL

Students not riding a bus to school should not arrive at school prior to 7:25 a.m. Students are to remain outside until notified by the playground supervisors that they may enter the building.

During the winter months, students will be allowed in the buildings before school when the temperature or wind chill is below 10 degrees. All students will participate in outdoor recess. A doctor's note will be required for your child not to participate in outdoor recess. During recess times, students will stay in the building if the temperature or the wind chill is below 10 degrees or if the temperature feels like 100 degrees or higher.

Students will also be allowed in the buildings when there is precipitation. Other weather conditions will be considered by the administration for allowing students inside.

When attending field trips students must ride the bus to and from the trip.

FOOD SERVICES – BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast is available before the start of the school day at all schools for \$1.70. A hot lunch prepared by district staff is available every day for \$2.70 with milk included. Students may bring a sack lunch from home and may purchase milk for .30 cents. Breakfast/lunch/milk money is to be turned in first thing every morning. Students are to order daily meals from their first hour teacher on each day they desire a hot lunch. Students who will be tardy or absent during meal ordering time (dentist or doctor appointment) should have their parents call and order before 8:20 a.m.

Stephen Mack Middle School offers a la carte items with prices ranging from \$0.75 to \$1.50. Middle school students may order a double entre for additional \$1.50.

Those who wish to apply for free and reduced breakfasts or lunches can apply online on the Rockton School District website or through Common Goals (TeacherEase).

If State funding is available for the Healthy School Meals for All program, it would provide free meals for all students.

SCHOOL CLOSING AND EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

The school district uses a 'rapid alert' system to notify parents of emergency situations such as school closing due to inclement weather. Our 'rapid alert' system uses the home phone numbers on the student's records to notify our school families of important information as quickly as possible. In addition an announcement will be broadcasted over local radio and television stations. Parents and students should not call the schools, as we will need to use our phone lines to complete closing arrangements.

Due to circumstances we cannot control, there may be days when students must be dismissed early from school such as hazardous weather. As soon as the decision to dismiss is made, we will use our 'rapid alert' system to notify parents and send the information to all area TV and radio stations to announce the early dismissal.

Each student will then be asked if they know for sure whether or not someone will be at their home. We will attempt to contact the homes of students who are not sure if someone would be there. If no contact is made, the school office will follow the instructions on the registration form that was completed by the parent.

Parents should discuss with their children any special procedures they would want them to follow in these kinds of circumstances.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Instructional materials are provided to each student for a fee established each year by the School Board. Students are expected to treat these and other supplies with care and respect. Fines may be assigned for damages.

The district will provide textbooks and instructional materials to children of parents unable to purchase them or pay established school fees. A waiver of all other appropriate fees assessed by the district will also be granted.

USE OF TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Textbook Policy:

At the beginning of school, all books given to students will be valued as follows: New – Good – Fair – Poor. When books are handed in, general evaluations will be made according to the initial evaluation. If lost books are found after being replaced in the library, the fine will not be returned. Suggested fines will be as follows: Includes library books.

Pocket replacement	\$0.25
Ripped pages	\$1.00 for every 3 pages
Water damage	\$2.00
Markings – ink, marker, crayon	\$1.00
Cover/binding	\$2.00/\$3.00
Damaged barcode	\$0.25
Lost book if cost unknown	\$5.00
Lost book	Cost of replacement
Missing pages	Cost of replacement
Food/beverage damage	Cost of replacement
Chromebook	Cost of replacement

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

All films and audio-visual materials must be previewed by the teacher. G rated movies or movie clips may be shown to students. For grades kindergarten through fourth, principal approval and written parental permission is required to show PG rated movies. Movie or movie clips with PG rating may be shown in grades fifth through eighth with principal approval. PG-13 rated movies or movie clips require principal approval and written parental permission for all grades.

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF FEDERAL RIGHT TO INSPECT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Parents or guardians of any student may inspect any instructional materials used in the schools. Those materials include textbooks, teacher's manuals, films and tapes. Call the principal's office for an appointment if you wish to view any of these items.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members who believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure. Parents/guardians, employees, and community members with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a Curriculum Objection Form. A parent/guardian may request that their child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a Curriculum Objection form. The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for the review of objections and inform the parent/guardian, employee, or community member, as applicable, of the District's decision.

Surveys of Private Information

In accordance with federal law (Public Law 103-227), students who participate in federally-funded programs (e.g. Title I remedial reading) are not required to divulge in a survey, analysis or evaluation any of the following without the prior written consent of their parents or guardians; (1) political affiliations; (2) embarrassing mental or psychological problems;

(3) sex behavior and attitudes; (4) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior; (5) critical appraisals of family members; (6) privileged relationships such as those involving lawyers, physicians and clergy; and (7) income other than as required to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for financial assistance.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACCELERATED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential. The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP. APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in School Board policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.

ACADEMICALLY TALENTED PROGRAM

Rockton School District offers several opportunities for students who demonstrate special academic abilities. The district provides enrichment and challenges for academically talented students through several different formats:

1. Enrichment in the regular classroom, K-8.
2. Advanced math classes in grades 4-8.
3. Leveled reading instruction within the regular classroom in grades K through 5.
4. Advanced reading classes in grades 4-8.

Teachers at all grade levels have been trained in differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Educational materials and supplemental curricula are also available for these students. Parent reference materials are accessible for parents in the middle school library.

Students qualifying for the advanced classes offered usually demonstrate the ability or potential to consistently excel in one or more of the following:

- General intellectual ability
- Creative thinking
- Specific academic aptitude.

The following criterion is considered for student participation:

1. Achievement test scores from a standardized test in math or reading.
2. Scores on the math or reading portion of the most recent Illinois Standardized Assessment.
3. Teacher evaluation and recommendation.

Decisions for placement in advanced math or reading are made by current reading or math teachers, the curriculum coordinator and the building principal. Parents may seek a review of the decision by contacting the building principal.

ENGLISH LEARNERS

The schools offer opportunities for English Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English to meet the same academic achievement levels expected of all students. For more information, contact the principal.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

During our physical education classes a variety of activities will be explored. Many of these activities are team or individual sports and may result in physical contact between students. Flag football, basketball, floor hockey, and soccer are some activities likely to result in contact. Any student who needs to wear other protective devices such as headgear, back or knee braces should communicate this need to the physical education instructor. Upon written notice from a student's parent/guardian, a student will be excused from engaging in the physical activity components of physical education during a period of religious fasting. Students excused from physical education will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular sports until they return to physical education classes.

Students in grades 7 and 8 may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses because of this or their ongoing participation in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program. The Building Principal will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical. The following considerations will be used to determine when a student shall return to a physical education course:

1. The time of year when the student's participation ceases; and
2. The student's class schedule.

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AT RISK OF ACADEMIC FAILURE

Each school has developed procedures and/or programs for students at risk of academic failure. These include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, social needs, and may involve:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Counseling services by social workers and/or counselor
- Counseling services by psychologists
- Psychological testing
- Truants' alternative and optional education program
- Interventions implemented in the general education setting
- Alternative school placement
- Community agency services

The parent may contact the teacher or principal for more information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Rockton School District No. 140 offers a program for students with special needs. A child with special needs is one who has a problem that might interfere with his learning and progressing at the regular pace through the school system. To help meet these needs, our district and other school districts throughout the county work cooperatively to provide special services.

Special services range from individual tutoring to providing tuition for students with disabilities who must attend private facilities. Pupils in our school district who need special help may spend part of the day in regular classes and part of the day receiving help from the special service programs. Also available are speech, language, vision, hearing, and services from the school psychologist or school social worker. Also, a child with a temporary physical or health problem may receive instruction in his home or hospital.

All special education services and programs are supervised and coordinated through the Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative. This office's address is 11971 Wagon Wheel Road, Rockton, Illinois 61072 (815-624-2615). Referrals are made to this office through the building principal.

Parents who may not agree with the school's recommendations regarding special education services have the legal right to request a due process hearing. This procedure is outlined in the Rules and Regulations to Govern the Operation of Special Education, which is available on the WCSEC website. <https://www.winnebagoecsec.org/>

Medicaid Data Release – Special Education Students Only If your child receives special education services and is also Medicaid eligible, Rockton School District #140 can seek partial reimbursement from Medicaid for health services documented in your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Medicaid reimbursement is a source of federal funds approved by Congress to help school districts maintain and improve diagnostic and therapeutic services for students.

The reimbursement process requires the school district to provide Medicaid with your child's name, birth date and Medicaid number. Federal law requires annual notification of our intent to pursue this reimbursement opportunity.

If you approve of the release of information to Medicaid, you will be asked to sign a medical release of information.

If you object to the release of information to Medicaid, now or at any time in the future, please state your objection in writing and forward it to the *Director of Special Education at the Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative, 11971 Wagon Wheel Road, Rockton, Illinois 61072*. Regardless of your decision the district must continue to provide, at no cost to you, the services listed in your child's IEP.

This program has no impact on your child's or your family's current or future Medicaid benefits. Under federal law, participation in this program CANNOT:

- a) decrease lifetime coverage or any other public insurance benefit

- b) result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by Medicaid,
- c) increase your premiums or lead to discontinuation of benefits or insurance, or
- d) result in the loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers.

Your continued consent allows the district to recover a portion of the costs associated with providing health services to your child.

TITLE I SERVICES

Title I is the largest federal aid program for our nation's schools. Services from this program are available at Rockton Grade School and Whitman Post Elementary have been established to assist students performing below grade level. The Title I program is not a special education program. Your child will be tested throughout the school year to check on their progress. Whenever it is determined that a child has reached their grade level, and the Title I teacher and classroom teacher believes the gains made will be lasting, a child may be transitioned out of the program. Placement in the Title I program is not permanent.

Title I instruction is in addition to the reading instruction received in the classroom. It does not take the place of reading instruction in the regular classroom. The instruction period is usually 25-30 minutes per day in small groups.

The Title I teacher will have fall and spring conferences during the time of regular school conferences. Please sign up for a conference with the Title I teacher as well as the classroom teacher. The Title I teacher will also communicate through progress reports, phone calls, notes, and letters with reading tips.

The school maintains programs and activities for the involvement of parents/guardians of students receiving Title I services.

GRADING AND PROMOTION STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents: We will keep you informed of your child's progress in a variety of ways:

1. Parent conferences are scheduled in the fall and spring (refer to the school calendar).
2. Other conferences can be scheduled at your or the teacher's request.
3. Approximately half-way through the school year, parents will be reminded to access their student grades through Teacher Ease.

GRADING AND PROMOTION

The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to parent(s)/guardian(s) and students, as well as determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The final grade assigned by the teacher cannot be changed by a District administrator without notifying the teacher. Reasons for changing a student's final grade include:

- A miscalculation of test scores;
- A technical error in assigning a particular grade or score;
- The teacher agrees that the student may do an extra work assignment and its evaluation impacts the grade;
- An inappropriate grading system used to determine the grade; or
- An inappropriate grade based on an appropriate grading system.

Should a grade change be made, the administrator making the change must sign the changed record.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE - GRADING

Student academic achievement is assessed in terms of criterion referenced test scores, letter grades, portfolio assessment, class projects, teachers' observations, and/or other assigned numerical criteria.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Grades are available for parent(s)/guardian(s) access on-line throughout the entire school year. Upon request, divorced or separated parents will both be informed unless a court order requires otherwise. All grades and symbols will be appropriately explained. Grading will not be used for disciplinary purposes. Grading will be based on improvement, achievement, and capability. Parents will be notified when a student's performance requires special attention.

Various methods for communicating with parent(s)/guardians(s) will be used, including the following:

1. parent-teacher conferences, conducted on a regular basis, are an effective means of reporting student progress to parent(s)/guardian(s). Parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled on different days and at different times to accommodate the various grade levels and attendance centers,
2. additional methods for reporting, such as open house, parent education meetings, and newsletters, shall be the responsibility of each school,
3. Written student progress reports that teachers submit to parent(s)/guardian(s) according to a regular schedule and teachers shall make every effort to be available to meet with parent(s)/ guardian(s) at a mutually agreed upon time.

PROMOTIONS, RETENTIONS, AND REMEDIATIONS

The Rockton School District does not view retention as the only effective solution to a child's school concerns. It is possible that retention is one consideration to develop the best possible individual program for a specific child. Retention should be considered:

1. as a remedial measure for poor achievement,
2. for students between kindergarten and second grade, but not limited to these grade levels, and
3. not solely on the basis of poor academic achievement.

The purpose of retention is to provide an opportunity of time which might significantly increase the potential for student progress and to create a Remediation Plan outlining the instructional program for any student retained. Prior to a retention decision the teacher(s) will work with the principal and special services team to develop and implement instructional interventions. Twelve (12) weeks prior to the close of the school year or at spring parent conference time, the student's teacher or team of teachers will meet with the building principal to assess the nature of the problem and review the attempts to assist the student. The classroom teacher will notify the parents/guardians of the consideration of retention by the third week of the 2nd semester or Spring Parent conference time. The final recommendation will be reviewed and confirmed with the parents/guardians. Quantitative measures such as age, physical size, ability and level of academic achievement shall be supplemented by a qualitative assessment of the student's motivation, self-image and social adjustment. Students shall not be promoted for purely social reasons.

Students who demonstrate a proficiency level comparable to the average student performance one grade or more below current placement shall be provided with an individual remediation plan developed in consultation with the parent(s)/guardian(s). The remediation plan may include summer school, extended school day, special homework, tutorial sessions, modified instructional materials, other modifications in the instructional program, reduced class size, or retention in grade. Unless otherwise outlined in their remediation plan, students who must attend summer school in order to earn promotion, must have a minimum grade of a C in order to receive credit for the summer school course.

Students who are currently serving an out-of-school suspension at the time or who have served 10 or more days of out-of-school suspension will lose the privilege to participate in the 8th grade promotion ceremony.

GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale Percentage:

Grades will be averaged by percentages and placed on the following scale:

<u>NUMERICAL VALUE</u>		<u>HONOR ROLL GRADE VALUE</u>			
A:	93 – 100	A: 4 Points	B-: 2.75	D+: 1.50	
B:	85 – 92	A-: 3.75	C+: 2.50	D: 1:00	
C:	77 – 84	B+: 3.50	C: 2.00	D- : 0.75	
D:	70 – 76	B: 3:00	C-: 1.75	F: 0.00	

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Each grading period, recognition will be given to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who earn the following:

- A. Students with a 3.50 average will be given high honors recognition and students with a 3.00 average to a 3.49 average will be given honor roll recognition.
- B. All subjects will be averaged, including life studies classes. Students may check their grade point average by substituting a number value for each letter grade, adding all subjects and dividing by the number of subjects.
- C. Students with grades of D or F in any subject will be excluded from honor roll recognition.

ATHLETICS/EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

Sports

Sport programs include: Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Spirit Squad, Soccer, Track, and Volleyball.

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

Club/Activities include: Allies for Empathy, CREATE Club, Choir, Gardening Club, National Junior Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club, Strategic Games, Student Council, and Yearbook. Instructional fees must be paid before a student can participate in extracurricular activities.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Middle school student athletes competing in interscholastic sports will be required to be passing all classes each week during the season of participation. Teachers will indicate if a student is passing or failing. In the event that the regular classroom teacher is absent, the student athlete will be deemed eligible until the teacher returns and notifies the office of an eligibility change. Any student-athlete who is failing any class will not be allowed to participate in any team activities (games or practices) from noon on Friday (or last day of week) to noon on the following Friday (or last day of the week). A teacher will indicate if a student is failing by submitting the name of the athletic participant to the office by 2:30pm on Friday or the last day of student attendance that week. Any student athlete who is ineligible for three weeks will be dismissed from the squad for the remainder of the season.

Students who are academically ineligible to participate in after-school activities may not participate in or attend practices, games, or performances for the week they are ineligible. Students should be home studying so they will be eligible the following week. We expect our student athletes, as well as anyone else representing our school to do so in a manner exemplifying the high standards of sportsmanship and excellence recognized by our schools.

Sports Physicals

Students interested in trying out for interscholastic athletic teams must submit proof of a current physical examination (within the past 13 months). The physical exam must include a statement regarding permission to participate in sports and is required for all sports including cheerleading and the spirit squad. The physical exam must be received before a student will be allowed to participate in try-outs, or the sport itself and is good for 13 months.

Soccer tryouts will be in August, boys' basketball tryouts in October, girls' basketball tryouts in December, and spirit squad, cheerleading and volleyball tryouts in May. Sixth grade students will be allowed to try out for seventh grade athletic teams and seventh grade cheerleading and the spirit squad.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Students participating in extracurricular activities such as Project Fair and Quiz Bowl that may involve absence from school or classes, must have permission from the Administration to attend. The Administration shall check with the student's classroom teachers to determine if school absence jeopardizes the student's grades. In all cases where the expenditure of funds and absence from school occurs, the Board of Education shall give the final authorization. Therefore, it is imperative that all information pertaining to these instances be given to the Administration and Board of Education as early as possible. Requests must include: days expected to be absent, names of students and teachers who will be absent, academic standing of students, chaperones who will be in attendance, and projected costs and expected benefits.

Students are required to attend school a minimum of a half day in order to participate in after school interscholastic activities. Students who are too ill to meet this minimum requirement should not be participating in after school activities. In special circumstances such as funerals etc., please contact the building principal for clarification.

Any student using, possessing, distributing, purchasing or selling tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, illegal drugs or controlled substances, look-alike drugs or drug paraphernalia will be ineligible to participate for 15 school days.

A second offense will result in suspension from all interscholastic extracurricular activities for one calendar year. Students who engage in the above activities outside of school hours will be subject to the above consequences if the activity is investigated and found accurate by the administration. While students are ineligible, they may not attend games or practices.

The administration reserves the right to remove students from extracurricular activities for any gross misconduct not specifically listed above. The administration also reserves the right to adjust consequences on an individual basis.

Students currently serving a suspension or expulsion will also be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activities during the time of the suspension or expulsion.

RULES FOR ATTENDING ATHLETIC EVENTS

1. Arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to game time.
2. Arrange to have a ride home arrive two hours after the start of our first game. This pertains to basketball only.
3. Once you enter the building, do not leave unless you are not intending to return. Any student leaving will not be allowed to re-enter the building.
4. Remain seated in the bleachers. Stay off the playing floor at all times.
5. No unsportsmanlike conduct to distract opposing teams during the games, especially during free-throws.
6. No throwing objects of any kind.
7. Remember you came to watch the game. Please enjoy the game and do not cause a disruption.
8. Students may not attend after school activities if absent from school.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students are guaranteed certain individual rights. One of those is the right to receive an education that allows students to learn and develop in a safe and positive environment. The staff of the Rockton School District will do their best to promote a good educational environment. Students have important responsibilities to assist in this process:

1. To maintain the best possible level of academic achievement.
2. To respect the rights and individuality of other students and the staff.
3. To know and obey the rules and regulations established by the Board of Education, administrators, and teachers.
4. To respect the efforts of the administrators and teachers to maintain discipline in the school and at school sponsored activities.
5. To be present and punctual at school.
6. To dress and groom in a manner that meets reasonable standards of health, cleanliness, and safety.
7. To record in an assignment notebook each assignment given in all subjects each day and to complete to the best of their ability each assignment given.

STUDENT CONDUCT

General School Policy: People associated with the Rockton School District take pride in our high standards of conduct. We feel that every student is obligated to maintain these high standards.

A student's main goal in school is to gain an education. Education is something worth having just for its own sake. It helps one to mature and prepare for the demands of a job and adulthood.

Any person preventing him/herself or others from reaching this goal will be disciplined. To learn the most requires being able to listen, recite, share, and concentrate without interference. Most problems in a classroom center on students disrupting others. Our schools make every effort to protect each student's right to an education without interference.

A student who has been disciplined has the right to request information as to why he or she is being disciplined. The student's parents may also make this request. The student or their parents may request that the disciplinary action be reviewed by the student's teacher or principal. If further appeal is necessary, the superintendent may be contacted. We believe that students have the right to attend school without the fear of bullies, threats, intimidation or "put-downs." All students should feel they are an important part of their school. Those who choose to deny others this right will be disciplined.

Students and their parents have the right to have the details regarding a discipline incident and consequences kept confidential.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials including vaping devices. Lighters and matches are not permitted on school grounds.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.

3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling:
- a. Any illegal drugs or controlled substances, or cannabis (including marijuana and hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law).
 - b. Any anabolic steroid not administered under a physician's care and supervision.
 - c. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
 - d. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
 - e. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form.
 - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance not containing an illegal drug or controlled substance, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug or controlled substance, or (b) about which a student engages in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug or controlled substance.
 - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

- 4. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling explosives, firearms, knives, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon.
- 5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device. Using a cellular phone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the Building principal, all electronic devices must be kept off and out of sight during the regular school day unless (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in the student's IEP; or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
- 6. Disobeying directives from staff members or school officials and/or rules and regulations governing student conduct.
- 7. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
- 8. Engaging in hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another or any urging of other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct includes any use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, harassment, bullying, cyber bullying, hazing, or other comparable conduct.
- 9. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault, as described in Board policy 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited. This does not include the non-disruptive: (a) expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or (b) display of affection during non-instructional time.

10. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.
11. Causing or attempting to cause damage or stealing or attempting to steal school property or another person's personal property.
12. Unexcused absenteeism. The truancy statutes and Board policy will be utilized for chronic and habitual truant.
13. Being a member or joining or promising to join, or becoming pledged to become a member, soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member of any public school fraternity, sorority or secret society.
14. Involvement in gangs or gang-related activities, including the display of gang symbols or paraphernalia.
15. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that: (a) poses a threat or danger or attempted intimidation to the safety of others students, staff, or school property; (b) constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function; or (c) is disruptive to the school environment.
16. Students will not be allowed to sell their own personal items or fund raising items during school hours on school property including the school bus. No financial transactions or selling items of any nature by students will be allowed without prior approval by parents and the building principal.
17. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
18. Making an explicit threat in writing or on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
19. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the Superintendent or designee.
20. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
21. In Illinois, school punishments for hate speech can range from restorative measures and in-school support to suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity and impact of the speech.

These grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. On school grounds before, during, or after school hours and at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, or an interference with school purposes or an education function.
5. School district is well within their legal rights to intervene in cyberbullying incidents – even if those incidents were initiated off campus – if it is demonstrated that the incident resulted in a disruption of the education environment. This includes posting pictures of staff or other students without permission.

EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR EMPLOYEE-STUDENT BOUNDARIES

All District employees must maintain professional employee-student boundaries and relationships with students. This includes meeting expectations and following guidelines established by the District for employee-student boundaries. These expectations and guidelines apply to all professional, educational support, and contracted District employees. If they conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement, the provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement will control.

The District understands that employees may have pre-existing relationships with families of students outside of school. These expectations and guidelines do not apply to employee-student relationships based in pre-existing relationships, including nuclear or extended families. These expectations and guidelines are not intended to prohibit such interactions, provided that an awareness of employee-student boundaries is maintained at all times. This list is not exhaustive, and an employee may be disciplined for boundary violations that are not specifically listed.

Employee Professional and Appropriate Conduct

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others. In addition, the Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators, adopted by the

Illinois State Board of Education, is incorporated by reference into this policy. Any employee who sexually harasses a student, willfully or negligently fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), engages in grooming as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25, engages in grooming behaviors, violates boundaries for appropriate school employee-student conduct, or otherwise violates an employee conduct standard and will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify appropriate employee conduct standards and provide them to all District employees. Standards related to school employee-student conduct shall, at a minimum:

1. Incorporate the prohibitions noted in paragraph 1 of this policy;
2. Define prohibited grooming behaviors to include, at a minimum, sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to: a. A sexual or romantic invitation b. Dating, or soliciting a date c. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog d. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student e. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature f. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student
3. Identify expectations for employees to maintain professional relationships with students, including expectations for employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels. Such expectations shall establish guidelines for specific areas, including but not limited to: a. Transporting a student b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role
4. Reference employee reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926);
5. Outline how employees can report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure, or in the case of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited; and 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; and
6. Reference required employee training related to educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations as required by law and policies 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure; 4:165, Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors; 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; and 5:100, Staff Development Program.

Employee-Student Boundaries

The relationship between students and school employees is an inherently unequal imbalance of power because school employees are in a unique position of trust, care, authority, and influence in relation to students. District employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student's health, safety, or general welfare. Employee-student boundaries are categorized into four areas that are not mutually exclusive:

- **Emotional Boundaries** – both the employee's own emotional state and self-regulation as well as students' emotional states and developmental abilities to self-regulate.
- **Relationship/Power Boundaries**-recognizing, as noted above, that the employee-student relationship is unequal and employees must safeguard against misusing positions of power.
- **Communication Boundaries** – how and what employees communicate to students, including communication that is verbal, nonverbal, in person, or via electronic means.
- **Physical Boundaries** – physical contact between employees and students.

While some employee-student boundaries are clear and easy to recognize, there are some unclear, gray areas that employees must plan for and respond to with sound judgment. This means recognizing the potential negative consequences for students and/or employees engaging in certain behaviors with students or allowing inappropriate conduct to continue. Employees may use time, place, and circumstances as a guiding principle by asking themselves:

- Is this the appropriate time for my planned action?
- Have I chosen the appropriate place for the planned action?
- Are these appropriate circumstances for me to take my planned action?

To avoid behavior or conduct which may lead to a breach in employee-student boundaries, employees should also

recognize their own unique vulnerabilities. Examples of vulnerabilities that employees may experience include, but are not limited to:

- Employees regarding students as peers
- Employees who too closely identify with students and their issues
- Employees experiencing adult relationship issues
- Immature employees, or employees with an under-developed moral compass
- Employees feeling a need for attention
- Employees who abuse alcohol or other substances
- Employees who lack personal crisis management skills

Employees experiencing difficulties in their personal lives may be particularly susceptible to engaging in at-risk behavior or conduct with students. Employees must be alert to such risks and ensure they maintain professional boundaries at all times. The REFLECT ethical decision-making model may help employees evaluate and address conduct that concerns them. See <https://legacy.apsc.gov.au/reflect-aps-values-and-code-conduct-decision-making-model>.

Guidelines for Specific Boundary Areas.

Boundary Area	Inappropriate	Appropriate
Emotional	<p>Favoring certain students by inviting them to your classroom at non-instructional times to “hang out.”</p> <p>Favoring certain students by giving them special privileges.</p> <p>Engaging in peer-like behavior with students.</p> <p>Discussing personal issues with students.</p>	<p>Inviting students who need additional instructional support to your classroom for such additional support.</p> <p>Conducting one-on-one student conferences in a classroom with the door open.</p>
Relationship/Power	<p>Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission.</p> <p>Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside your professional role.</p> <p>Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization.</p> <p>Giving gifts, money, or treats to individual students.</p> <p>Sending students on personal errands.</p> <p>Intervening in serious student problems instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional.</p> <p>A sexual or romantic invitation toward or from a student.</p> <p>Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes.</p>	<p>Meeting with a student off-campus with parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission, e.g., when providing pre-arranged tutoring or coaching services.</p> <p>Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle with administrative authorization.</p> <p>Taking and using photos/videos of students for educational purposes, with student and parent/guardian consent, while abiding by student records laws, policies, and procedures.</p>
Communication	Initiating or extending contact with	Limiting communication to what is

	<p>a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting.</p> <p>Inviting students to your home.</p> <p>Adding students on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose.</p> <p>Privately messaging students by any means.</p> <p>Maintaining intense eye contact.</p> <p>Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments.</p> <p>Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.</p> <p>Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student.</p> <p>Disclosing confidential information.</p> <p>Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.</p>	<p>necessary for educational and/or extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Using District-approved methods for communicating with students.</p>
Physical	<p>Full frontal hugs.</p> <p>Invading personal space.</p> <p>Massages, shoulder rubs, neck rubs, etc.</p> <p>Lingering touches or squeezes.</p> <p>Tickling.</p> <p>Having a student on your lap.</p> <p>Physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.</p> <p>Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student.</p> <p>Assisting a young student or a</p>	<p>Occasionally patting a student on the back, shoulder, or arm.</p> <p>Momentary physical contact with limited force designed to prevent a student from completing an act that would result in potential physical harm to the student or another person or damage to property; or to remove a disruptive student who is unwilling to leave the area voluntarily.</p> <p>Assisting a young student or a student with special needs with a toileting issue when parent/guardian permission has been granted.</p>

Reporting Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and/or boundary violations

Reasonable suspicions of child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors shall be reported to DCFS. Other boundary violations and violations of the code of conduct shall be reported to the building principal.

Support Services

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that each school building's Student Support Committee identifies counseling options for students who are affected by sexual abuse, along with District and community-based options for victims of sexual abuse to obtain assistance and intervention. Community-based options must include a Children's Advocacy Center and sexual assault crisis center(s) that serve the District, if any.

Erin's Law requires schools to implement an age-appropriate sexual assault, abuse awareness, and prevention curriculum for grades pre-k through 12 in the state of Illinois. The Rockton School District utilizes Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling to implement this mandate with our students. The presentations administered by Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling are developmentally appropriate with the focus being to teach children basic skills and knowledge that will help keep them safe from dangerous or abusive situations.

For more information on the presentations, you can contact Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling at 815-636-9811, visit their website at <https://www.rockfordsexualassaultcounseling.org>, or learn more about Erin's law and the warning signs of abuse by visiting the website <https://www.erinslaw.org>. We believe prevention to be the number one priority in making a difference in our society and our children's safety.

PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, AND HARASSMENT

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important school goals. Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, order of protection status, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics or any distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or a school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School District or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing; however, this shall not be construed to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Daniel Phelps
1050 East Union Street
Rockton, IL 61072
phelps@rockton140.org
815/624-7143

COMPLAINT MANAGERS:

Mrs. Kindyl Etnyre
1050 E. Union St.
Rockton, IL 61072
(815)624-8585
etnyre@rockton140.org

Mrs. Megan Forsythe
1060 E. Union St.
Rockton, IL 61072
(815)624-4006
forsythe@rockton140.org

Mrs. Jessica Peight
1050 E. Union St.
Rockton, IL 61072
(815)624-7143
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A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. Any person's act of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge with regard to employees, or suspension and/or expulsion with regard to students.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Students and parent/guardians are also encouraged to read the following school district policies: 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited* and 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment*.

TEEN DATING

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation, is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student who is in grades 6th – 8th uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

Anyone with information about incidents of teen dating violence to report them to any of the following individuals:

1. Any school staff member. School staff shall respond to incidents of teen dating violence by following the District's established procedures for the prevention, identification, investigation, and response to bullying and school violence.
2. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator, building principal, assistant building principal, dean of students, or a complaint manager identified in Policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

Rockton School District 140 prohibits teen dating violence of any kind. Teen dating violence is emotional abuse, electronic abuse, sexual abuse, and/or physical abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, and/or attempt to control another person in a relationship of a romantic or intimate nature or a romantic interest, regardless of whether that relationship is continuing or has concluded or the number of interactions between the individuals involved.

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that each school building's Student Support Committee identifies counseling options for students who are affected by sexual abuse, along with District and community-based options for victims of sexual abuse to obtain assistance and intervention. Community-based options must include a Children's Advocacy Center and sexual assault crisis center(s) that serve the District, if any.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Disciplinary measures include:

1. Personal counseling
2. Withholding of privileges
3. Seizure of contraband or articles disruptive to the educational process as determined by the teacher. Teachers seizing contraband and articles from students shall secure them in a protective area and return them to the student or parent within a reasonable time period.
4. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days provided that appropriate procedures are followed. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
5. Suspension of bus riding privileges, provided that appropriate procedures are followed.

6. Expulsion from school and all school-sponsored activities and events for a definite time period not to exceed two calendar years, provided that the appropriate procedures are followed. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
7. Notification of juvenile authorities whenever the conduct involves illegal drugs (controlled substances), look-alikes, alcohol, tobacco or weapons.
8. Notification of parent(s)/guardian(s).
9. Removal from classroom
10. In-school suspension for a period not to exceed 5 school days. The building principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised.
11. For middle school students only - after-school detention provided the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) have been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the building principal or designee.
12. For middle school students only – community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhance community efforts to meet human, education, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure giving the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) the choice.

For a full description please refer to policy 7:190, which can be found on the district's website.

<https://www.rockton140.org/site/PolicyManual.html>

Social Networking Account Passwords

School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include using reasonable restraint, by certificated personnel that are permitted to use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of property. Physical restraints may be used when necessary to protect the student or other individuals and/or property from harm.

Weapons

A student who uses, possesses, distributes, purchases, or sells an explosive, firearm, knife, or any other object that can reasonably be considered, or looks like, a weapon shall be expelled for a definite time period of at least one calendar year, but no more than two school years. The School Board, however, may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. The building principal or designee shall notify the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school.

Controlled Substance

Students in possession of any controlled substances, including tobacco products on school grounds will be reported to the Rockton Police Department and subject to any fines they may assess. Students will also be subject to the normal school disciplinary actions for use or possession of tobacco. Students using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials vaping devices will also be subject to the normal school disciplinary actions. Lighters and matches are not permitted on school grounds

Gang Activity

Students wearing gang colors, displaying gang signs, writing gang graffiti or showing any other outward display of gang membership or gang involvement will be reported to the proper legal authorities after their parents are notified. Students shall be subject to appropriate discipline for engaging in such activity. Students found to be engaging in gang activity, including but not limited to recruiting students to be gang members will be subject to discipline.

Before receiving disciplinary action, the student shall be given the opportunity to deny or explain his or her conduct.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The Board of Education authorizes the superintendent, principals, and assistant principals to suspend students from school and/or from riding the school bus, if those students have been determined guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct.

The Board of Education or its appointed hearing officer may expel students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct after a proper hearing has been conducted with the parents. Procedures for expelling students will comply with those established in the Illinois School Code.

Gross disobedience or misconduct is defined as those behavior(s) exhibited by the student which: present a serious physical danger to themselves, to other students, or to faculty; result in damage to school property; seriously disrupt the learning environment; violate civil law; and/or reflect a pattern of serious non-compliance to the rules and regulations of the District.

A student who has been determined eligible for a special education instructional or resource program or related service shall not be expelled for behavior or a condition which is, or results from, an exceptional characteristic. Early childhood programs engage in best practices in their disciplinary actions by prohibiting the use of expulsions or suspensions due to child behavior.

Suspension may be used in situations when the student presents a physical danger to himself/herself, to other students, to faculty, or to school property. If a child has been suspended, the district shall be responsible for developing and providing an appropriate educational program during the period preceding special education placement or the provision of additional special education services.

Suspension Procedures

The following are suspension procedures:

1. Before suspension, the student shall be provided a conference during which the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
2. A pre-suspension conference is not required and the student can be immediately suspended when the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process. In such cases, the notice and conference shall follow as soon as practicable.
3. Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). A written notice of suspension to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student, which shall:
 - a. provide notice to the parent(s) guardian(s) of their child's right to a review of the suspension, and
 - b. include information about an opportunity to make up work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit,
 - c. detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend,
 - d. provide rationale or an explanation of how the chosen number of suspension days will address the threat or disruption posed by the student or his or her act of gross disobedience or misconduct; and
 - e. depending upon the length of the out-of-school suspension, include the following applicable information:
 - i. For a suspension of 3 school days or less, an explanation that the student's continuing presence in school would either pose: a) a threat to school safety; or b) a disruption to other students' learning opportunities.
 - ii. For a suspension of 4 or more school days, an explanation: a) that other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted, b) as to whether school officials attempted other interventions or determined that no other interventions were available for the student, and c) that the student's continuing presence in school would either:
 - i. Pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community or,
 - ii. Substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operations of the school.
 - iii. For a suspension of 5 or more school days, the information listed in section 3.e.ii., above, along with documentation by the superintendent or designee determining what, if any, appropriate and available support services will be provided to the student during the length of his or her suspension.

A copy of a notice shall be given to the Board of Education.

4. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the Board of Education or a hearing officer appointed by the Board. At the review, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may appear and discuss the suspension with the Board or its hearing officer and may be represented by counsel.

Whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause for the suspension, the Superintendent or designee shall invite a representative from a local mental health agency to consult with the Board. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall take such action as it finds appropriate.

5. **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The superintendent or designee shall maintain a process to facilitate the re-engagement of students who are returning from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or an alternative school setting. The goal of re-engagement shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusionary discipline and shall include the opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit.

Expulsion Procedures

The following are expulsion procedures:

1. Before expulsion, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written notice of the time, place, and purpose of a hearing by registered or certified mail requesting the appearance of the parent(s)/guardian(s). If requested, the student shall have a hearing, at the time and place designated in the notice, conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by it. If a hearing officer is appointed by the Board, he or she shall report to the Board the evidence presented at the hearing and the Board shall take such final action as it finds appropriate.
2. During the expulsion hearing, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may be represented by counsel, present witnesses, and other evidence and cross-examine witnesses. At the expulsion hearing, the Board or hearing officer shall hear evidence of whether the student is guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall decide the issue of guilt and take such action as it finds appropriate.

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education recognizes that students with disabilities may have special needs which affect their ability to conform to acceptable behavioral patterns in school. Pursuant to Section 14-8.05 of The School Code, when behavioral interventions are used for students with disabilities in this school district such interventions shall be used in consideration of the student's physical freedom and social interventions and be administered in a manner that respects human dignity and personal privacy and that ensures a pupil's right to placement in the least restrictive educational environment to the student's needs. For more information and a complete copy of this policy, contact the building principal.

The Board of Education further recognizes that behavioral interventions should be used by appropriate school personnel to further promote and strengthen desirable student behavior and reduce inappropriate behaviors. School personnel should use positive interventions to remediate inappropriate student conduct and school personnel should only use restrictive interventions or out-of-school interventions including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school when a student engages in gross disobedience or misconduct, emergency situations or when positive interventions have failed to remediate the inappropriate conduct. Students with disabilities shall receive a behavior intervention plan if, as a result of the student's disabilities, the student is unable to conform to acceptable behavioral patterns required by this District without the use of restrictive behavioral interventions.

The superintendent shall designate a committee to develop procedures to implement the requirements of this Policy and Section 14-8.05 of The School Code. The committee appointed by the superintendent shall seek and receive the advice of the following persons or organizations: (1) parents of student with disabilities, (2) other parents (3) teachers (4) administrators (5) advocates for persons with disabilities (6) individuals with knowledge or expertise in the development and implementation of behavioral interventions for persons with disabilities. The committee shall also use as a reference the Illinois State Board of Education's "Behavioral Interventions in Schools: Guidelines for Development of District Policies for Students with Disabilities" The Illinois School Code, Chapter 122, Section 14-8.05, *Behavioral Interventions for Students with Disabilities* as amended by 105 ILCS 5/14-8.05.

This policy and implementing procedures shall be distributed to all parents of students with individual educational plans within fifteen days of adoption of this policy and its implementing procedures by the Board of Education or after the School Board has amended its policy and procedure and, for students becoming eligible for IEPs after the adoption of this Policy, at the time the IEP is first implemented. In addition this policy and procedures shall be distributed to all students with IEPs and shall inform its students annually of the existence of the policies and procedures. At the individualized education plan review, school personnel shall;

1. Explain the local policy and procedures.
2. Furnish a copy of the local policies to parents and guardians, and
3. Make available, upon request of any parent/guardian, a copy of local procedures.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment, or in-school suspension, which is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other certificated employees, and other staff (whether or not certificated) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel or persons or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property. Teachers may remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

The superintendent and building principals are authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school including all school functions and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed.

The School Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 days for safety reasons and may expel students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct for the remainder of the school term or for a shorter period as determined by the Board.

SCHOOL RULES

General School Rules

1. Be on time for all classes. Students who are tardy three times may be issued a detention.
2. Restroom facilities should be used as intended and students must then promptly return to class.
3. Students are not allowed to use electronic devices and other personal items which may cause a disturbance to school. and/or the school bus.
4. Student visitors are not allowed in the school without administrative approval.
5. Gum chewing on school grounds and in the buses is prohibited.
6. Coats are not to be worn in school during the school day. Students may bring sweaters or sweatshirts to class.

Classroom Rules

Each teacher has a set of rules he or she feels appropriate for their classroom. The Administration will support each teacher's efforts to maintain a positive learning environment for all students. Classroom teachers share the right and responsibility to assure that their classroom environment is a safe and positive one in which students learn. In accordance with The School Code of Illinois, administrators or teachers may use reasonable force or restraint with a student to maintain the safety of other students in the classroom. The administration and the teachers also have the right to dismiss a student from the classroom if that student's behavior is disruptive to the learning of other students.

Hall Rules

1. Always walk in the hallways and keep to the right.
2. Be quiet so as not to disturb other classes in session.
3. Keep materials off the hallway floors and keep entrances and exits clear.
4. For students who have lockers, the doors should be closed quietly.
5. Absolutely no running in the halls.

Lunchroom Rules

1. Students are expected to respect the authority of the lunchroom supervisors.
2. If assigned, students are to remain at designated tables during the lunch period. Students should not leave their tables until they are dismissed.
3. All food and beverages must be eaten in the lunchroom.
4. Students should maintain a quiet conversational tone.
5. Students who disrupt the lunch period or consistently disobey the rules may lose their lunchroom privileges.

Playground Rules

Playground rules are in effect when students are at school prior to 7:45 a.m., during all recesses, and at lunch time. Students will be prohibited from playing on the dirt or grass areas when these areas are wet or muddy. It is especially important for all students to play carefully while on the playground areas.

1. Students are expected to respect the authority of the playground supervisors.
2. Students must exit and enter the building quietly and in an orderly fashion.
3. Students must remain on school grounds.
4. Do not climb on the fences, backstops, poles, or buildings.

5. The following games and activity materials are not allowed: tackle football; gymnastics/tumbling; wrestling or 'play' fighting; piggyback riding; hard balls and bats, and skateboards.
6. Do not throw pea gravel/mulch, rocks, dirt, sand, or snowballs.
7. For use of playground equipment:
 - a. Swings – keep clear of the swing area; one person on a swing; do not twist swings; no “underdogs.”
 - b. Slides – keep clear of the bottom area; one person down at a time; forward slide only in sitting position; no climbing up the slide surface; do not put fingers between rollers.
 - c. Rings and horizontal ladder – go in one direction only; swing hand over hand; do not hang by your feet or legs; do not try to pull or push others off; do not twist rings.
 - d. Fire pole and platforms – climb up or slide down the pole; do not jump off of platforms.
8. Students riding their bicycles to school must immediately park their bikes in the bike rack upon arrival. Do not ride it around the playground or on the sidewalks. Students are not to sit on or congregate near or around the bikes or bike racks during lunch and recess periods.

The playground supervisors will designate certain areas in which students are allowed to play during recesses. Students must remain in these areas during the entire recess period and should not enter the building until the bell rings.

Inside Recess: On days of inclement weather, students are expected to remain in their homeroom during the entire recess. Quiet games are allowed. Students must have permission to use the restrooms.

Middle School Rules

The following disciplinary system applies to all classrooms:

These rules will be reviewed with all students within the first week of school. The rules are:

1. Be prepared for class. Book, paper, pen/pencil, assignment, assignment notebook, etc. in class each day.
2. Be in your seat when the bell rings.
3. Talking out of turn is unacceptable.
4. Gum and candy are not allowed in the classrooms.
5. Show respect for others and their property.
6. Disrespect/insubordination will not be tolerated.
7. Book bags are not allowed in the classroom.

Detention

Students who fail to follow the classroom rules may be issued a detention. Detentions issued by a classroom teacher will be served with the teacher issuing the detention for 30 minutes after school on the date noted on the detention notice. Teachers are to state the specific rule infraction or act of misconduct on the detention notice. Teachers are to then use the 30 minute detention to explain to the students their unacceptable behavior(s) and develop a behavior management plan as deemed appropriate. After the students have served their detentions, the teacher should send both the white and yellow copies of the detention notice to the office. These notices will be placed in the student's temporary discipline file. Excessive detentions will result in more severe consequences.

Students failing to serve a detention or obtain permission to stay after school will be issued the following consequences.

1st Offense – Failure to obtain parent permission to serve a detention- Parents will be contacted by the teacher issuing detention. Failure to serve a detention: Parents will be contacted by teacher issuing detention.

2nd Offense – Either above: detention doubled or

3rd Offense – Student will be sent to the office. Teacher will call parents for a conference and send notice to the office.

Students tardy or late to detentions or violating a detention rule will be issued one additional detention for each violation. Parent Conferences will be held to develop individualized discipline plans for students who receive excessive detentions.

Detention Limit and Consequences: Any student who receives in excess of 10 detentions during the school year will have additional consequences assigned. Each additional three detentions may result in consequences. Parents will be contacted after the eighth detention and requested to meet with the teachers and administration in order to avoid any further detentions which would result in other consequences. Excessive detentions that result in consequences will require a parent conference with administration to develop a specific behavior plan.

SEARCHES

Students and Their Personal Effects

Certified employees, school administrators, and the Police Liaison may search a student's personal effects (i.e. purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there are reasonable grounds to suspect the search will produce evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the district and the school. In exigent circumstances, outside police officers may conduct searches in schools in accordance with laws applicable to such searches.

Personal effects shall not be taken from the student. The student will be asked to give such effects to staff who then may search their contents. If the student refuses to give up these effects and/or there is reasonable suspicion that the student still has evidence in her personal possession: the student's parents will be contacted, advised of the situation, and asked to speak to their child at that time and request that their child give such evidence to school authorities; or the parents may be requested to come to the school and conduct the personal search themselves; and/or law enforcement officials may be notified and requested to assume responsibility for the situation.

Under no circumstances will school employees search a student, which includes touching the student's body and/or clothing. Under no circumstances will school employees request that a student remove any articles of clothing, except for hats and coats.

School Property

School property, including but not limited to desks and lockers, is owned and controlled by the District and the District may make reasonable regulations regarding its use.

School authorities are authorized to conduct area-wide, general administrative inspections of school property (e.g., searches of all student lockers) as a means of protecting the health, safety or welfare of the district, its employees and students, without notice to or consent of the student and without a search warrant. In all other cases, school authorities may search school property when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will produce evidence that the student has violated either the law or the district's rules.

The superintendent or designee is authorized to request assistance from law enforcement officials to conduct a search of school property. Specially trained dogs may be used by law enforcement officials in the search process.

If a search conducted in accordance with this policy produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the district's rules, the evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing to school. Student dress is expected to be in accordance with the principles of good taste, discretion, proper etiquette, and appropriate decorum. The District does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

Corrective action regarding dress will be taken whenever student attire or grooming presents a threat to school and/or classroom decorum, creates a distraction to other students or teachers, interferes with the learning atmosphere, or jeopardizes the health and/or safety of other students or staff. The principal may use his or her discretion in enforcing the following rules:

1. Student headwear that disrupts the learning environment may be addressed by school staff.
 2. Coats and jackets (outerwear) are not to be worn during school.
 3. Clothing with profanity, obscenity, and/or the display of words, pictures, or symbols associated with alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gangs, weapons/violence of explicit nature or sex will not be allowed.
 4. Shoes must be worn at all times except as authorized by a staff member.
 5. Students must wear clothing that covers midriffs, undergarments and private areas.
 6. Students whose appearance or dress is disruptive to the school or educational activities, may be sent home.
- Additional consequences may be issued at the administrator's discretion.

DRUG FREE SCHOOL

The Board finds and determines that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The Board of Education policy prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of drugs and alcohol on property of the School District or as part of any of its activities. For the purposes of this policy, drugs are defined as any drug which is not legally obtainable and/or any drug which is legally obtainable, such as a

prescription drug, but which is not legally obtained, is not being used for prescription purposes, and/or is not being taken according to prescribed dosages.

Compliance with this policy is a condition of continued enrollment. Consequently, a violation of any aspect of this policy will render students subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution. Alternatively, if deemed appropriate by the Board of Education under the particular circumstances, a student who violates this policy may be required to participate in and complete a drug and alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program to the satisfaction of the Board of Education.

Students and parents shall be notified annually through the Student Parent Handbook that the district has age-appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs that address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use and provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol for all students in all grades of the district's schools operated by the Board of Education.

Upon request, students and parents shall be provided information about any available drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs that are available in the community to students.

Students and parents shall be notified at least each school year of the standards of conduct required by this policy, the compliance with those standards is mandatory and of the sanctions set forth in this policy.

The Board of Education and administration shall conduct a biennial review of this policy to determine its effectiveness and implement changes to this policy and program if necessary, and ensure that the sanctions required by this policy are consistently enforced.

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION **USE OF CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

State law allows local Boards of Education to authorize and regulate the use of cellphones in school. A cell phone is defined as any device that can receive or send a phone call or text. The Rockton Board of Education cell phone policy allows the possession of cell phones in school with parents' permission and if the following guidelines are met:

- Phones are to be kept out of sight and in an inconspicuous location, such as a backpack, purse or locker. Students may not carry the phone with them during the regular school day and on school buses.
- Phones are to be turned off during the regular school day unless the supervising teacher grants permission for them to be used or if needed during a bona fide emergency.
- Phones may not be used in any manner that will cause disruption to the educational environment or will otherwise violate student conduct rules.
- School district is not responsible for any personal electronic devices brought to school that are lost, damaged or stolen.
- Any personal electronic devices used in a manner that causes disruption to the educational environment will be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student's parent/legal guardian.

USE OF SCHOOL TELEPHONES

Students must get permission from the office to use the telephone. Students will not be allowed to use the phone to make personal arrangements that could have been made prior to coming to school (i.e., calling home for permission to go to someone's house after school). Personal phone calls for topics other than school business will not be allowed during class time.

STUDENT LOCKERS – Stephen Mack Middle School Only

Most middle school students will have one locker which will be in the hallway for coats and books. These lockers are for assigned student use only. Combinations to the locks should not be given to other students. Lockers should be locked at all times. Money and valuable items should not be kept in lockers. Valuables can be turned into the office or to the physical education instructor during physical education classes for safekeeping. All materials should be stored in locked lockers. Lockers may be inspected by school personnel at any time.

HOMEWORK HOTLINE – Stephen Mack Middle School 6th Grade Only

Homework assignments will be posted on the district website daily.

PARENT INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIALITY – STUDENT INFORMATION CHILD CUSTODY/MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION DISPUTES

In matters involving a marriage dissolution or child custody dispute, no faculty or staff member shall respond to court order, subpoena, inquiries from attorneys, or inquiries from advocates regarding children currently or formerly enrolled in Rockton School District 140 without first notifying the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. Unless there is a court order or decree to the contrary, both parents shall be notified of any such inquiries, subpoenas, or court orders.

PTO

The Rockton Parent-Teachers Organization bolsters our schools with their continuous support by providing both volunteers and finances. The PTO has a strong tradition of creating activities that promote enjoyable family activities in our school community. Regular PTO meetings are scheduled during the school year.

Rockton School District 140 is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members, including on any organization or club websites or social media accounts.

PARENTS' INFORMATION COLLECTION AVAILABLE IN THE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

Stephen Mack Middle School counselor's office offers resources that can help answer questions and concerns parents may have about their adolescent child in middle school. These materials are available for you to check out from the Learning Center at Stephen Mack Middle School. You will find resources available in the following categories: characteristics of adolescents, parenting techniques, building the bridge between home and school. Contact our school counselor for more information.

RESOURCE GUIDE PHONE NUMBERS

HELPLINES

Contact	815-636-5000
DCFS-Child Abuse Hotline	800-252-2873
Winnebago County Health Dept.	815-720-4000
Rosecrance Treatment Center	888-928-0212
Family Counseling Services	815-962-5585
Center for Sight and Hearing	815-332-6800
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Illinois Relay – TTY	800-526-0844
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	815-636-9811
Il. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR)	312-814-6200

MEDICAL SERVICES

Beloit Clinic – Roscoe	815-525-4410
Northpointe Clinic	815-364-2200
U of I Primary Care/Rockton	815-389-3936
Crusader Clinic	815-490-1600
Rockford Clinic	815-971-2000
OSF St. Anthony Medical Clinic	815-226-2000
Mercy Health Hospital	815-971-5000
Swedish American Hospital	815-696-4400

MENTAL HEALTH/ SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Rosecrance Health Network	888-928-0212
Mercy Health System	815-971-5000
Swedish American Hospital	815-696-4400
Suicide Prevention Crisis Text Line:	1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Text MT to 741-741	
(A free, 24/7 text line for people in crisis.)	
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Dial 988	
suicidepreventionlifeline.org	

FAMILY SERVICES

Family Counseling Services	815-962-5585
Catholic Social Services	815-965-0623
United Way of Rock River Valley	815-968-5400
Lutheran Social Services	815-969-8836
Rockford Life Center	815-964-4966
Alcoholics Anonymous	815-968-0333
Alano Club of Rockford	815-227-4633
Northern IL Al-Anon Family	815-399-0456
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	815-636-9811

LOST AND FOUND

Many items are lost at school. Regardless of value, these items are placed in the lost and found area. Periodically throughout the school year, these items are donated to organizations such as Goodwill or Salvation Army. If you notice something missing, don't let a great deal of time elapse before checking the lost and found. Be advised of the following:

- Clearly label your child's coats, jackets, sweaters, caps, boots, etc. with their full name and grade.
- Do not allow articles of sentimental or monetary value to be brought to school.
- Toys should not be brought to school unless you have obtained the teacher's permission for the item to be in class.
- The school assumes no responsibility for lost articles.

POSTING PICTURES AND VIDEO ON FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE

Please remember that while you may have some great footage of your child from a school event that you can't wait to share with family and friends on Facebook, you need to be very careful. Please remember that other children may be in the pictures too, and their parents may prefer their images kept private. Many social networking sites have privacy settings – please consider their use.

NOTICES

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT

The Rockton School District is an equal opportunity employer providing opportunities for employment and advancement without regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, and disability, national origin, economic or social conditions, language barrier, ancestry, or marital or paternal status. The Rockton School District recognizes the right of an individual to work and to advance on the basis of merit, ability, and potential.

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Board of Education is in compliance with the State of Illinois Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in each school building and in the Administration Office at Rockton Grade School, 1050 East Union Street, Rockton, Illinois.

EQUITY POLICY NOTIFICATION

The Rockton School District assures it does not discriminate on the basis of race; color; creed; religion; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; ancestry; marital status; arrest record; military status; order of protection status; unfavorable military discharge; citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability in the provision of programs, activities, services, or benefits and it guarantees all individuals equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any individual may file a grievance or complaint of discrimination to: Mr. Daniel Phelps, Superintendent, 1050 East Union Street, Rockton, Illinois 61072, Phone (815) 624-7143. The grievance or complaint shall be submitted in writing. Within sixty calendar days of receiving a grievance or complaint, the superintendent shall render a written decision. The written decision may be appealed to the Rockton School District Board of Education by submitting a written request for a hearing before the Board, addressed to the district superintendent.

The decision of the Board of Education may be further appealed to the Regional superintendent of Schools pursuant to Section 3-10 of the School Code and, thereafter, to the State superintendent of Education pursuant to Section 2-3.8 of the School Code.

Sex Equity Policy

It is the policy of the Rockton School District #140 that its educational and extracurricular programs, activities, services, and benefits will be provided to students without discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, or physical or mental disability, be limited in the exercises of any right, privilege, advantage or opportunity. This may include, but is not limited to, access to multi-stalled gendered restrooms that are consistent with students' gender identity. No student will be required to use a gender neutral facility because they are transgender or gender non-conforming. The Rockton School District does not discriminate on the basis of actual or potential marital or parental status.

The district will comply with Federal and State equal employment opportunity requirements.

Sexual Harassment Policy

We believe students have the right to attend school free from fear of sexual harassment. No student in the district shall be subjected to sexual intimidation or sexual harassment by any school employee, by other students, or by the effect of any school policy or practice.

Violation of this policy shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Sexual harassment consists of any sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and any other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may include, but is not necessarily limited to:

1. Sexually oriented verbal teasing or innuendos
2. Unwarranted touching
3. Suggesting sexual involvement whether or not accompanied by implied or explicit threats.
4. A student in a class or activity subjected to sexual comments or innuendos by teachers or students who regard the comments as "joking" or part of the environment.

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. The adult should notify the principal or superintendent who will be responsible for investigating the concern and contacting the parents of the students involved. Where appropriate, the Department of Children and Family Services will be contacted. Where a claim is found to have merit, disciplinary action will be taken. If a parent has a concern about sexual harassment, the concern should be put in writing to the appropriate administrator.

The above statements are a summary of the Board of Education's policies on Student Sex Equity, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment/ Intimidation policies. For more information or a copy of the complete policies, please contact the building administrator or superintendent.

Child Sex Offender Registry

The Sex Offender Registry was created in response to the Illinois Legislature's determination to facilitate access to publicly available information about persons convicted of sex offenses. The Illinois State Police provides an online listing of sex offenders required to register in the State of Illinois. The database is updated daily and allows searching by city, county, and zip code. www.isp.state.il.us. In addition, a printed copy of the recently published registry is available for your review at each school office.

The Illinois State Police has not considered or assessed the specific risk of re-offense with regard to any individual prior to his or her inclusion on this Registry and has made no determination that any individual included in the Registry is currently dangerous. Individuals included on the Registry are included solely by virtue of their conviction record and Illinois state law. The primary purpose of providing this information is to make the information easily available and accessible, not to warn about any specific individuals.

The information on the registry refers only to sex offenses and/or certain crimes against children and may not reflect the entire criminal history of a particular individual. A complete public record of Illinois criminal history can be obtained from the Illinois State Police Bureau of Identification.

The information contained in the registry does not imply listed individuals will commit a specific type of crime in the future, nor does it imply that if a future crime is committed by a listed individual what the nature of that crime may be. Illinois State Police makes no representation as to any offender's likelihood of re-offending.

Information compiled on this Registry may not be used to harass or threaten sex offenders or their families. Harassment, stalking or threats may violate Illinois criminal law.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION

Integrated Pest Management

It is the policy of Rockton School District to utilize integrated pest management principles to manage pest populations. To accomplish this goal, this School District will adopt a Least Toxic Integrated Pest Management approach to pest prevention and control in all school buildings and on school grounds. The District will utilize physical, mechanical, cultural, biological, and educational tactics as primary controls. Least-toxic chemical controls are used as a last resort. Pests will be controlled to maintain the integrity of school buildings and grounds, to protect the health and safety of children and staff, and to maintain a productive learning environment. Restricted use pesticides will not be applied on or within 500 feet of school property during normal school hours.

“Pesticide” means any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest or any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant. All pesticide applications are subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, District policies and procedures, EPA regulations, State and Local regulations. Pesticides will not be used to control pests for aesthetic reasons alone.

Contractors working in district buildings and grounds are required to adhere to all provisions of this policy.

Pests are populations of living organisms including arthropods (insects, spiders, mites, ticks, and related pests), wood infesting organisms, rats, mice nuisance birds and any other obnoxious or undesirable, animals in, on, outside or under structures, weeds, bacterium, fungus but does not include bacteria or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals that interfere with the human purposes for the school site. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and any threat they pose to people, property or the environment.

Integrated Pest Management Coordinator

The Board of Rockton School District has designated the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor as the IPM Coordinator. The IPM Coordinator will oversee custodial, building and grounds, and maintenance staff to ensure implementation of pest prevention measures; manage pest control contractors and staff engaged in monitoring and control of pest problems; communicate with principals and district administration to carry out posting and notification and record keeping.

The use of pesticides will be based on a review by the IPM Coordinator of all other available options and a determination that these options alone are not adequate to control the pest population. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered in all incidents.

Pesticide Applications

The IPM Coordinator must approve all pesticide applications in advance. Only a certified technician licensed with the State of Illinois may only apply pesticides to lawns, trees, shrubs, parking lots, etc. The technician must comply with the District’s IPM policy and management plan.

Pesticides may only be applied when children are not present in the building or on the grounds. The application of such pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 USC 136 et seq.), US EPA regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State and Local regulations and laws.

Posting

Signs will be posted on facility doors and near the site of planned applications at least two business days in advance of pesticide use, and at the time of application. These signs will include the name of pesticide used; date and time of application; warning or cautionary statements from product label including restrictions on entering the treated areas or special cautions for certain individuals; information about availability of product labels, MSDS and inert ingredients lists at facility office; and contact phone number for those seeking additional information.

Outdoor applications will be cordoned off and flagged. Signs shall remain in place for one week after pesticide application, or a longer period of time if specified by the pesticide label.

Parental and Staff Notification

The School District will notify all parents and staff at least two business days prior to any pesticide applications in the school buildings or on the school grounds. The District will create a notification registry by providing parents an opportunity to register for notification annually as part of the schools registration process.

Neighbors immediately adjacent to the school property will be notified at least two business days in advance of any outdoor pesticide applications.

Antimicrobial agents are exempt from notification requirements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTIFICATION

Rockton School District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend a meeting or a school activity and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to attend and/or participate, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to promptly contact the District's ADA/Section 504 Coordinator at (815)624-7143.

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Any parent or guardian may prohibit the release of any or all of the information listed below by delivering a written objection to the building principal.

Name
Address
Gender
Grade level
Birth date and place
Parents'/guardians' names and addresses
Academic awards and honors – including published school honor roll
Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics
Period of attendance in school

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact the building principal or the superintendent.

SCHOOL STUDENT RECORDS NOTIFICATION STATEMENT

Student Records Defined

A student record is any record that contains personally identifiable information or other information that would link the document to an individual student if it is maintained by the District, except records kept: (1) in a school staff member's sole possession destroyed not later than the student's graduation or permanent withdrawal, and not accessible or revealed to any other person except a temporary substitute teacher, or (2) by law enforcement officials working in the school.

Maintenance of School Student Records

The District maintains two types of school records for each student: a *permanent* record and a *temporary* record. These records may be integrated.

The *permanent record* shall include:

Basic identifying information
Academic transcripts
Attendance record
Accident and health reports
Scores received on the Illinois State Assessment
Information pertaining to release of this record
Honors and awards
School-sponsored activities and athletics

No other information shall be placed in the permanent record. The permanent record shall be maintained for at least 60 years after the student graduated, withdrew, or transferred.

The *temporary record* may include:

Family background
Intelligence and aptitude scores
Psychological reports
Achievement test results, including scores on the Illinois State Assessment
Participation in extracurricular activities
Honors and awards
Teacher anecdotal records
Disciplinary information, specifically including information regarding an expulsion, suspension, or other punishment for misconduct involving drugs, weapons, or bodily harm to another
Special education files
Verified reports or information from non-educational persons

Verified information of clear relevance to the student's education
Information pertaining to release of this record

Information in the temporary record will indicate authorship and date. The District will maintain the student's temporary record for at least five years after the student transferred, graduated, or permanently withdrew. After five years, temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with disabilities who graduates or permanently withdraws may be transferred to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

The building principal is responsible for the maintenance, retention, or destruction of a student's permanent or temporary records. Upon a student's graduation, transfer, or permanent withdrawal, the building principal or designee shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student when the student's permanent and temporary school records are scheduled to be destroyed and of their right to request a copy. Student records shall be reviewed at least every 4 years, or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first, to verify entries and correct inaccurate information.

The District uses students' Social Security numbers for intra-school identification purposes, if at all. However, school officials may not require students or their parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide them. Absent a court order or subpoena, school officials do not provide educational records to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Access to Student Records

The District shall grant access to student records as follows:

1. Neither the District nor any of its employees shall release, disclose, or grant access to information found in any student record except under the conditions set forth in the Illinois School Student Records Act.
2. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student under 18 years of age, or designee, shall be entitled to inspect and copy information in the child's school records; a student less than 18 years old may inspect or copy information in the student's permanent school record. Such requests shall be made in writing and directed to the records custodian. Access to the records shall be granted within 10 days of the District's receipt of such a request. Where the parents/guardians are divorced or separated, both shall be permitted to inspect and copy the student's school records unless the District has actual notice of a court order indicating otherwise. The District shall send copies of the following to both parents/guardians at either's request, unless the District has actual notice of a court order indicating otherwise:
 - a. Academic progress reports or records;
 - b. Health reports;
 - c. Notices of parent-teacher conferences;
 - d. School calendars distributed to parent(s)/guardian(s); and
 - e. Notices about open houses, graduations, and other major school events including pupil-parent(s)/guardian(s) interaction.
3. When the student reaches 18 years of age, graduates from high school, marries, or enters military service all rights and privileges accorded to parent(s)/guardian(s) become exclusively those of the student. Access shall not be granted the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the student to confidential letters and recommendations concerning the admission to a post-secondary educational institution, applications for employment or the receipt of an honor or award which have been placed in the records prior to January 1, 1975, provided such letters and statements are not used for purposes other than those for which they were specifically intended. Access shall not be granted to such letters and statements entered into the record at any time if the student has waived his or her right of access after being advised of his or her right to obtain the names of all persons making such confidential letters and statements.
4. The District may grant access to, or release information from, student records without parental/guardian consent or notification to District employees or officials or the Illinois State Board of Education, provided a current, demonstrable, educational or administrative need is shown. Access in such cases is limited to the satisfaction of that need.
5. The District may grant access to, or release information from, student records without parental/guardian consent or notification to any person for the purpose of research, statistical reporting, or planning, provided that no student or parent(s)/ guardian(s) can be identified from the information released, and the person to whom the information is released signs an affidavit agreeing to comply with all applicable statutes and rules pertaining to school student records.
6. The District shall grant access to, or release information from, a student's records pursuant to a court order, provided that the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be given prompt written notice of such order's terms, the nature and substance of the information proposed to be released, and an opportunity to inspect and copy such records and to challenge their contents.

7. The District shall grant access to, or release information from, any student record as specifically required by federal or State statute.
8. The District shall grant access to, or release information from, student records to any person possessing a written, dated consent, signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student stating to whom the records may be released, the information or record to be released, and the reason for the release. One copy of the consent form will be kept in the records and one copy is mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student by the superintendent. Whenever the District requests the consent to release certain records, the records custodian shall inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student of the right to limit such consent to specific portions of information in the records.
9. The District may release student records to the records custodian of another Illinois school, or an official with similar responsibilities in a non-Illinois school, in which the student has enrolled or intends to enroll, upon a written request from such official. Once an official request from the school has been received by the District, an unofficial record for the student will be sent within 10 days.
10. Prior to the release of any records, or information under items six and eight above, the District shall provide prompt written notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student of this intended action. This notification shall include a statement concerning the nature and substance of the records to be released and the right to inspect, copy, and challenge the contents. If the release is under six above and relates to more than 25 students, a notice published in the newspaper is sufficient.
11. The District may release student records, or information in connection with an emergency without parental consent if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons. The records custodian shall make this decision taking into consideration the nature of the emergency, the seriousness of the threat to the health or safety of the student or other persons, the need for such records to meet the emergency, and whether the persons to whom such records are released are in a position to deal with the emergency. The District shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student as soon as possible of the information released, the date of the release, the person, agency or organization to whom the release was made, and the purpose of the release.
12. The District shall grant access to, or release information from student records to juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties upon their request prior to adjudication of the student, provided they certify in writing that the information will not be disclosed to any other party except as provided under law or order of court. "Juvenile authorities" means: (a) a judge of the circuit court and members of the staff of the court designated by the judge; (b) parties to the proceedings under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 and their attorneys; (c) probation officers and court appointed advocates for the juvenile authorized by the judge hearing the case; (d) any individual, public or private agency having custody of the child pursuant to court order; (e) any individual, public or private agency providing education, medical or mental health service to the child when the requested information is needed to determine the appropriate service or treatment for the minor; (f) any potential placement provider when such release is authorized by the court for the limited purpose of determining the appropriateness of the potential placement; (g) law enforcement officers and prosecutors; (h) adult and juvenile prisoner review boards; (i) authorized military personnel; and (j) individuals authorized by court.
13. The District shall grant access to, or release information from student records, to a SHOCAP (Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program) committee member, provided that:
 - a. The committee member is a State or local official or authority,
 - b. The disclosure concerns the juvenile justice system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are to be released and the official or authority certifies in writing that the records will not be disclosed to any other party except as provided under State law without the prior written consent of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s),
 - c. The disclosure's purpose is limited to identifying serious habitual juvenile offenders and matching those offenders with community resources pursuant to Section 5-145 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, and
 - d. The release, transfer, disclosure, or dissemination consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
14. The District charges \$.35 per page for copying information in a student's records. No parent(s)/guardian(s) or student shall be precluded from copying information because of financial hardship.
15. A record of all releases of information from student records (including all instances of access granted whether or not records were copied) shall be kept and maintained as part of such records. This record shall be maintained for the life of the student record and shall be accessible only to the parent(s)/ guardian(s) or eligible student, records custodian, or other person. The record of release shall include:
 - a. Information released or made accessible.

- b. The name and signature of the records custodian.
- c. The name and position of the person obtaining the release or access.
- d. The date of the release or grant of access.
- e. A copy of any consent to such release.

Orders of Protection

Upon receipt of a court order of protection, the building principal shall file it in the records of a child who is the “protected person” under the order of protection. No information or records shall be released to the respondent named in the order of protection. When a child who is a “protected person” under an order of protection transfers to public or private school, the building principal shall, at the request of the petitioner, provide within 24 hours of the transfer or as soon as possible, written notice of the order of protection along with a certified copy of the order to the school to which the child is transferring.

Student Record Challenges

The parent(s)/guardian(s) may challenge the accuracy, relevancy or propriety of the records. However when the student’s school records are being forwarded to another school, no challenge may be made to grades or references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions. They have the right to request a hearing at which each party has the right to:

1. Present evidence and to call witnesses;
2. Cross-examine witnesses;
3. Counsel;
4. A written statement of any decision and the reasons therefore; and
5. Appeal an adverse decision to an administrative tribunal or official to be established or designated by the State Board.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) may insert a written statement of reasonable length describing their position on disputed information. The school will include a copy of the statement in any release of the information in dispute.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records.

1. The Right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The Right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. If the (District/School) decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the (District/School) will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

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

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Note: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.

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

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

SCHOOL VISITATION RIGHTS ACT NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the School Visitation Act under certain conditions an employer must grant an employee leave to attend school conferences or classroom activities related to the employee's child. Anyone interested in the specifics of this act should contact their employer or school administration office.

SMOKING POLICY NOTIFICATION

The Rockton School Board prohibits the use of tobacco on school property. Tobacco shall mean cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco in any other forms, including smokeless tobacco which is any loose, cut, shredded, ground, powdered, compressed or leaf tobacco that is intended to be placed in the mouth without being smoked.

TITLE IX POLICY NOTIFICATION

It is the policy of Rockton School District No. 140, Rockton Illinois not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by compliance with Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be directed to Mr. Daniel Phelps, Superintendent, Rockton School District No. 140, 1050 East Union Street, Rockton, Illinois 61072, or to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

INTERNET USE

Below is a copy of our Internet Use Policy. If your child is going to have access to the Internet in school, you must sign a copy of the Internet Use Agreement. Without your signature, access will be denied.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Filtered high speed Internet access is available to students and teachers in the Rockton School District. We are pleased to have this access in our schools and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting.

On a global network it is impossible to control all material and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that valuable information and interaction available on the worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the District. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines.

These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Rockton School District user violates any of these provisions, his or her privileges for future access could be denied. The signature at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District's local -area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (WiFi), District-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networks or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned or District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

Internet – Terms and Conditions of Use:

1. Acceptable Use – the purpose of the backbone networks making up the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of the Internet must be consistent with the educational objectives of Rockton School District. Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation is prohibited.
2. Privileges – The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.

The system administrator along with the administration will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final.

3. Network Etiquette – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to:
 - a) Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
 - b) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
 - c) Do not reveal your personal address or phone number of students or colleagues.
 - d) Note that electronic mail (E-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. The system administrator will have the right to access all mail.
 - e) Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network for other users.
4. Rockton School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied for the service it is providing. The district will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. You are not allowed to use the school's access to the Internet to make purchases of any kind without written authorization for the system administrator.
5. Security – On any computer system, security is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem, notify a system administrator, DO NOT demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.
6. Vandalism – Will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data, hardware, or another user. This includes, but not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
7. Internet Content – The student exercising their right to use the Internet as an educational resource shall also accept the responsibility for all material received under their user account. Only those students with prior experience or instruction shall be authorized to use the Internet.

Students will accept the responsibility of keeping copyrighted software of any kind from entering the school via the Internet.

Students will accept the responsibility of keeping all pornographic material, inappropriate test files, or files dangerous to the integrity of the network from entering the school via the Internet.

Students may NOT subscribe to newsgroups or listservs via the school's Internet access or account.

The Rockton School District reserves the right to examine all data stored in the machines involved in the Internet or not to make sure that all users are in compliance with Internet regulations. The District also reserves the right to change the rules at any time without notice.

Finally, all users should keep in mind that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the school system as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

Google Workspace for Education

At the Rockton School District, we use Google Workspace for Education, and we are seeking your permission to provide and manage a Google Workspace for Education account for your child. Google Workspace for Education is a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. At the Rockton School District, students will use their Google Workspace for Education accounts to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, sign into their Chromebooks, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.

In addition, we also allow students to access certain other Google services with their Google Workspace for Education accounts. Your child may have access to Google's Additional Services.

When creating a student account, the Rockton School District may provide Google with certain personal information about the student, including, for example, a name, email address, and password. Google may also collect personal information directly from students, such as a telephone number for account recovery or a profile photo added to the Google Workspace for Education account.

When a student uses Google core services, Google also collects information based on the use of those services. This includes:

- account information, which includes things like name and email address.
- activity while using the core services, which includes things like viewing and interacting with content, people with whom your student communicates or shares content, and other details about their usage of the services.
- settings, apps, browsers & devices. Google collects information about your student's settings and the apps, browsers, and devices they use to access Google services. This information includes browser and device type, settings configuration, unique identifiers, operating system, mobile network information, and application version number. Google also collects information about the interaction of your student's apps, browsers, and devices with Google services, including IP address, crash reports, system activity, and the date and time of a request.
- location information. Google collects information about your student's location as determined by various technologies such as IP address and GPS.
- direct communications. Google keeps records of communications when your student provides feedback, asks questions, or seeks technical support

The Additional Services we allow students to access with their Google Workspace for Education accounts may also collect the following information, as described in the Google Privacy Policy:

- activity while using additional services, which includes things like terms your student searches for, videos they watch, content and ads they view and interact with, voice and audio information when they use audio features, purchase activity, and activity on third-party sites and apps that use Google services.
- apps, browsers, and devices. Google collects the information about your student's apps, browser, and devices described above in the core services section.
- location information. Google collects info about your student's location as determined by various technologies including: GPS, IP address, sensor data from their device, and information about things near their device, such as Wi-Fi access points, cell towers, and Bluetooth-enabled devices. The types of location data we collect depend in part on your student's device and account settings.

The Rockton School District reserves the right to create/maintain a Google Workspace for Education account for my child and for Google to collect, use, and disclose information about my child only for the purposes described in the notice.

Chromebook Student Usage

- Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook.
- Chromebooks that are broken or fail to work properly must be taken to a classroom teacher immediately.
- No food or drink is allowed next to your Chromebook while it is in use.
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook.
- Students should never carry their Chromebook while the screen is open unless directed to do so by a classroom teacher.
- Chromebooks should be shut down when not in use to conserve battery life.
- Do not expose your Chromebook to extreme temperature or direct sunlight for an extended period of time.
- Do not lean on top of the Chromebook.
- Do not place anything near the Chromebook that could put pressure on the screen.
- Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy identification labels. Any identification labels deemed to be modified, removed, or destroyed may result in forfeiture of Chromebook privileges.
- Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- Any damage that is deemed accidental will be financially covered by the district. If damage is done purposely, students will face consequences and may be financially liable to replace or repair the damage done to the Chromebook.

**Please answer “Yes” or “No” questions and complete the bottom portion of this form.
Return to your child’s teacher ASAP. Thank you!**

Rockton School District #140 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook Signature Page

I am aware the Parent/Student Handbook will be available in August online at www.rockton140.org. I will read the Handbook and will ask questions should I have concerns regarding the rules and expectations. I agree to be responsible for following all of the rules and expectations of the school and understand the consequences for failing to follow the requirements.

My signature below indicates that I will access and read the 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook for Rockton School District #140 and become aware of the Discipline Policies and Procedures (Pages 24-34) and the Attendance Policy (Pages 12-14), as well as the other District #140 policies and procedures presented therein. In addition, I give my permission for the following **(please circle YES or NO)**:

YES or NO As a student, I have read the *Rockton School District Internet Use Agreement* and understand and will abide by the Internet Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary actions may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action.

YES or NO My child can be photographed for school-related purposes, such as sport/club/activity photos to be used in school-related publications including newsletters, school website, and local newspapers. My child’s name can accompany the photograph.

YES or NO As the parent or guardian, I have read the *Internet Use Agreement*. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Rockton School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the Rockton School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child’s use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to let my child explore the Internet.

Please complete and sign for all above mentioned items.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

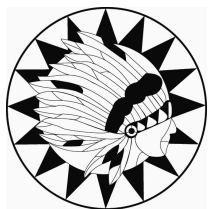
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have a question, please see your child’s teacher and/or building principal. Thank you for your cooperation!

MILITARY SERVICE: The State of Illinois now requires school districts to ask two questions regarding military service. These questions are provided below for you to answer. Your response is completely voluntary, however, if you would like to fill out this form and return it to your child’s school, please do so.

Military Service (Providing information is optional.)

1. Does this student have a parent or guardian who is a member of a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Does this student have a parent or guardian that is deployed or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year?
Yes _____ No _____
Student’s Name _____ Grade _____
Parent Name (Printed) _____ Parent Signature _____



Stephen Mack Middle School Chromebook Policy Handbook

Receiving Your Chromebook

- All transfer/new students will be able to pick up their Chromebooks from the Main Office after they have registered for classes and viewed the orientation presentation. Both students and parents must sign the Rockton School District Chromebook Agreement prior to picking up a Chromebook.

Returning Your Chromebook

End of the Year

All will return their Chromebooks at the end of the 25-26 school year. Students will be charged for Chromebook damages. All who do not turn their Chromebook and power cord will be billed for the cost of the Chromebook.

Transferring/Withdrawing Students

- All students who transfer out/withdraw from Rockton School District must turn their Chromebook and power cord into the main office on the last day of attendance in the Rockton School District.
- Students who do not turn in their Chromebook and power cord will be billed for the cost of the Chromebook.

Chromebook Care

Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook that they have been issued by the school.

General Precautions

- Students will not mark or deface the Chromebook.
- Food or drink should not be next to a Chromebook.
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into a Chromebook.
- Chromebooks and accessories should not be used or stored near pets.
- Power cords must not create a tripping hazard.
- Chromebooks must remain free of any writing, drawing, and labels.
- Heavy objects should never be placed on top of Chromebooks.
- Students shall never leave their Chromebooks unattended, nor should they be loaned to any other student.

- It is highly recommended that Chromebooks are kept in a protective case when transported to and from school.

My Chromebook is damaged. What do I do?

- Chromebooks that are broken or fail to work properly must be taken to the library. Students must provide any information they may have as to why the device does not work properly. A loaner computer will then be given to the student until the issued Chromebook can be repaired.
- District-owned Chromebooks shall never be taken to an outside computer service for any type of repairs or maintenance. Students should not attempt to repair or disassemble any part of the Chromebook.
- Loss or theft of the Chromebook is also the student's responsibility and may result in the student being charged and a police report being filed.
- Students may be responsible for the cost of repair for damage to devices due to damage or neglect. The decision to assess a charge, as well as the amount of any charge, is at the sole discretion of the District, but will not exceed the full replacement value of the Chromebook.
- Broken screens will be repaired by the district. The screen repair will be the cost of the actual repair.

Failure to take proper care of the Chromebook and power cord may result in disciplinary action and/or being charged up to the full replacement cost of the Chromebook. NOTE: Lost or stolen power cords will not be replaced but can be purchased by submitting a help desk ticket through the school library.

Asset Tags/Serial Number/Barcodes

- All Chromebooks will be labeled with a District asset tag and barcode.
- The asset tag and barcode may not be modified or tampered with in any way.
- Students may be charged up to the full replacement cost of a Chromebook for tampering with a District asset tag or barcode or turning in a Chromebook without a District asset tag or barcode.
- The District will maintain a log of all Chromebooks which includes the Chromebook serial number, asset tag number, and name and ID number of the student assigned to the device.

Cases

Students are encouraged to provide their own protective cases for their Chromebooks. Some Chromebooks will come with a protective case. Students should not remove or tamper with the Chromebook case. Protective carrying cases are not guaranteed to prevent damages. It remains the student's responsibility to care for and protect his/her device.

Carrying Chromebooks

- Never lift a Chromebook by the screen.
- Never carry a Chromebook with the screen open.
- Never carry a Chromebook on the bottom of a stack of books.

Screen Care

- The Chromebook screen can be damaged if subjected to heavy objects, rough treatment, cleaning solvents and other liquids. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.
- Only clean the screen with a soft, dry microfiber or anti-static cloth.
- Do not put pressure on the top of a Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not store a Chromebook with the screen open.
- Make sure there is nothing on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils or flash drives).

Expectations for Using Your District Owned Chromebook at School

School Use

- Students are expected to bring a fully charged Chromebook to school every day and bring their Chromebook to all classes unless specifically advised not to do so by their teacher.
- Headphones may be used at the discretion of the teacher.
- Students will log into their Chromebooks using only their school issued Google Account.
- Students should never share their account password with others.
- The District will not be responsible for the loss of any student work.
- Students may not attempt to circumvent any security policies, settings or software that is installed or enforced by Rockton School District.
- Use of technology at Rockton School District is for educational purposes only.
- The student is fully responsible at all times for the care and safety of their issued Chromebook.

Backgrounds and Themes

- Students may set school appropriate backgrounds and themes for their Chromebook.
- Inappropriate media may not be used as Chromebook backgrounds or themes. The presence of such media may result in disciplinary action.

Sound

- Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from a teacher.
- Headphones/earbuds may be used at the discretion of the teachers.
- Students should have their own personal set of headphones/earbuds for sanitary reasons.

Camera

- Chromebooks have a built-in webcam. The District does not have the ability to access the webcam. At no times will webcams be used to monitor students.

Logging into a Chromebook

- Students will log into their Chromebooks using their school issued Google Apps for Education account.
- Students should never share their account passwords.

Managing Your Files and Saving Your Work

Students will create and save documents in Google Drive. Google Drive is a cloud storage service that allows students to store their documents, photos, videos and more in one place. Google Drive can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection and most mobile internet devices. Students are encouraged to maintain backups of their important work on a portable storage device or by having multiple copies stored in different internet storage solutions. The District will not be responsible for the loss of any student work.

Using Your Chromebook Outside of School

Students are encouraged to use their Chromebooks at home and other locations outside of school. A WiFi Internet connection will be required for the majority of Chromebook use. Some applications can be used while not connected to the Internet. Students are bound by the District Acceptable Use Policy, Administrative Procedures, and all other guidelines and appendices attached to this document wherever and whenever they use their Chromebooks. Violations of these policies will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Operating System and Security

Students may not use or install any operating system on their Chromebook other than the current version of ChromeOS that is supported and managed by the District. ChromeOS updates itself automatically, so students do not need to manually update their Chromebooks.

No Expectation of Privacy

Anyone using a District owned Chromebook, using District equipment and/or the District network systems has no expectation of privacy in such use. The District has the right to, and does, monitor use of these systems. Teachers, school administrators and the technology department staff may use monitoring software that allows them to view the screens and activity on a student Chromebook.

Appropriate Uses and Digital Citizenship

District owned Chromebooks are to be used for educational purposes. Students must comply with any and all Board Policies regarding student discipline, harassment/bullying and to the acceptable use policy and all of its corresponding administrative procedures at all times. Violations of these policies will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

2025-2026 Stephen Mack Middle School Student and Parent/Guardian Technology Responsibility Agreement

Student Responsibility for the Use of District Owned Technology Includes:

The student will:

- Comply with any and all Board policies regarding student discipline, harassment/bullying and acceptable use of electronic networks.
- Charge his/her Chromebook nightly, and make sure it is ready each day with a full charge.
- Communicate in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner; avoiding profanity, obscenity and offensive or inflammatory speech.
- Respect the Internet filtering and security measures included on the digital learning tool.
- Use technology for school-related purposes only.
- Follow copyright laws and fair use guidelines. Only download or import music, video or other content that students are authorized or legally permitted to reproduce or use.
- Allow an administrator or teacher to inspect the content of any District owned learning tool; understanding that any content may be viewed, monitored or archived by the District at any time.

The student will not:

- Attempt to override, bypass or otherwise tamper with the Internet filtering software, device settings, hardware, software, or network configurations.
- Attempt access to networks and other technologies beyond authorized access. This includes attempts to use another person's account and/or password or access secured wireless networks.
- Share passwords, attempt to discover passwords, 'hack' to gain access other than your own.
- Download harmful, malicious, or inappropriate content including the intentional introduction of computer viruses and other spyware.
- Attempt to locate, view, share, or store any materials that are unacceptable in a school setting. This includes but is not limited to pornographic, obscene, graphically violent, or vulgar images, sounds, music, language, video or other materials. The criteria for acceptability is demonstrated in the types of material made available to students by teachers and administrators.
- Reveal or post identifying personal information, files or communications to unknown persons.
- Participate in Cyberbullying, including personal attacks or threats toward anyone made while using either District owned or personally owned technology.
- Use the District owned device for commercial or political purposes.

In addition to the specific requirements and restrictions detailed above, it is expected that students and families will apply common sense to the care and maintenance of District owned computer technology.

The District is not responsible for any loss resulting from use of District owned technology and makes no guarantees that the technology or the District network systems that support student use will be available at all times.

By signing this policy you agree to abide by all of the conditions listed above and assume responsibility for the care and proper use of the district owned Chromebook. You understand that should you fail to honor any and all of the terms of this commitment, access to 1:1 technology, network access, and other electronic media may be denied in the future. Furthermore, students may be subject to disciplinary action outlined in the Student Handbook.

Stephen Mack Middle School Chromebook Agreement

As the student, my signature indicates I have:

Read or had explained to me the Guidelines, Procedures and Technology Use Commitment outlined in this handbook, and accept responsibility for abiding by the terms and conditions outlined and using these resources for educational purposes.

Student Name (please print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the parent/guardian, my signature indicates I have:

_____ Read and understand the Guidelines, Procedures and Technology Use Commitment outlined in this handbook, and give my permission for my child to have access to and use the described District owned technology.

_____ Acknowledged that my student has received his/her District owned Chromebook and charger.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____