



2025 – 2026

THE OAKDALE STEAM STUDENT HANDBOOK

This handbook contains important school information, rules, and policies. With the exception of the Return to Learning plan, the information is organized in alphabetical order. It is important that you review this handbook with your child. Returning the signed portion of the handbook ensures that you have read and understand the expectations printed in this handbook.

ARRIVAL

Class begins at 7:40am. Students who are car riders may be dropped off **beginning at 7:00am.** **Do not drop your child off to stand and wait for school to open before 7:00am.** Please refrain from cell phone use while in the car rider line to ensure the safety of our students and staff. If you need to come inside of the school, you must park in a parking space.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is the presence of a student on days when school is in session. Students may be counted only when they actually are at school, on homebound instruction or are present at a school activity authorized by the school. This may include field trips, athletic contests, music festivals, student conventions, and similar activities.

LAWFUL absences are:

- Student is ill and their attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others
- Death/serious illness in their IMMEDIATE family – with proper documentation (bulletin, obituary)
- Recognized religious holiday of faith
- Student is suspended from school for disciplinary reasons
- Necessary medical/legal appointment that cannot be scheduled during non-school hours (7:40a – 2:10p)

Students will be considered LAWFULLY tardy when a doctor's medical note is presented at the time of arrival. All students who are not in their classroom by 7:45 a.m. will receive an unexcused tardy.

IMPORTANT:

- Out of town trips/vacations are UNLAWFUL absences.
- Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by a parent/guardian, or a medical or legal statement.
- The maximum number of parent notes accepted and recorded for illness as a lawful/excused absence is five per year.
- FIVE unexcused absences will result in the creation of a Student Attendance Intervention Plan (SAIP).
- More than FIVE unexcused absences and/or TEN tardies may result in referral to Family Court.

BUS CONDUCT

Specific student behavior expectations are established for the safe and efficient operation of the school district transportation system in accordance with state laws and regulations. Bus transportation is considered an extension of the regular school program and students who violate behavior expectations while riding a bus are subject to suspension from riding the bus and/or all other penalties established for misbehavior while students are on school premises. Below you will find our expectations for our students while riding the bus.

CELL PHONES

Student cell phones are not permitted on campus. If seen, the phone will be taken and locked in the vault until a parent can pick it up. Please do not allow your child to bring his or her phone. We are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones.

Policy: [JICJ Possession/Use of Electronic Devices or District- Owned Devices](#)

Adopted 7/03; Revised 6/10, 6/12, 8/12, 5/16, 8/16, 6/26

CHALLENGER: BE GREAT ACADEMY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Rock Hill Schools is excited to partner with the Be Great Academy again for the 2025-26 school year! Come join our program where we focus on achieving academic success, healthy lifestyles, and character development! Participants will receive snacks daily and have the opportunity to complete homework each day during our Power Hour program. We provide a safe learning environment that includes a curriculum focused on a wide range of topics such as STEAM projects, social-emotional activities, and leadership skills. After-school care will begin at school dismissal until 6:00 pm each day.

Visit <https://york.begreatacademy.com/> for more information and to complete the online registration.

CODE OF CONDUCT – POLICY JICDA

It is the desire of the Rock Hill School District Three Board of Trustees that the public schools of the district offer opportunities for each student to learn in an atmosphere that is most conducive to the realization of his/her potential. Basic to this goal is the provision of schools/classrooms that are safe and orderly, where students and staff recognize and respect the rights of others and where each student is free from intimidation, fear, and disruption of the educational process. All deviant behavior cannot be measured on an objective scale, nor can such behavior be attributed to the same motives. Therefore, the rules do not attempt to cover every possible, potential misbehavior. Nor do they limit the discretionary authority of the principal/assistant principal in the day-to-day administration of discipline.

Minor Referral – Teacher-managed**

These infractions include but are not limited to: failure to complete work, off-task behaviors, non-compliance, horseplay, profanity, running in hallway, etc. Classroom teacher or staff member issuing a referral will attempt parent contact within two days of the incident. Parent must read, sign, and return a referral to the teacher the next school day.

***Prior to receiving a minor referral, your child's teacher clarified expectations and implemented at least two documented interventions to teach expected behavior.*

Major Referral – Administrator-managed

These infractions include but are not limited to: fighting, physical aggression, profanity towards an adult, theft, possession of or threat of using a weapon, major outburst (yelling, throwing chairs), etc. Parent must read, sign, and return referral to the administrator the next school day.

Fighting: Fighting on school grounds will not be tolerated. Just because a student did not hit first does not excuse them from disciplinary action. Students may be suspended for fighting while under our supervision (school grounds, bus, field studies). This decision will be made after an investigation by the school administration.

Criminal Conduct – Student Infraction Requiring Rock Hill Police Department and Parent Intervention

These infractions are illegal. They include, but not limited to, bomb threat, possession of illegal drugs/substances, assault and battery, and arson.

Policy: [AR JICDA-R Code of Conduct](#) Issued 12/23

COMMUNICATION FOLDER

Communication folders will come home each Wednesday. You will receive samples of your child's work as well as updates on his or her progress. There will also be important school and PTO/SIC information sent home using this folder.

CONFERENCES/CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

Communication between teacher and parent is an essential part of the educational program. We feel it is very important for parents to keep in close contact with their child's teacher concerning his/her progress. Teachers, parents, or the principal may call for a conference when desired or necessary. Parents may call the school office to set up an appointment. We prefer that conferences be scheduled after 2:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. However, attempts will be made to arrange a time convenient to all. If a parent wishes to observe in the classroom, please contact Mr. Moree by calling the school to set up an appointment for no longer than 30 minutes.

DISMISSAL

The school day ends at 2:10 pm. **Do not get out of your car while waiting for students in the car line. If your child has not been picked up by 2:30pm, you will need to park in a parking space, come into the office to sign your child out for the day. Your child's name card must be displayed when picking up students.**

No student will be allowed to go home a different way unless permission is requested by a parent or guardian in writing. Students who ride a school bus may ride only the bus they are assigned to daily. No student will be permitted to leave the campus unless a parent or guardian comes to the office to sign him/her out. Please settle all of these matters before the child leaves home. **A handwritten note is required should your child's transportation needs change. This communication must be received by 1:45p for changes to take place.**

DRESS CODE

Rock Hill Schools Board of Education recognizes the effect which students' dress and grooming have upon student behavior and commitment to learning. **It further recognizes the role of parents in assisting their children in making appropriate choices regarding clothing, accessories, and personal appearance.** In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, the Board requires that all students exercise good taste with regard to their personal appearance. Attire considered disruptive or attire that could present a health or safety problem is not appropriate. Prohibited dress violations are listed below, but this list is not all inclusive nor is a violation of the dress code limited to the following:

1. All clothing will be worn in the manner intended by the manufacturer with appropriate undergarments and void of any suggestive writing, pictures, and/or patches.
2. Halter, tank, and thin-strapped tops are not permitted. Sleeveless athletic jerseys without a t-shirt underneath are not permitted.
3. Head coverings are not allowed except for religious reasons (scarves, stocking caps, hoods, hats, ears, towels, sunglasses, bandanas, etc.) or for school spirit days (which will be made known to families in advance).
4. Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times. Tennis shoes or sturdy, form-fitting shoes are recommended for the school day. No backless or high-heeled shoes are permitted. (Flip flops are not permitted; sandals/Crocs with back straps can be worn.) No shoes with wheels.
5. Shorts/skirts/dresses must be fingertip length without pulling and adjusting.
6. Costumes and furry outfits, tails, footwear, ears, and any related accessories are not permitted on campus

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS

No student, regardless of age, will possess, use, sell, purchase, barter, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or controlled or unauthorized substances **including vaping** in the following circumstances:

- on school property (including buildings, grounds, vehicles)
- at any school-sponsored activity, function, or event whether on or off school grounds (including any location where an interscholastic athletic contest is taking place)
- en route to or from school, at the bus stop, or during any field trip, or during any trip or activity sponsored by the board or under the supervision of the board or its authorized agents

No student will aid, abet, assist, or conceal the possession, consumption, purchase, or distribution of any alcoholic beverage or controlled or unauthorized substances by any other student or students in any of the circumstances listed above.

No student will market or distribute any substance which is represented to be or is substantially similar in color, shape, size, or markings to a controlled or unauthorized substance or to an alcoholic beverage in any of the circumstances listed above.

All principals will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and will report to them all information that would be considered pertinent or beneficial in their efforts to stop the sale, possession, and use of alcoholic beverages and controlled or unauthorized substances.

Principal or his/her designee will suspend students who violate this policy and may recommend them for expulsion. The board intends to expel all students who distribute any controlled or unauthorized substance on school grounds.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Students will be dismissed on the following dates at 11:15am to allow our staff time for professional development. Early Release Days are September 26, 2025, December 19, 2025, March 19, 2026, and May 29, 2026, .

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are necessary for the safety of students, staff, and faculty. Everyone is given specific directions for reaching safety points from those areas of the school building in which he/she may be. Specific information for emergency drills is posted in each room. In the event of a more serious situation, students will be transported by school bus to designated shelter areas. These areas are kept confidential to protect our students. In the event of such a situation, parents will be notified of pickup locations as soon as possible.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students entering kindergarten must be five years old before midnight September 1. Students entering first grade must be six years old before midnight September 1. All students entering a South Carolina school for the first time must have a birth certificate, South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, a Social Security number, and proof of residence. Students are assigned to the school in whose zone they reside.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Please see the last section on the last page of this handbook for information regarding FERPA.

FEES OWED

Parents of any student who has a financial obligation to the school/district, (lunch fees, lost textbooks, technology device fee, library fines, fees, etc.) should pay within the prescribed time, or actions will be taken by the

school/district to collect the outstanding debt. Checks should be made payable to Oakdale STEAM Elementary.

FOOD SERVICES

Nutritious meals are served for breakfast and lunch. Under the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, school districts are able to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program to increase access to free school meals for students. **All students will receive free meals without needing to fill out an application.**

HEALTHY SNACKS – GUIDELINES FOR FOOD FOR CELEBRATIONS

Based upon USDA Nutrition Standards and School Board Policy ADF - District Wellness, the following list of approved snacks are the only allowable snacks for classroom celebrations or parties. No homemade goods are permitted. Snacks must be individually wrapped or in purchased container/package. **Valentine's Day parties are excluded from using the list.** The list was compiled by the district Health Advisory Committee using feedback from the School Improvement Councils (during the 2017-18 school year), and parent survey responses from the spring of 2018.

The snacks listed meet SMART Snack guidelines recommended by USDA:

Pretzels, Cheddar crackers or graham crackers, Sun chips or similar baked chips, Frozen fruit bars (Ex. Whole Fruit, Outshine, Dole or store brand equivalent), Fresh fruit – Individual serving/wrapped or in purchased package container, Fresh vegetables – Individual serving/wrapped or in purchased package container, Low fat dips, Fruit cups (Ex. In water, light syrup, or 100% juice), Yogurt, Apple sauce cups, Gelatin cups or pudding cups, Fruit and veggie pouches, Cheese sticks (Individually wrapped), Pepperoni or turkey pepperoni (In purchased package container or individual sticks), Water/Flavored Water

**This list does not address allergies. Please remember to always check specific allergies with your classroom teacher 48 hrs. prior to bringing food to the school. Accommodations will be made for students with allergies.*

HEALTH ROOM

We are fortunate to have a full-time nurse at Oakdale. If your child becomes ill (high fever, vomiting, suspected broken bone, etc.) at school, we will contact you immediately. If we cannot reach you, we will use the emergency contact information you have provided. **We cannot keep ill children at school.** Our school nurse, Mrs. Moton can be reached by calling 803.981.1499.

Students with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher should not be at school. A child must be fever free for 24 hours with no fever reducing medication before returning to school.

Forms for medication release and special diet requests can be found at <http://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Page/1825>.

HOMEWORK

Homework is important in the learning process in providing your child practice beyond the classroom. Check your child's folder nightly and assist as needed. Please check with your child's teacher throughout the year concerning homework. The amount of homework per day from individual teachers may vary.

Leader In Me

We are proud to announce that Oakdale STEAM has implemented The Leader in Me program! We have created an exceptional environment where the practices and habits of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids® are embedded into our daily lives and inherent in everything we do. The Leader in Me program defines our school's operations, and is the guiding spirit behind our instructional practices, and leadership opportunities. Everyone has the opportunity to be a leader here!

LOST AND FOUND

All items which are lost at school may be claimed at the office. **Please write your child's name in coats, jackets, and hoodies to help us return lost items.** Since storage space is scarce, we urge students to inquire about lost items as soon as items are discovered lost. Unclaimed items will be donated periodically.

McKinney Vento

The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which is defined as children who lack a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence. School-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act if your family lives in any of the following situations:

- a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodations
- a car, park, abandoned building, or a bus or train station
- doubled-up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- a shelter

Please contact your child's school counselor for more information and to determine if you might qualify.

MEDIA CENTER

Students are responsible for all books loaned to them during the school year. All lost or damaged book fees must be paid in full by the end of the year. All payments are recorded by the school bookkeeper and paid to the proper fund for replacement purposes. Make checks payable to Oakdale Elementary. If a lost book is found within the school year, payment will be refunded.

MEDICATION

Non-prescription medicine can be administered at school if it is absolutely necessary. In order for the school to administer the medication, the parent must complete a permission to administer an over-the-counter medication form. Students who need to take prescribed medication must have the appropriate form signed by the physician and parent before the medication can be brought to school. The medication and form must be left in the office. All prescription medications must be in the original container provided by the pharmacy. Contact Nurse Moton (803.981.1499) with any questions.

PARTIES

Parties for students will be held on or near Valentine's Day. Birthday parties for students or teachers are NOT permitted. Students cannot give out party invitations unless every child in the class is invited. You may send a healthy snack (see healthy snack list) on your child's birthday; please arrange this in advance with your child's teacher. Students may not bring balloons home on the bus. When flowers/gifts are delivered to students, these items will stay in the office until the end of the day and must be taken home by a parent.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION & SUPPORTS (PBIS)

Our school-wide expectations are: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. These are expectations and not rules. We expect our students to come to school ready to learn; we also understand that many of these characteristics must be taught and practiced. Please help us help your child be his or her best by adopting and practicing these expectations at home. Each classroom teacher will create their own classroom rules based on our school-wide expectations.

Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) is a framework or approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. PBIS IS NOT a packaged curriculum, scripted intervention, or manualized strategy.

PBIS IS a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for students. PBIS supports the success of ALL students.

PHOTOS AND RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION

The following information is releasable upon request at the direction of the student's school principal: the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photo, subjects of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance (on both annual and daily basis), diplomas and awards received, and the most recent previous education agency or institution attended by the student.

PROMOTION/RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Students not mastering performance indicators at their grade level may be considered for retention. Formal notification will take place between January - April. Final decisions concerning retention are made in late May. Students may be retained due to poor academic performance and/or poor attendance.

PARENT & TEACHER ORGANIZATION

We welcome you to join the Oakdale STEAM Parent and Teacher Organization. The main purpose of the PTO is to work with the school in creating a safe, happy environment where our children can learn and grow. Our PTO is very active and hosts many events throughout the year! Check our newsletters and calendar for meeting dates/times!

RIGHTS OF PARENTS

Questions regarding parental rights often arise regarding children of divorced parents. The following information describes the rights of parents according to the law of South Carolina:

Section 20-7-100. Rights and duties of parents in regard to their minor children.

The mother and father are the joint natural guardians of their minor children and are equally charged with the welfare and education of their minor children and the care and management of the estates of their minor children; and the mother and father have equal power, rights, and duties, and neither parent has any right paramount to the right of the other concerning the custody of the minor or the control of the services or the earnings of the minor or any other matter affecting the minor. Each parent, **whether the custodial or non-custodial parent of the child**, has equal access and the same right to obtain all educational records and medical records of their minor children and the right to participate in their children's school activities unless prohibited by order of the court. Neither parent shall forcibly take a child from the guardianship of the parent legally entitled to custody of the child.

ROCK HILL SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

A comprehensive list of board policies are located on the district's website and in an easy to read format on the Rock Hill Schools App. To learn more about our policies regarding sexual harassment, hazing, arrests and police interrogations, search policies JIAA-R, JICFA, JIH, and JIH-R.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

Announcements concerning school closings or delayed openings will be broadcast on all local radio and TV stations and the Rock Hill Schools App (free download) as soon as the Superintendent makes the decision. **When schools operate on a delayed opening, DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILD AT THE REGULAR TIME.** If hazardous weather develops during the school day, a decision to close school early will be announced on all local radio and TV stations. Should school be closed or delayed, you can expect to receive a phone call via our Parent Notification System from a

representative of the school district. Please have a plan for this situation and discuss this plan with your child.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Oakdale School Improvement Council works as an elected advisory board at our school. Members work with school administration and faculty to develop ways to meet our strategic plan. Elections are held for board seats in early fall. All parents are welcome to attend meetings. Meeting dates/times will be shared on our website and our weekly newsletter.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

As authorized by State law, district and school administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on District property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses, book bags, wallets, and satchels, with or without probable cause, subject to the limitations and requirements of this policy.

Board policy permits district personnel to conduct random blanket searches of school property with professionally trained handlers and dogs for the purposes of detecting the presence of illegal materials.

SIGNING STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL EARLY

We encourage you to try to schedule your child's doctor and dental appointments around school hours. If this is not possible, you must come to the office first to sign your child out. If someone other than the parent signs the child out, that person must provide permission from the parent before the child will be permitted to leave the building. All arrangements for changes in end-of-the-day transportation **MUST BE COMMUNICATED IN WRITING PRIOR TO 1:45 PM.** If written permission is not received by the teacher, your child's regular transportation plans must be followed.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Supervision will be provided in designated areas for a reasonable length of time before and after regular school time for classes. Supervision will be provided for students who ride a bus upon arrival and as the bus departs after classes are dismissed. **All other students (walkers and car riders) should arrive no earlier than 7:00 AM and be picked up after dismissal no later than 2:30 PM.**

STUDENT INFORMATION/EMERGENCY CARD

During the first week of school your child's teacher will be sending home an information card for you to complete. This information is kept in the school office in case you need to be contacted. **Please make sure all telephone numbers and addresses are accurate and clearly written.** Remember to put the name and telephone number of a person who can be contacted in case you cannot be reached. Please notify the school if you change addresses or telephone numbers during the year. It is very important that our records are kept up to date.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Each student in grades K - 5 will be issued a district device. Each student is required to pay a \$20 technology fee. All student devices will remain at school.

Students are to use provided technology devices/network and Internet connection for educational purposes. Use of such resources is a privilege, not a right. Students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Unauthorized or inappropriate use, including any violation of these guidelines, may result in cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook, and/or civil or criminal liability. Use of the Internet to access, process, distribute, display or print child pornography and other materials that are obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors is prohibited.

As such, the following material is prohibited: material that appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, and

excretion; material that depicts, describes or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and material that lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors. Offensive messages and pictures, inappropriate text files, or files dangerous to the integrity of Rock Hill Schools and Oakdale STEAM computers/network (e.g., viruses) are also prohibited.

If a district device is lost or not returned, a report will be filed with the Rock Hill Police Department.

TEXTBOOKS

Your child will be issued textbooks that are on loan from the South Carolina State Department. It is your child's responsibility to take care of the textbook throughout the year. Fines for missing or damaged textbooks are the responsibility of the parent.

TOBACCO USE BY STUDENTS

The board believes that tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke (environmental tobacco smoke) are hazardous to the health of human beings, especially children. Therefore, the board affirms that one of the best methods of instruction is one that is provided within a 100 percent tobacco-free environment.

The district does not allow students to use or to possess tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia. This restriction applies while students are on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, at bus stops, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off the school grounds.

The goal of this policy is to provide a 100 percent tobacco-free, smoke-free environment for all students, staff, contract or other workers, and visitors within all district facilities, vehicles, and grounds. This includes any building, facility, and vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the district. The goal applies to all school-sponsored or school-related events on or off the school grounds. The district commits to the following:

- prohibiting the use and/or possession of all tobacco products or paraphernalia including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, and alternative nicotine products such as e-cigarettes/vapes by all students, staff, contract or other workers, and visitors
- exhibiting healthy behavior for all students, staff, contract or other workers, vendors, visitors, and the entire community
- utilizing proven and effective science-based tobacco use prevention curricula
- providing access to cessation counseling or referral services for all students and staff

VISITORS

Visitors who are on school business are welcome at school; however, immediately upon entering the school building, all visitors must sign-in at the school office and present **photo identification (driver's license, passport, etc.)**. This includes bringing cupcakes, projects, or any other items down to your child's classroom in the morning. Your child's safety is our top priority so please adhere to these expectations. In-district students will not be allowed to visit between schools of the district. Out-of-town student visitors or relatives must obtain prior permission or special invitation to visit the school. Anyone failing to comply with the check-in procedure will be asked to leave the campus.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents and guardians are encouraged to be volunteers at the school. If you are interested in supporting our school in any volunteer opportunities this year, please visit our district website to complete an interest form to share your interest in supporting our school. Please be reminded that visitors are asked to follow school regulations and not interrupt classroom instruction and school routines. Adults volunteering serve as role models for all of our students. Volunteering is a privilege, not a right. **If at any time a volunteer does not adhere to our policies, procedures, or expectations, his or her volunteer privileges may be revoked.**

While volunteering, student safety is a priority. Silence your cell phone/device while caring for our students.

Parents expected to follow these expectations when on campus or on field trips:

Oakdale STEAM Volunteer Expectations

- Appropriate language and content should be used at all times while on campus/field studies. Our students are always listening!
- **Smoking/Vaping is prohibited anywhere on our campus and on field studies.**
- Appropriate attire is expected.
- The use of school computers for personal use is prohibited.
- Limit cell phone use so that you are able to be fully *present* while volunteering/supervising our students.
- If you need to use the restroom, please use those designated for adults. Do not use student restrooms.
- Enjoy your time volunteering! If you need to speak with your child's teacher, schedule a time outside of the day/time you are scheduled to volunteer.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

If you are moving and withdrawing your child from school, please call or come by the school a few days prior to the withdrawal date so that we can collect textbooks, school issued iPad, library books, etc. Your cooperation is always greatly appreciated.

District Policies

In this section you will find a list of Rock Hill School District Policies for you to view. Other policies of the district can be viewed on the district website or by visiting https://boardpolicyonline.com/?b=york3_rock_hill&s=275755.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Guidelines for Implementing Student Attendance Regulations

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by a parent/guardian, or a medical or legal statement. If a written excuse or medical/legal statement is not provided to your school's Attendance Office within three days after the student is back in school, this absence will be unexcused. The maximum number of parent notes accepted and recorded for illness as a lawful/excused absence is five per school year.

Tardies: All students who are not in their classroom by 7:45 a.m. will receive an unexcused tardy. The only exceptions are for students who are tardy due to a medical appointment or a late bus. A tardy will only be excused when a medical note is presented at the time of arrival to school or approved by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

Students will be considered absent lawfully and excused when:

- They are ill and their attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
- There is a death or serious illness in their immediate family — with proper documentation (bulletin, death notice)
- There is a recognized religious holiday of their faith.
- The student is suspended out of school.
- There is a necessary medical or legal appointment that cannot be scheduled during non-school hours.

Students will not be excused or receive a lawfully absent for family vacations, non-sponsored school events or any personal reason not associated with the school will not be excused. This is part of SC State Compulsory Attendance Law.

Early Dismissal: Students are not allowed to leave school after 1:45 p.m. UNLESS a doctor's excuse/appointment card is presented to the office by the parent at the time of dismissal. In addition, no transportation changes will be made AFTER 1:45 p.m.

Student Attendance Intervention Plans

After three consecutive or a total of five unlawful absences, regulations require that school officials contact the parent/guardian for a conference. The purpose of this conference is to identify reasons for your student's absences and to complete a Student Attendance Intervention Plan.

The maximum number of days a student allowed to miss is TEN per school year (lawful or unlawful.) When a student is absent more than 10 days, attendance is a key factor used in the promotion/retention decisions for grades K-5.

Citation: South Carolina Code of Laws 59-65-50, 60 & 70, and South Carolina Board of Education Regulations.

ESCUELAS PRIMARIAS

Directrices para la implementación del reglamento de asistencia estudiantil

Cualquier estudiante que falte a la escuela debe presentar una excusa por escrito, firmada por un padre/tutor, o una declaración médica o legal. Si no se proporciona una excusa por escrito o una declaración médica/legal a la Oficina de Asistencia de su escuela dentro de los tres días posteriores al regreso del estudiante a la escuela, esta ausencia será injustificada. El número máximo de notas de los padres aceptadas y registradas por enfermedad como ausencia legal/justificada es cinco por año escolar.

Tardanzas: Todos los estudiantes que no estén en su salón de clases a las 7:45 a.m. recibirán una tardanza injustificada. Las únicas excepciones son para los estudiantes que llegan tarde debido a una cita médica o a un retraso en el autobús. Una tardanza solo será justificada cuando se presente una nota médica al momento de la llegada a la escuela o sea aprobada por el director por circunstancias atenuantes.

Los estudiantes serán considerados ausentes legalmente y justificados cuando:

- Están enfermos y su asistencia a la escuela pondría en peligro su salud o la salud de los demás.
- Hay una muerte o enfermedad grave en su familia inmediata, con la documentación adecuada (boletín, aviso de muerte)
- Hay una fiesta religiosa reconocida de su fe.
- El estudiante es suspendido fuera de la escuela.
- Hay una cita médica o legal necesaria que no se puede programar fuera del horario escolar.

Los estudiantes no serán excusados ni recibirán una ausencia legal por vacaciones familiares, eventos escolares no patrocinados o cualquier razón personal no asociada con la escuela no será excusada. Esto es parte de la Ley de Asistencia Obligatoria del Estado de Carolina del Sur.

Salida temprana: Los estudiantes no pueden salir de la escuela después de la 1:45 p.m. A MENOS QUE el padre/madre presente en la oficina una tarjeta de excusa/cita médica en el momento de la salida. Además, no se realizarán cambios de transporte DESPUÉS de la 1:45 p.m.

Planes de intervención de asistencia estudiantil

Después de tres ausencias consecutivas o un total de cinco ausencias ilegales, las normas requieren que los funcionarios escolares se comuniquen con el padre/tutor para una conferencia. El propósito de esta conferencia es identificar las razones de las ausencias de su estudiante y completar un Plan de Intervención de Asistencia Estudiantil.

La cantidad máxima de días que un estudiante puede perder es DIEZ por año escolar (legal o ilegal). Cuando un estudiante se ausenta más de 10 días, la asistencia es un factor clave que se usa en las decisiones de promoción/retención para los grados K-5.

Cita: Código de Leyes de Carolina del Sur 59-65-50, 60 y 70, y Reglamentos de la Junta de Educación de Carolina del Sur.

**Notification of Rights under FERPA for
Elementary and Secondary Schools**

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. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will arrange 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, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their 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 privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school 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 school has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer 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.
4. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school 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 20202-8520

Directory Information

The following information is releasable upon request at the discretion of the principal of each school: the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photo, subjects' study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight, and height of members of athletics teams, dates of attendance (on both an annual and daily basis), diplomas and awards received, and the most recent/previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. Any parent or guardian of a student attending Rock Hill Schools who would prefer that any of the information designated above not be released without the parent's or guardians' prior consent should notify in writing the Office of the Superintendent, Rock Hill Schools P.O. Drawer 10072, Rock Hill SC 29731 by the Tuesday following Labor Day. If such notice is given, the school attended by the student will be notified.

**Notificación de derechos según FERPA para
Escuelas de Educación Primaria y Secundaria**

La Ley de Derechos Educativos de la Familia y la Privacidad (FERPA, por sus siglas en inglés) otorga a los padres y a los estudiantes mayores de 18 años de edad ("estudiantes elegibles") ciertos derechos con respecto a los registros educativos del estudiante. Estos derechos son:

1. El derecho a inspeccionar y revisar los registros educativos del estudiante dentro de los 45 días a partir del día en que la escuela recibe una solicitud de acceso. Los padres o estudiantes elegibles deben presentar al director de la escuela [u otro funcionario escolar apropiado] una solicitud por escrito que identifique el registro o los registros que desean inspeccionar. El funcionario escolar organizará el acceso y notificará al padre o al estudiante elegible sobre el momento y el lugar en el que los registros podrán ser inspeccionados.
2. El derecho a solicitar la modificación de los registros educativos del estudiante que el padre o el estudiante elegible consideren inexactos, engañosos o que de otro modo violen los derechos de privacidad del estudiante según FERPA. Los padres o estudiantes elegibles que deseen solicitar a la escuela que modifique un registro deben escribir al director de la escuela [u otro funcionario escolar apropiado], identificar claramente la parte del registro que desean cambiar y especificar por qué debe cambiarse. Si la escuela decide no modificar el registro según lo solicitado por el padre o el estudiante elegible, la escuela notificará al padre o al estudiante elegible sobre la decisión y les informará sobre su derecho a una audiencia en relación con la solicitud de modificación. Información adicional sobre los procedimientos de la audiencia se proporcionará al padre o al estudiante elegible cuando se les notifique sobre el derecho a una audiencia.
3. El derecho a la privacidad de la información personalmente identificable en los registros educativos del estudiante, excepto en la medida en que FERPA autorice la divulgación sin consentimiento. "Una excepción, que permite la divulgación sin consentimiento, es la divulgación a funcionarios escolares con intereses educativos legítimos." "Un funcionario escolar es una persona empleada por la escuela como administrador, supervisor, instructor o miembro del personal de apoyo (incluyendo personal de salud o médico y personal de la unidad de policía escolar); una persona que sirve en la Junta Escolar; una persona o empresa con la cual la escuela ha subcontratado servicios o funciones que de otra manera realizaría con su propio personal (como un abogado, auditor, consultor médico o terapeuta); un padre o estudiante que sirve en un comité oficial, como un comité disciplinario o de quejas; o un padre, estudiante u otro voluntario que ayuda a otro funcionario escolar a realizar sus tareas." Un funcionario escolar tiene un interés educativo legítimo si el funcionario necesita revisar un registro educativo para cumplir con su responsabilidad profesional.
4. Bajo solicitud, la escuela divulga registros educativos sin consentimiento a funcionarios de otro distrito escolar en el cual un estudiante busca o tiene la intención de inscribirse o ya está inscrito, si la divulgación es con fines de inscripción o transferencia del estudiante. [NOTA: FERPA requiere que un distrito escolar haga un intento razonable de notificar al padre o al estudiante sobre la solicitud de registros a menos que indique en su notificación anual que tiene la intención de remitir los registros cuando se soliciten].
5. El derecho de presentar una queja ante el Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos en relación con presuntas violaciones por parte de la escuela en el cumplimiento de los requisitos de FERPA. El nombre y la dirección de la Oficina encargada de administrar FERPA son:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Información del directorio

La siguiente información es divulgable a pedido a discreción del director de cada escuela: el nombre del estudiante, dirección, número de teléfono, fecha y lugar de nacimiento, foto, materias de estudio, participación en actividades y deportes oficialmente reconocidos, peso y altura de los miembros de los equipos atléticos,

ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

2025-2026 DIRECTORY INFORMATION OPT-OUT

Directory Information is releasable upon request at the discretion of the principal of each school for specific and valid reasons. **I understand that directory information includes:**

- Student name
- Student address
- Telephone listing
- Email addresses
- Date and place of birth
- **Photographs (including for individual participation in yearbooks, class pictures, and newspaper articles)**
- Participation in officially recognized activities and athletics teams
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Dates of attendance (both on an annual and daily basis)
- Grade level
- Major field of study
- Degrees received
- Most recent educational agency attended by the student
- Awards received

As the parent/guardian of a student attending Rock Hill Schools, I am requesting to opt my student OUT of the release of any of the directory information listed above and request that my child's directory information is NOT made available to a third party which includes school yearbooks, newspapers, class pictures, etc. I understand that my child will not be allowed to take school pictures and/or pictures for the yearbook.

Student's Name _____ Grade Level _____
First MI Last
Parent's Name _____ Date _____
Print
Parent's Signature _____

Please submit this request to the Office of the Superintendent, Rock Hill Schools, P.O. Drawer 10072, Rock Hill SC 29731 by the Tuesday following Labor Day. If such notice is given, the school attended by the student will be notified.

***This request is valid for the 2025-2026 school year only.**

For School Use Only:

SCHOOL: _____ Date Received: _____
Date of "Alert" in PowerSchool: _____ SIS Clerk Initials: _____

JICJ POSSESSION/USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES OR DISTRICT-OWNED DEVICES

Issued 6/23

Purpose: To establish the basic rules for the board's permission of personal electronic devices or district-owned devices on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off the school grounds.

ELECTRONICS/TECHNOLOGY (CELL PHONES, PERSONAL DEVICES)

Cell phones and other devices are permitted, but not encouraged. These devices should remain turned off and in the student's book bag when on school grounds. The first violation will result in a warning, the second will require a parent conference, and further violations as a result of any inappropriate messages or posts via text or social media accounts from a personal device during school hours will result in consequences outlined in our district's Acceptable Use Policy. [Cell phone district policy link](#)

Students are to use provided technology devices/network and internet connection for educational purposes. Use of such resources is a privilege, not a right. Students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Unauthorized or inappropriate use, including any violation of these guidelines, may result in cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook and/or civil or criminal liability. If a district device is lost or not returned, a report will be filed with the Rock Hill Police Department.

Personal Electronic Device

For purposes of this policy, personal electronic device includes, but is not limited to, cell phones; pagers; smart watches; gaming devices; or other devices that emit an audible signal; vibrate; display a message; display or record an image; or otherwise summon or deliver a communication to the possessor. Personal electronic devices are not permitted to be on or visible during the school day and should be stored in lockers or backpacks while on campus between student arrival and dismissal bell.

Unauthorized use of a personal electronic device may include, but is not limited to, taking pictures or recording without permission, cheating, harassment or bullying, use during any emergency drill, use during unauthorized times, or use for unlawful activities.

A student in possession of a personal electronic device in conflict with this policy will be subject to discipline as provided under administrative rule JICJ-R.

Violations of this policy may result in the confiscation of the device and all its components. Students are not allowed to erase the history or remove the battery, SIM card or any other part of the device before giving it to the school official. Students will receive the phones at the end of the school day.

The district is not responsible for the loss or damage of any personal electronic device brought on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off the school grounds.

District-Owned Device

The district may provide students with electronic devices including, but not limited to, tablets or laptop computers in an effort to enhance students' learning experience. The district will determine the device that best suits the needs of the students.

Students will have no expectation of privacy with respect to any information contained on these devices. District-owned devices may contain tracking software to recover lost or stolen devices. Students are not allowed to erase the history or remove the battery, SIM card, or any other part of the device. Students will abide by the district's acceptable use policy (IJNDB) established for the use of technology resources. Students who violate the acceptable use policy or do not follow instructions for the proper use of the device on school grounds, in the school buildings, on

buses, or during any other time they are under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school, whether on or off the school grounds, will be subject to discipline according to administrative rule JICJ-R.

Students are responsible for the care of the district-owned device. Parents/Legal guardians will cover the cost of damage to or loss of the device. Students will return the device at the end of the school year or when directed by an administrator.

Adopted 7/28/03; Revised 6/28/10, 6/25/12, 8/27/12, 5/23/16, 8/22/16, 6/13/23

Policy JICFAA Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

1/16

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for maintaining a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Harassment/Bullying

The board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student by students, staff, and third parties that interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment whether in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

For purposes of this policy, harassment, intimidation, or bullying is defined as a gesture, electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act reasonably perceived to have the effect of either of the following:

- harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage
- insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school
- demonstrates motivation by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression or a mental, physical, or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristic

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the superintendent. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or employees may be made anonymously.

The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a complaint or report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful manner. Students and employees have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules, and regulations of the school and district. Any student or employee who is found to have engaged in the prohibited actions as outlined in this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion in the case of a student or termination in the case of an employee. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The district will take all other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

Students, parents/legal guardians, teachers, and staff members should be aware that the district may take disciplinary actions for conduct initiated and/or created off-campus involving the inappropriate use of the Internet or web-based resources if such conduct poses a threat or substantially interferes with or disrupts the work and discipline of the schools, including discipline for student harassment and bullying.

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for ensuring notice of this policy is provided to students, staff, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and members of the community, JICFAA JICFAA 1 of 2 including its applicability to all areas of the school environment as outlined in this policy. The superintendent or his/her designee will also ensure that a process is established for discussing the district policy with students.

Gavin's Law

The district is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from intimidating or harassing behavior of any kind, including sexual extortion. In keeping with this commitment, the district prohibits any student, staff, or third parties from engaging in any behavior that would satisfy the definition of sexual extortion or aggravated sexual extortion as described in state law. Further, the district will not tolerate retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging sexual extortion or who has participated as a witness in an investigation.

Definitions

- Adult means a person 18 years or older.
- Minor means any person under 18 years of age at the time of the alleged offense.
- Great bodily injury means bodily injury which causes a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.
- Private image means an image depicting sexually explicit nudity, sexual activity, or sexual conduct as defined in state law.
- Image means a photograph, film, videotape, recording, live transmission, digital or computer generated visual depiction, or any other reproduction made by electronic, mechanical, or other means.
- Disclose means exhibit, transfer, publicize, distribute, or reproduce.
- Sexual extortion means intentionally and maliciously threatening to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any act or refrain from doing an act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value.

The following information provides descriptions of the different sexual extortion offenses and includes the applicable criminal penalties. The district's authority does not extend to enforcement of criminal penalties. However, the district will assist with the process by notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency of violations as is anticipated by state regulation governing minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.

Felony Sexual Extortion

A person commits felony sexual extortion if the actor intentionally and maliciously threatens to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value.

A person convicted of felony sexual extortion is subject to the following:

- imprisonment for not more than five years for a first offense
- imprisonment for not more than ten years for a second offense; or
- imprisonment for not more than twenty years for a third or subsequent offense

Aggravated Felony Sexual Extortion

A person commits aggravated felony sexual extortion if the actor intentionally or maliciously threatens to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value and either: the victim is a minor or a vulnerable adult and the person convicted of sexual extortion is an adult; or the victim suffers great bodily injury or death and the finder of fact finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the sexual extortion of the victim was the proximate cause of the great bodily injury or death.

A person convicted of aggravated felony sexual extortion is subject to imprisonment for not more than twenty years.

Misdemeanor Sexual Extortion

A minor convicted of sexual extortion is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be sentenced by the family court. As a condition of sentencing the family court may order behavioral health counseling from an appropriate agency or provider.

Notification

This policy and information regarding Gavin's Law will be communicated through a variety of efforts to educate students, staff, parents/legal guardians, contract and other workers, volunteers, visitors, and other members of the public.

Reporting

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual extortion is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance

with procedures established by the superintendent. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. All staff members are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or staff may be made anonymously but formal disciplinary action by the district will not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or staff member who has filed a complaint or report of sexual extortion. The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of intimidation, bullying, or harassment.

District Level Discipline

Students, staff, parents/legal guardians, contract and other workers, volunteers, visitors, and other members of the public are required to comply with this policy. The district will enforce this policy through appropriate disciplinary actions for violators.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline and graduated consequences, up to and including expulsion, and will be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate, consistent with policy JICDA, Code of Conduct.

Staff members found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and will be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate, consistent with district policy, including GBEB, Staff Conduct and GBEBB, Staff Conduct with Students.

Visitors or volunteers found in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions and will be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate.

Student Transportation Regulations

Commo Disallowed Items on School Bus

Carry-on items: Compliance with federal standards is mandatory by the State Department of Education. No animals, insects, weapons, balloons, glass or pressurized containers or class projects that are large, wooden, etc. **-none of these** are to be carried on busses by drivers, teachers or students. Up to 22x28 paper posters are allowed if driver vision is not obstructed. Band instruments or other items carried on the bus must be of such size that all must be carried in the students lap and cannot be above the seat top. Items on the seats, floor- (projectiles) or obstructing the isles endanger all passengers on the bus. Class projects and large band instruments must be transported to/from school via private vehicle. Secured oxygen tanks are approved for use on Special Needs buses only. Unsecured objects become projectiles upon sudden stops.

School bus drivers are instructed to stop such items from being brought onto the bus. Every item/object must be scrutinized. Students/parents must present items to the school principal for a principal's signature-note, which must be given to the bus driver prior to approaching the bus.



CARRY OVER POLICIES

- Any student who earns a suspension during the last day of the school year will be subject to serving the remainder of such suspension the following school year.
- When in the judgment of the Director of Transportation, any bus student's behavior endangers the lives of bus students; the Director of Transportation may expel that student immediately for the remainder of that school year.
- Misbehavior on the last day of school on the home trip will be addressed the following year and/or by legal actions.
- A student shall be subject to transportation laws, rules, and regulations from the time that he (she) steps onto a school bus until the school bus route is completed or until the student arrives at his normal destination. Normal destinations shall either be home or school unless otherwise specified by the Asst. Director or the Director of Transportation.
- All appeals must be made to the Director of Transportation.
- The Director of Transportation may delegate his authority to any administrator.
- Riding any bus when under bus suspension can result in indefinite bus suspension.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

- Parents should report all misconduct on school busses to the principal.
- Parents should report all traffic hazards, carelessness on the part of the bus driver, etc., to the principal or Director of Transportation (980-2022).
- Parents should encourage students to observe all safety and conduct regulations established for the efficient operation of the school bus.
- Parents should observe extreme caution when approaching bus stops, moving busses, or stopped busses.
- Parents should help supervise large numbers of students at bus stops.
- Parents should see that their children are at the bus stop at the appropriate time.
- The Transportation Department has the power to deny students the privilege of school bus transportation whose parents refuse to cooperate and comply with SC State Laws and Regulations or Rock Hill School District Three regulations.



SUSPENSIONS

The proper conduct of students will govern their success or failure in life. With the great potential dangers involved in school bus transportation, behavior on the bus must be the best possible. The following procedures have been adopted to both instill and maintain acceptable behavior at its optimum while students are riding our school busses. It is the responsibility of each student riding a school bus to learn quickly and follow effective behavior guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY STATUS

I. Minor Violations

- 1st, 2nd - Warning
- 3rd - One day off bus
- 4th - One day off bus
- 5th - Two days off bus
- 6th - Two days off bus
- 7th and up - Three days off bus each incident

II. Major Violations

- 1. Warning
- 2. 1st suspension conditional (1 week)
- 3. 2nd suspension (1 week)
- 4. 3rd suspension (2 weeks)
- 5. 4th suspension (all year)

Missed your bus?
Call : 980-2022

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS



Transportation Complex 980-2022

Rock Hill Schools
PO Box 10072
Rock Hill, SC 29731

"A Safe Child - A Safe Trip"
IS OUR GOAL

59-67-245. INTERFERENCE WITH OPERATION OF SCHOOL BUS

No person shall willfully and wrongfully interfere with the operation of a school bus, either public or private, by boarding, restricting movement or using threats, either physical or verbal, to the driver or any passenger while the bus is engaged in the transportation of pupils to and from school or any lawful school activity or while passengers are entering or leaving the bus nor shall any person willfully fail or refuse to obey a lawful order of a school bus driver relating to the occupancy of a school bus. The use of threatening, obscene or profane language, leaving or waiting for a school bus is disorderly conduct and any person convicted for the use of such language shall be punished as provided in 16-17-530. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted to infringe upon the power and duties of duly constituted authorities. (Fine up to \$200 - First Offense)

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

School bus transportation is authorized only for pupils regularly enrolled in public school in grades K-12. This is a privilege to enjoy rather than a right.

The transportation division of Rock Hill School District Three will do everything within its power to provide the best equipment, drivers, and the safest program possible. We ask cooperation in making this possible.

WHILE WAITING TO BOARD A BUS

- Students should arrive at the bus stop only minutes ahead of the bus. The driver will not wait for children not at the bus stop.
- While waiting for the bus, books, clothing, or other articles should not be placed in the roadway.
- The roadway should be clear at all times, and students should not play in the path of traffic while waiting for the bus.
- Students should stand well away from the road when the bus approaches.
- Students should not damage property such as flowers, shrubbery, windows, fences, and other items while waiting for a bus.
- Making excessive noise distracts the driver.
- Bothering others at bus stops or on the way to and from school bus stops is not allowed.
- Students should never run alongside the bus but should wait until it stops and then walk to the door.

WHILE RIDING ON THE BUS

- The driver of a school bus is in complete charge of the passengers while they are aboard. Please do as the driver asks. If you have a complaint, contact your principal.
- Seats can be assigned or re-assigned upon a moments notice, by the driver or principal.
- Do not sit on books; hold them in your lap. Keep the aisles clear.
- Passengers should be seated immediately and remain seated while the bus is in motion. If it is necessary to stand, be sure to hold onto the back of a seat.
- Never extend arms, legs, or head out of bus.
- Refrain from talking to the driver except in an emergency.
- Do not tamper with the emergency door, fire extinguisher, or other equipment on the bus.
- Passengers must not mar or deface the bus, and seat coverings must not be damaged. Any damage to the bus or seats should be reported to the driver as soon as possible.
- Only the driver, or other authorized person, should remove first aid equipment, which is to be used only for emergency treatment.
- Passengers are not permitted to open bus windows. This should be done only by the driver when necessary or with the driver's permission.
- Passengers must not fight, scuffle in the bus, or create any loud disturbances.
- Passengers must not shout on the bus.
- Waste paper, gum wrappers, etc., should not be thrown on the floor. Place trash in receptacle as provided near the entrance to the bus.
- Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted on school busses.
- The use of profanity on the school bus is prohibited, as well as obscene gestures.
- Never throw objects on or from the bus.
- The bus driver is the manager of the bus.
- Proper school dress code enforced.

PERSONAL PROPERTY & PRIVATE ITEMS

We will confiscate any personal property and/or private items that cause commotion and/or driver distraction. Leave personal property and private items at home. We will not be responsible for the loss or return of such either before or after such are confiscated.

Glass, pressurized cans, and/or large school/project items are not allowed on the bus. Transport such by your family vehicle to and from school. No balloons or party items.

Book bags/small hand instruments must be kept in "student's space," on lap or between legs. These items cannot show above seat line of site. No animals, insects, hard board, or sharp objects, personalized containers or objects can be stored under seats, in aisles, or other bus nook areas. No balloons or non-academic items. No flammable items/substances or explosive items/materials. All carry-on items require approval prior to approaching the bus.

ON THE TRIP HOME

- Passengers are permitted to leave the bus only at regular designated stops. Any change must be made with the parent's request in writing and approved by a school official.
- The student, after alighting from the bus (if he must cross the highway), should go around to the front of the bus and wait until the bus driver or school bus safety patrol directs him to cross.
- NEVER cross the road at the rear of a stopped school bus.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Students are expected to ride busses making stops closest to their homes.
- Students are not permitted to switch busses just for fun or to catch an earlier or later bus.
- During inclement weather, bus stop locations must remain the same.
- Complaints regarding the bus driver should be directed to the Asst. Director or the Director of Transportation.
- Each eligible rider is afforded one seat-area of space for self and legal carry-ons.
- All bus students are to obey the principals and teachers at each school their bus serves. Any student who, in any manner of conduct, disobeys any school official on any school ground could forfeit transportation privileges.
- Regulations are for the protection of students, school officials, and school equipment. If a bus student has no more regard for the transportation privileges than to create problems on or off the school bus, the student will lose the privilege of riding any school bus in Rock Hill Schools.
- While the Transportation Department of Rock Hill Schools wishes to conduct student affairs in a friendly, influential manner, students are obligated to respect school officials and the bus driver. If a bus student shows disrespect for school officials or property and equipment, the Transportation Department will take such action as necessary.
- Your transportation is valuable to your personal needs. Protect it.

DON'T LOSE IT!!

WEAPONS, VIOLENCE AND GROSS MISBEHAVIOR

The possession of any weapon or object that can be used as a weapon...any act of violence at or upon another person on the way to a bus stop or at any bus stop or on any school bus or on the way home from a bus stop...and any other acts of gross misbehavior will result in loss of bus riding privileges.

Thank you for accessing your Parent/Student Handbook. Please verify in the Parent Portal by completing the eCollect Handbook Verification in Forms that you have read and understand student expectations.

Parents' Right to Know: A school that receives Title I funds must provide each individual parent a timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

