

Student Code of Conduct & Student Bill of Rights

Reynoldsburg City Schools

Student Code of Conduct 2020-21

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Student Bill of Rights

PREAMBLE

Every student has rights. A right is a freedom or protection that a person has. Rights define what is allowed of a person or owed to a person.

Your rights are part of you regardless of your age, race, creed, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight, sexual orientation, physical and/or emotional condition, disability, marital status, or political beliefs. Your rights belong to you and cannot be threatened or taken away.

The Reynoldsburg City Schools (RCS) Student Bill of Rights (SBOR) is a living document that spells out the rights that every student has and that everyone, including students themselves, should respect. This is a living document that can evolve with student sentiment, policy, and societal change. This can happen by talking about the SBOR, by putting it into everyday action, and through amendments over time by students, families, communities, teachers, and administrators.

The purpose of the SBOR is to clarify, protect, and promote students' basic rights. Sharing the SBOR is an expression of the dignity and value of all students.

The rights listed in the document come from many sources: existing local, state, and federal laws including, Reynoldsburg Board of Education policies, and examples of SBORs from other school districts. The RCS SBOR is also inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights https://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/pdf/udhr_booklet_en_web.pdf which expresses the basic freedoms owed to all human beings. More information about the source of these rights can be found by clicking the blue hyperlinks, or following the sources at the end of the document.

RCS exists to provide free, accessible, high-quality public education. Protection and promotion of student rights are fundamental to safe and supportive school environments where education happens. These conditions are essential to student health and well-being and the key to learning.

Student rights are human rights.



Every student has a right to:

1. FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION

- A free public education that is complete and focused on the “whole child” so all students feel healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. This education must also meet federal standards, like the *Every Student Succeeds Act*.
- High-quality, rigorous curriculum that prepares students for success in college, career, and civic life, and inspires students to think critically and contribute high-quality work.
 - This curriculum should address academic and social-emotional learning opportunities for all students, including diverse learners, English learners, and advanced learners.
- A written copy of the RCS Student Code of Conduct.
- Information about graduation requirements and electives, including courses, examinations, grading rules, and information on assistance to meet requirements.
- Information about how to enroll in special programs or courses such as career and Technical Education (CTE) programs; and honors, AP, and IB courses.
- Instruction from teachers that have been trained to deliver and explain rigorous content appropriate for the grade level and subject.
- Regular updates, formal and informal, about their learning progress and promotion.
- Regular access to a school counselor in order to get confidential personal, social, educational, behavioral, and career advice and resources.
- Expect involvement in decision-making about how schools work by participating in the Student Advisory Council (SAC), Student Voice Committee, student council, or other school/community-based organization.
- Special protection for diverse learners such as, students who have or are in the process of obtaining an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This is covered by a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).



2. SPEAK, ADVOCATE, ORGANIZE AND PARTICIPATE

- Meet and communicate with others peacefully; to speak freely, share ideas and opinions, and protest in ways that do not interfere with school programs or rules. This may happen through social media as well as physical or electronic/digital circulation of information such as newspapers, literature, leaflets, or petitions on school property and in accordance with school cell phone policy.

- Advocate for yourself, your peers, your school, and your community. This includes, but is not limited to: making recommendations for courses, clubs, and activities that will enrich your school community; engaging in civic discourse about topics and issues that impact your community; informing or evaluating school policy; having access to the information you need in order to improve for the health and wellness of your school.
- Serve on or participate in meetings held by Student Voice Committees, Student Government, Student Advisory Councils, Local School Councils as well as other activities, clubs, and organizations including social and educational clubs; political, religious, and philosophical groups; or teams available at their school without discrimination.
- Wear what they choose within District dress code guidelines. Depending on the school's dress code, this includes accessories with political or religious messages that are not disruptive, unsafe, or blatantly offensive to others.



3. HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND PERSONAL CARE

- Access to health care and protection from preventable illnesses
 - In Ohio, children age 14 and over can give their own permission (consent) to receive specific health services (including sexual health services and mental health care). This means a parent or guardian does not have to be notified in order for a student to get this care. Also, for students who have public health insurance (called Medicaid), no bill/explanation of the care can be sent to the parent or guardian.
- Healthcare providers in Ohio are “mandated reporters”. This means that if a student under the age of 18 discloses information indicating that they are being abused, may be in harm or are planning to harm themselves, the provider must notify the student’s parent/guardian and/or proper authorities.

- Access to free menstrual hygiene products in all high school bathrooms and elementary/middle school bathrooms for students in grades 6-12.
- Information about school-based screening and exams for health (medical, dental, hearing, vision), thinking and learning, and language issues. This information should be delivered promptly and in ways that families can understand.
- Access to available school-based health centers and mobile care providers (“health vans”) if parents give permission (consent).
- Healthy school meals that meet local, state, and federal nutrition requirements; This is in keeping with the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.

4. FAIR CONSEQUENCES

- Freedom to ask about restorative justice, a system that focuses on ways to repair any harm that happens as a result of a conflict, and provides pathways to address healing within a community.
- Freedom to receive help after suspension, and to make up work missed because of a suspension.
- Information about their own reported misbehavior with both a verbal and written notification at the time of being disciplined and be provided with an opportunity to respond.
- A clear understanding that-consequences must not be cruel or humiliating, and to know how and why any consequence is being used.
- Be provided information about how to appeal (ask for reconsideration of) any school decision about consequences before an incident occurs.
- Freedom from physical (corporal) punishment, verbal abuse, unfair searches (meaning without cause or reason), or any unusual form of punishment. District employees should not inflict any type of corporal punishment on any student.



5. SAFE, SECURE, AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Treatment with courtesy and respect by all district staff regardless of actual or perceived age, race, creed, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight, sexual orientation, physical and/or emotional condition, disability, marital status, or political beliefs.
- Students may file a report if they feel they are being discriminated against at their school, with the school and network administration, Title IX, or with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.
- If a student is being sexually harassed or is being bullied because of their gender identity or orientation, call or text Ohio Safer Schools Tip Line at 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764). If it is an emergency, call 911.

- RCS counselors are “mandated reporters”. This means that if a student under the age of 18 discloses information indicating that they are being abused, may be in harm, or may be planning to harm themselves, the counselor must notify the student’s parent/guardian and/or proper authorities. All RCS employees must take additional steps to report signs of student abuse including calling the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- Feel mentally and physically safe and secure in school, and to report any incident that makes them feel unsafe or insecure, including sexual assault, inappropriate remarks, grooming, groping, inappropriate behavior, verbal assault, bullying, or any other type of harassment.
 - Students also have the right to receive regular updates about actions taken in response to their report of not feeling safe.
- A safe school building and clean facilities including bathrooms, classrooms, gyms,



hallways, and cafeterias.

- Protection of privacy covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This means no one has the right to interfere in students’ or families’ private lives or to look at or expose their private information without permission.
- Protection under Title IX, a federal law that requires schools to prevent, recognize, and respond to sexual violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination on the basis of sex and/or gender. Under this law:
 - Students are guaranteed freedom from sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.
 - Students are guaranteed the freedom to report an incident to school or police (and to receive a prompt and fair answer).
 - If a student is experiencing gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, or other sexual misconduct they can file a report with the school principal. If it is an emergency, call 911. RCS employees must take additional steps to report signs of student abuse including calling the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

- For students that are pregnant or parenting:
 - Guaranteed freedom to continue to attend classes and extracurricular activities while pregnant.
 - Guaranteed freedom to receive excused absences due to pregnancy or childbirth (with a doctor's note).
 - District staff should not coerce students into attending another school due to pregnancy.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The Reynoldsburg City Schools' Student Code of Conduct (SCC) supports our schools in maintaining safe, nurturing, participatory and productive learning environments. In order to maximize learning time and promote positive behaviors, every school must establish multi-tiered systems of support for students' social, emotional and behavioral needs. This includes developing clear expectations, teaching social-emotional competencies, and fostering positive relationships among all members of the school community. Reynoldsburg City Schools is committed to an instructive, corrective, and restorative approach to behavior. If behavior incidents arise that threaten student and staff safety or severely disrupt the educational process, the response should minimize the impact of the incident, repair harm, and address the underlying needs behind student behaviors. In accordance with the SCC, all disciplinary responses must be applied respectfully, fairly, consistently, and protect students' rights to instructional time whenever possible.



A safe, welcoming, and productive school requires the support of all staff, students, and families.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights

- To receive a free high-quality public education
- To be safe at school
- To be treated fairly, courteously, and respectfully
- To bring complaints or concerns to the school principal or staff for resolution
- To tell his/her side of the story before receiving a consequence
- To be told the reason(s) for any disciplinary action verbally and in writing
- To be given information about appealing disciplinary actions
- To express opinions, support causes, assemble to discuss issues, and engage in peaceful and responsible demonstrations

Student Responsibilities

- To read and become familiar with this policy
- To attend school daily, prepare for class, and complete class and homework assignments to the best of his/her ability
- To know and follow school rules and instructions given by the school principal, teachers, and other staff
- To tell school staff about any dangerous behavior or bullying that occurs at school, on the way to and from school, or in the school community
- To bring to school only those materials that are allowed
- To treat everyone in the school community with respect
- To respect school property, community property, and the property of others

Parent/Guardian Rights

- To be actively involved in their child's education
- To be treated fairly and respectfully by the school principal, teachers, and other staff
- To access information about the Reynoldsburg Board of Education (Board) policies and procedures
- To be notified promptly if their child is disciplined for inappropriate or disruptive behavior and informed of the consequences assigned
- To appeal disciplinary actions taken
- To receive information about their child's academic and behavioral progress

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- To read and become familiar with this policy
- To make sure their child attends school regularly, on time, and to notify the school before the school day begins if their child is absent
- To give the school accurate and current contact information
- To tell school officials about any concerns or complaints respectfully and in a timely manner
- To work with the school principal, teachers, and other staff to address any academic or behavioral concerns regarding their child
- To talk with their child about the behavior expected in school
- To support their child's learning and school activities at home
- To be respectful and courteous to staff, other parents, guardians, and students
- To respect other students' privacy rights

School Staff Rights

- To work in a safe and orderly environment
- To be treated courteously and respectfully
- To bring complaints or concerns to school administration and District offices
- To receive supportive professional development and resources





School Staff Responsibilities

- To explicitly teach, re-teach and model clear behavioral expectations to all students
- To actively supervise all areas of the school building and use positive strategies to redirect behavior
- To provide engaging learning activities that minimize opportunities for disruption
- To intervene early and de-escalate inappropriate behaviors
- To identify and respond effectively to students' social, emotional, and/or behavioral health needs, including referring students for additional support when necessary
- To treat everyone in the school community fairly and with respect
- For administrators to review the circumstances surrounding each situation and exercise their discretion to assign interventions/consequences in the best interest of the school community
- Administrators to apply the SCC accurately, consistently, and

in a nondiscriminatory manner, including providing students with opportunities to respond, notifying parent/guardians when disciplinary action is taken, and recording all disciplinary action in the District student information system

Superintendent or Designee Responsibilities

- To monitor the implementation of prevention strategies and the safety and security program in each school
- To systematically monitor and publish suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, limited English proficiency, and disability
- To prepare recommendations for improving school discipline
- To create guidelines for effective school discipline
- To establish procedures for reciprocal reporting with the Reynoldsburg Police Department

Requirements and Guidelines

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The SCC applies to students at all times during the school day, while on school property, while traveling to and from school, at any school-related event, on any vehicle funded by RCS (such as a school bus), and while using the RCS network.

The SCC also applies to student behavior outside of school if: (1) a student engages in a Level 3 behavior, and (2) the behavior disrupts or may disrupt the educational process or orderly operation of the school. This includes seriously inappropriate behavior on social networking websites that disrupts or may disrupt the educational process or orderly operation of the school.

To address inappropriate behavior, school administrators must comply with the District Policy. At a minimum, a principal or his/her designee must:

- 1) Redirect to correct behavior. All adults should redirect students to correct inappropriate behavior and minimize the likelihood of the behavior escalating or recurring.

- 2) Intervene to minimize escalation, disruption, resolve conflict, and as necessary to keep students and staff safe. If a student has been injured, make every reasonable effort to immediately notify the parents/guardians.
- 3) Gather information by talking to all involved students, teachers, school staff, or others who witness the incident. When student misbehavior is reported to the school principal or designee, an investigation must begin no later than the next school day; however, if student safety is at risk, investigations must begin immediately.
 - a) If there is an allegation of sexual misconduct, including but not limited, sexual harassment, sexual bullying, sexual assault, dating violence, or discrimination related to sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, contact the Title IX Office.
 - b) If a search of the student, his/her locker, desk, or personal belongings needs to be conducted, follow the Board's Interrogation and Searches Policy. Identify factors that may have contributed to the incident and seek to understand the full context.
- 4) Analyze whether the student's alleged behavior falls within the SCC using the information gathered. If so, determine the Group level of disruption caused by the inappropriate behavior, identify the inappropriate behavior listed, and consider the range of possible interventions and consequences.
- 5) Discuss with the student and provide the opportunity to explain his/her perspective.
 - a) Inform the student of the inappropriate behavior s/he may have exhibited, the applicable SCC behavior category, and the range of possible interventions and consequences.
 - b) Ask the student to explain what happened from his/her perspective and reflect on his/her actions.
 - c) Seek to understand the root cause of the behavior, including trauma or unmet social, emotional or behavioral health needs.
 - d) Make reasonable efforts to contact the parents/guardians and discuss the incident with them before assigning interventions and consequences.
 - e) No student shall be sent home before the end of the school day unless the school has established contact with the student's parent/guardian and provided written notice of a suspension.
- 6) Make a determination and consider the needs of all parties involved.
 - a) Determine whether it is more likely than not that the student engaged in the identified SCC inappropriate behavior and which intervention or consequence is most likely to address the cause of the behavior.
 - b) Identify the social, emotional, and/or safety needs of the affected student(s) and provide appropriate supports and follow up.
- 7) Assign interventions or consequences according to the SCC.
 - a) Identify the intervention(s) or consequence(s) most likely to address the cause of the behavior including social, emotional or trauma-related needs, repair harm, and prevent repeat behaviors.
 - b) The principal or designee has the final authority to assign interventions and consequences based on the best interest of the school community, including available school resources, and the needs and rights of all involved students in alignment with the SCC.

- c) Follow the special procedures contained in the Procedural Safeguards section for students with disabilities and students with Section 504 Plans.
 - d) Avoid consequences that will remove the student from class or school, if possible. Use out-of-school suspensions only as a last resort in accordance with the suspension guidelines on page 11.
 - e) Note that RCS does not support the use of zero tolerance policies i.e. policies that require school staff to suspend or expel students for certain behaviors except if required by law. This means out-of-school suspensions cannot be a minimum or required consequence unless required by law.
 - f) If a student is suspended, the principal or his/her designee may choose to give the student a combination of out-of-school and skill-building in school suspension days. The out-of-school suspension must be served first and the combined total of out-of-school and in-school suspension days must not exceed the limits available for each Group level.
 - g) School staff members must not use public disciplinary techniques and must respond to inappropriate student behavior as confidentially as possible.
 - h) No restrictions may be placed on food options or recess activities as a behavior consequence. Silent group lunches are expressly prohibited.
- 8) Complete report in the District student information system for all inappropriate behaviors under the SCC. Hand-deliver to the parents/guardians or mail a copy of the misconduct report to the student's home address.
- 9) Inform parents/guardians of their right to appeal if they believe that the consequence is unwarranted or excessive.
- a) The parents/guardians have the right to ask the principal to review the consequence assigned and to reconsider the decision.
 - b) If a student has received an out-of-school suspension or referred for an expulsion hearing, the parents/guardians may appeal by request to the District Hearing Officer. The District Hearing Officer will determine:
 - whether any factual errors were made in the principal's investigation,
 - whether the documentation of the student's behavior aligns to the recorded SCC behavior category,
 - whether prior interventions were attempted when appropriate,
 - whether the length of the suspension was commensurate with the student's inappropriate behavior, and
 - in the case of a request for an expulsion hearing, whether the request was appropriate.
 - The Hearing Officer or designee's decision shall be final. The term of a student's suspension or request for an expulsion hearing is not halted by the parents'/guardians' appeal.
- 10) Restore the student's participation in the school community.
- a) If the student received an out-of-school suspension for three (3) or more days, the principal or designee must develop a plan to support the student's transition back into the school community, including strategies for preventing future behavior incidents, restoring relationships, and addressing the student's ongoing social, emotional, and academic needs, with input from the student and parents/guardians.

SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through third may NOT be assigned in-school or out-of-school suspensions, except as required by law. If a student in pre-kindergarten through third grade exhibits behavior that presents an imminent endangerment to the physical, emotional, or mental safety of specific students/staff, the Assistant Superintendent or designee may grant an exception and assign an emergency one-day in school or out-of-school suspension after the student's parent/guardian has been notified. During the suspension, the principal or designee must develop a plan addressing the safety of students/staff and including strategies for preventing future behavior incidents, restoring relationships, and addressing the student's ongoing social, emotional, and academic needs.

Skill-Building In-School Suspension

A skill-building in-school suspension is the removal of a student from his/her regular educational schedule for more than 60 minutes of the school day to an alternative supervised setting inside the school building to engage in structured activities that develop academic, social, emotional, and/or behavioral skills.

A student in grades four through twelfth may be assigned a skill-building in-school suspension if:

- 1) Skill-building in-school suspension is listed as an available consequence for the SCC behavior category, and
- 2) The student was informed of the his/her reported misbehavior, provided an opportunity to respond, and reasonable efforts were made to contact the parents/guardians, and
- 3) A copy of the misconduct report (generated in the District student information system) was provided to the student's parents/guardians.

Out-of-School Suspension

An out-of-school suspension is the removal of the student from class attendance or school attendance. When a student is removed from school in response to an inappropriate behavior, the removal counts as the first day of an out-of-school suspension.

A student in grades four through twelfth may be assigned an out-of-school suspension if:

- 1) Out-of-school suspension is listed as an available consequence for the SCC behavior category, and
- 2) The principal or designee determines that the student's attendance at school presents an imminent endangerment to the physical, emotional, or mental safety of specific students/staff and this threat is documented in the District student information system, or
- 3) The principal or designee determines that the student's behavior has caused chronic or extreme interruption to other students' participation in school activities and prior interventions have been utilized and documented in the District student information system, and
- 4) The student was informed of his/her reported misbehavior, provided an opportunity to respond, and reasonable efforts were made to contact the parents/guardians, and
- 5) A copy of the misconduct report (generated in the District student information system) was provided to the student's parents/guardians.

A student serving out-of-school suspension is not allowed to come onto school property, participate in extracurricular activities, or attend school-sponsored events. A student may be considered trespassing if he or she comes onto school grounds while suspended out of school.

Out-of-school suspensions are excused absences. The principal must ensure that a student serving suspension is able to obtain homework, and upon the student's return, provided with the opportunity to make up any quizzes, tests, special projects, assignments, or final exams given during the period of suspension.

A student serving suspension must be allowed to take state assessments at school and may participate in test preparation activities with the Assistant Superintendent's approval. The student's attendance will still be marked as suspended.

The Assistant Superintendent must approve any other exception to the out-of-school suspension guidelines. If approved by the Superintendent's designee, a student suspended for more than three (3) days may be required to attend a District-sponsored program during the term of suspension.

POLICE NOTIFICATION GUIDELINES

The District partners with the Reynoldsburg Police Department (RPD) in multiple ways in an effort to promote positive relationships among the community, schools, and peace officers. School Resource Officers (SROs) are members of RPD who serve the District within the school setting on a daily basis.

It may be necessary for school administrators to contact RPD in three situations: (1) at the direction of the District's Coordinator of Safety and Security or other District central office administrator, (2) to seek assistance with an emergency situation, or (3) to notify law enforcement of a criminal act. School administrators contact the Reynoldsburg Police Department (RPD) by notifying the building SRO or by calling the Department directly.

Emergency

School administrators have the responsibility to call 9-1-1 in situations they determine to be emergencies.

In an emergency situation, administrators must make reasonable efforts to notify parents/guardians immediately after contacting RPD.

Criminal Acts

When a student engages in illegal activity, it may be necessary for school staff to report the act to RPD. In this situation, school officials contact RPD to report violations of the law. School officials must not contact RPD merely to request removal of a disruptive student from the school in a non-emergency situation.

In a non-emergency situation, administrators must make reasonable efforts to contact parents/guardians prior to contacting RPD.

Sexual Misconduct

If school administrators are made aware of a criminal act of sexual misconduct that is in progress, they must contact RPD. When made aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct, including but not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual bullying, sexual assault, dating violence, or discrimination related to sex, sexual orientation, gender, or gender expression, contact the Title IX Office to assist in assessing whether police notification is needed. Ohio mandatory reporter

obligations are separate from reporting to RPD and must always be followed; please consult the Policy on Child Abuse and Neglect if needed.

The inappropriate behaviors that are clear violations of criminal law are identified in the next section with an asterisk (*) before the specific inappropriate behavior. The inappropriate behaviors that *may* be violations of criminal law are identified in the next section with a double asterisk (**) before the specific inappropriate behavior.

School officials must assess the situation before determining whether or not to contact RPD to report a criminal act. School officials should consider factors including:

- Whether the student distributed or was in possession of illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, or “look-alikes” of such substances. If so, RPD must be notified.
- Whether the student was in possession of a firearm. If so, RPD must be notified.
- The severity of the criminal violation and the degree of harm to the school community,
- Whether a person was physically injured as a result of the student’s conduct,
- Whether the student presents an imminent danger to the health, safety, or welfare of others, and
- The student’s age.

Once school staff members contact RPD, the responding police officers ultimately will determine whether or not to investigate, arrest, and/or take any other steps in response. School principals and staff do not have the authority to decide whether a student will be arrested. Moreover, responding police officers do not have the authority to decide whether a student will receive interventions or consequences at school. The school principal will use the SCC to determine the appropriate intervention(s) and/or consequence(s) to address a student’s behavior.

Clear Violations of Criminal Law

*Consider factors above prior to notifying RPD

- Knowingly or intentionally using the RCS network or information technology devices to spread viruses to the RCS network
- Aggravated assault
- Burglary
- Theft or possession of stolen property that costs more than \$150
- Gang activity or overt displays of gang affiliation
- Engaging in any other illegal behavior which interferes with the school’s educational process, including attempt
- Persistent or severe acts of sexual harassment
- False activation of a fire alarm which causes a school facility to be evacuated or causes emergency services to be notified
- Battery, or aiding or abetting in the commission of a battery, which results in a physical injury
- Use of any computer, including social networking websites, or use of any information technology device to threaten, stalk, harass, bully or otherwise intimidate others, or hacking into the RCS network to access student records or other unauthorized information, and/or to otherwise circumvent the information security system
- Vandalism or criminal damage to property that costs more than \$500 or that is done to personal property belonging to any school personnel

- Participating in a mob action
- Use, possession, and/or concealment of a firearm/destructive device or other weapon or “look-alikes” of weapons, or use or intent to use any other object to inflict bodily harm
- Intentionally causing or attempting to cause all or a portion of the RCS network to become inoperable
- Arson
- Bomb threat
- Robbery
- Sale, distribution, or intent to sell or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, “look-alikes” or such substances, contraband, or any other substance used for the purpose of intoxication
- Sex acts, and attempted sex acts, that occur with or without the voluntary participation of one or more parties, that may involve the use of implicit or implied force
- Aggravated battery, or aiding and abetting in the commission of an aggravated battery
- Murder
- Attempted murder
- Kidnapping
- Theft or possession of stolen property that costs more than \$1,000

Possible Violations of Criminal Law

**Consider factors above prior to notifying RPD

- Gambling
- Forgery
- False activation of a fire alarm that does not cause a school facility to be evacuated or does not cause emergency services to be notified
- Extortion
- Assault
- Vandalism or criminal damage to property that costs less than \$500
- Battery or aiding or abetting in the commission of a battery which does not result in a physical injury
- Fighting – more than two people and/or involves injury
- Theft or possession of stolen property that costs less than \$150
- Possession, use, sale, or distribution of fireworks
- Trespassing on CPS property
- Use of intimidation, credible threats of violence, coercion, or persistent severe bullying
- Inappropriate sexual conduct
- Use or possession of alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, “lookalikes” of such substances, contraband (including all vaporizer devices that contain substances for the purposes of intoxication or any unknown substances), or use of any other substance for the purpose of intoxication in or before school or a school-related function.



DISCIPLINE POLICY

All matters related to the Student Code of Conduct will be addressed with fairness and respect to all race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) of every student.

In order to protect a student's right to an education, the State of Ohio has given the Board of Education the authority, by statute, to "make such rules and regulations as are necessary for its government and the government of its employees, pupils of its schools, and all other persons entering upon its school ground or premises."

Students will be expected to conduct themselves in such a way that the rights of others are not violated. Students will respect school authority, conform to school regulations, and accept directions from authorized school personnel. A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school related events will be dealt with according to approved student discipline regulations.

The building administrators are charged with the overall oversight and discipline of all students in his/her building. However, the primary responsibilities of management of students is in the hands of each teacher. Parents will also be informed of the conduct expected of students. Students are reminded that they are responsible for their actions toward school personnel and school property during all school-related activities and events, even when such activities occur off school grounds. Policies at RCS are designed to:

1. Protect the health, safety, and welfare of each student;
2. Prevent disruption of the educational process;
3. Maintain an atmosphere and climate conducive to learning; and
4. Protect the building and grounds from vandalism and destruction

The administration reserves the right to exercise flexibility and discretion when implementing the rules of the Student Code of Conduct in compliance with the Reynoldsburg Board of Education Policy. This also means the administration may develop appropriate rules and regulations as called for by various situations. In addition, the administration may, in severe or unusual cases, or in cases where it is in the best interest of the

student(s), elect to address students in ways other than stated specifically in the Student Code of Conduct. **Note: any step found in the Code of Conduct may be waived at the administrator's discretion.**

Students who choose not to report or to report on time, or who choose to complete lesser consequences, may have additional consequences assigned by the administration. Repeated violations of school rules and regulations are a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Consequences for the following behaviors may include a variety of options, such as notify parents, restrictions, in school suspension, notify police, assign the student 10 days out of school suspension, with a recommendation for expulsion.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

The following infractions constitute major violations. **Consequences will be issued at the discretion of the administrator.** This code of conduct is in effect while students are under the authority of school personnel and/or during all school-related activities and events, even when such activities occur off school grounds. The Code of Conduct applies to school buses, extracurricular events and to some alternative education programs. The Code of Conduct may also apply to off campus conduct that occurs outside of the school's educational activities or programs if such conduct or misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the district, adversely affects the educational process, is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school district property, or creates a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment within the school. In addition, this Code of Conduct includes misconduct by a student that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or the property of an official or employee.

LEVEL 1

R01 Academic Misconduct

A student shall not plagiarize (i.e. use another's thoughts, words or ideas as one's own). A student shall not provide work for another student's use or use unauthorized materials or devices. Academic Misconduct may result in no credit for an assignment as well as other consequences. No student shall act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage on any academic assignment and/or assessment.

R02 Disruption of Class

A student shall not exhibit behavior that is deemed by the teacher or staff member in authority to be disruptive to the normal operation of the class. Such behavior includes violence, force, coercion, threat, excessive noise, passive resistance, or other disorderly conduct that causes or attempts to cause disruption or obstruction to the normal classroom operation.

R03 Profanity/Abusive Language

A student shall not use profane, vulgar, abusive, obscene, or other words which under the circumstances are offensive by reasonable standards of the school District community or which disrupt normal school activities. Abuse of language directed at staff member or student will be treated more severely.

R04 Public Display of Affection

A student is prohibited from demonstrating physical or verbal actions which are considered by reasonable standard of the school District community to be inappropriate for the school environment. This includes, but is not limited to, kissing and hugging.

R05 Dress Code - RCS Board Policy

In order to promote school safety and provide a healthy and respectful educational environment, all students in grades kindergarten through twelve shall adhere to this dress code policy. The objective of this dress code is to provide an appropriate, safe and respectful educational environment while allowing students to dress comfortably, within limits, to facilitate learning. The District expects students to maintain the type of appearance that is not disruptive to the educational process of the schools. The final determination of a student's adherence to the dress code will be made by the school administration.

Parents/guardians share equal responsibility with their child for the student's adherence to the dress code policy. Administration and faculty, together, are responsible for enforcement of the dress code. The dress code is enforced at school and school functions which are not open to the public. The decision of the principal is final with regard to dress code violations.

When dress or grooming interferes with the cleanliness, health, welfare or safety of students, or when dress or grooming disrupts the educational process it is prohibited. Clothing must be worn as designed and appropriately sized.

As new trends in fashion or dress emerge or become out of date, the District reviews and revises the dress code to reflect the standards of the community.

Based on input received from principals, staff, and parents, the required dress code shall consist of the following clothing:

DRESS CODE, GRADES K-12

- A. No clothing is permitted that promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence or is offensive or degrading.
- B. No clothing associated with gangs.
- C. No clothing that exposes underwear or excessive skin, or is transparent or "see-through".
- D. Pants must be worn at the waist and should not show underwear.
- E. No clothing long enough to drag on the ground.
- F. No sunglasses unless prescribed in writing by a medical doctor for indoor wear.
- G. No chain wallets or chains that could be dangerous to persons or destructive to school property.
- H. No flip-flops, house shoes or slippers.
- I. No pajamas.



- J. No excessive holes, tears or rips that show skin or underwear.
- K. No low-cut, scoop or plunging necklines. All tops must meet bottoms. Torso cannot be exposed.
- L. Sweatshirts with hoods will only be permissible so long as hoods are not worn in the building.
- M. No coats, cold weather jackets, or blankets worn during the school day unless permission is granted.
- N. No head coverings except for religious or medical purposes.
- O. Shorts, capris, skorts, and dresses cannot be shorter than two (2) inches above the knee. No slits in skirts or dresses shall be higher than two (2) inches above the knee.

Other exceptions may be allowed **only** upon the **prior** approval of the administration.

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Students who violate this policy are subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- A. A warning is issued and the student's parents/guardians are required to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear.
- B. Repeated violations may result in other disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
- C. Building administrators will make the final decision at the building level if a student's attire does not meet the requirements of this policy.

GRADES 5TH THROUGH 12TH ONLY

SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION

If students attend classes or activities at a different campus besides the one where they are enrolled, they must have a school-issued ID in their possession.

LEVEL 2

R06 Disruption of School/Persistent Disorderly/Repeated Violations

A student shall not exhibit behavior that is deemed by the teacher or staff member in authority to be disruptive to the normal operation of the school. Such behavior includes violence, force, coercion, threat, noise, passive resistance, inciting panic, reckless horseplay/buying/selling/trading property during the school day or other disorderly conduct that cause or attempts to cause disruption or obstruction to the normal school operation. A student shall not persist in inappropriate behavior or escalate to a point of danger to self or others.

R07 Failure to Serve

A student shall not fail to report, report on time or serve the full duration of consequences.

R08 Forgery and Falsification

A student shall not falsely represent or attempt to falsely represent any information given to school official or pertinent to school activities or use the name or identity of another person.

R09 Gambling

A student shall not play a game for money or other considerations. Gambling includes, but is not limited to casual betting, betting pools, organized sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that activity.

R10 Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence

Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student, more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. The intentional act includes violence within a dating relationship. This behavior is prohibited on school property, at a school-sponsored activity, or may apply to off campus conduct that occurs outside of the school's educational activities or programs if such conduct creates a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment within the school. In the event of a one-time incident, administration shall determine and implement discipline to their discretion.

R11 Insubordination/Disrespect

A student shall comply with any reasonable instruction(s) of school staff/employees during any period of time when the student is under the authority of such school personnel (e.g., identification of student by name when requested).

R12 Interference with an Investigation

A student shall not interfere with school personnel during an investigation or apprehension. This includes failing to tell the truth, serving as a "look-out" for a person(s) violating rules, destroying evidence or information, attempting to prevent the discipline or apprehension of another person, retaliating against any person, either directly or indirectly for filing a complaint or participating in the evaluation, or sharing information about ongoing or current investigations (to include via social media, text message or other electronic mediums).

R13 Loitering

A student shall not loiter in restrooms, hallways, or on school grounds during, or after the school day or during school activities. Students are not to be in any area of the building or ground without permission.

R14 Misconduct at a School Sponsored Event

A student shall not behave inappropriately during a school sponsored event or activity. School sponsored field trips, excursions, athletic events or other activities are considered an integral part of the total school program and, as such, all school rules and student behavior codes apply to student participants and student spectators at these events. Misconduct at a school sponsored event or activity will result in disciplinary action.

R15 Misconduct while Driving and Parking on Campus

A student shall not operate a vehicle or motor vehicle upon school grounds, parking lots, or within a school safety zone in a wanton or reckless manner. Students shall not ride on the exterior or on top of any vehicle or motor vehicle. Students shall obey all traffic laws, traffic control devices, parking signs, parking lot markings and speed limits. Parking privileges may be revoked and appropriate discipline will be issued.

R16 Possession of Unauthorized Devices/Inappropriate Materials/ Personal Electronic Devices (Cell Phones)

A student shall not bring or possess unauthorized devices on school property, within a District owned building or on a school bus. These devices include items that interfere with the educational process and/or safety of the school community. The administration reserves the right to hold any unauthorized device, and release the item only to the student's parent/guardian. A student bringing an unauthorized device does so at his or her own risk. An unauthorized device includes, but is not limited to a lighter, matches, laser pointer, noise maker, whistle, air horn, speaker, toy, or any other item deemed inappropriate by the school administrators. **The school will not investigate lost or stolen unauthorized devices.**

A student shall not possess, bring, transmit, conceal, sell, or offer to sell material which is considered by reasonable standards of the school community to be offensive, obscene, sexually explicit, gang related, violent, and/or pornographic. This includes possessing, obtaining or disseminating such material using personal electronic devices (including cell phones) while on school property, by means of school provided internet connectivity or via the usage of school computers, laptops, or other electronics in violation of the *Acceptable Use Policy*.

All technology, to include personally owned electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, tablets and similar devices) brought into the schools must only be used to support education and research and be consistent with the objectives of the district. All personal electronic devices must be turned off, kept secured, and out of sight during the school day. **A student shall not use a personal electronic device during instructional time unless expressly permitted while under the supervision and direction of school staff.** A student shall not use a personal electronic device on school property that would violate the district's *Computer and Technology Acceptable Use Policy*.

Students are prohibited from using a personal electronic device to violate, or coordinate a violation of any other provision within the student code of conduct.

Students shall not utilize a personal electronic device to videotape, record, and photograph or otherwise capture images of any person or school property without the prior expressed consent of a school official. This includes all use of a camera or camera phone on school property to record students, staff, or other occupants of the building. The recording of any disturbance, fight, or other code of conduct violation is strictly prohibited.

Students are also prohibited from creating, possessing, capturing, transmitting, displaying or sharing with other students any material or information which is considered by reasonable standards of the school community to be offensive, threatening, insulting, humiliating, embarrassing, obscene, sexually explicit, gang related, violent, and/or pornographic.

A student using a device which violates this code is subject to disciplinary actions. The device being used may be confiscated at the discretion of the staff member and returned to a parent or guardian.

The school is not responsible for and will not investigate lost or stolen personal electronic devices.

R17 Tobacco

A student shall not smoke, use, possess or distribute tobacco or tobacco products on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities. A tobacco product is any product that is made from tobacco, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco or snuff. A cigarette includes clove cigarettes and hand-rolled cigarettes. Tobacco-related products, such as electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, electronic cigarette liquid (whether it contains nicotine or not), any electronic cigarette component, matches and lighters, are also prohibited.

R18 Theft

A student shall not take, receive, nor attempt to take or receive into his or her possession property of the school District or property of another student, teacher, visitor, or employee of the school District without privilege to do so. The school will make a reasonable effort to recover or obtain restitution, but is not held responsible for stolen items.

R19 Threatening Behavior

A student shall not engage in any behavior, make verbal, nonverbal or other forms of communications or gestures that would be considered by reasonable standards of the school community, including staff or students, to be threatening, harmful, or likely to provoke a violent response. No student shall threaten harm to persons or property or act in a turbulent or offensive manner. This includes engaging in conduct designed to urge or incite another to commit any act of violence.

R20 Vandalism

A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard cause or attempt to cause damage to or deface school property or private, personal property including, but not limited to buildings, grounds, equipment, materials, computers or other technology. In accordance

with state law, parent(s) may be liable for payment for the cost to repair or replace any such property damage caused by the acts of their children.

R21 Trespassing/Aiding in Trespassing and Skipping/Leave School Grounds

A student shall not leave school grounds, enter school property before, during or after school hours without express permission of an appropriate school official. A student shall not aid another person in trespassing, including opening or propping a door for entrance to the building, transporting a student for the purpose of trespassing, or being a “look out” for students who are attempting to trespass or skip class.

R22 Hate Speech

A student shall not use derogatory verbal, written, or symbol communication regarding race, sexual orientation or religious beliefs that would be considered by reasonable standards of the school community, including staff or students, to be threatening, harmful, or likely to provoke a violent response.

R23 Social Media Use

Students shall not commit a harmful or aggressive electronic act toward another student or staff member, including the use of social media platform. An electronic act encompasses the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

LEVEL 3

R24 Assault/Bodily Injury

A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard cause serious physical harm, or threaten to cause physical harm, to any person. The term “bodily injury” means— (A) a cut, abrasion, bruise, burn, or disfigurement; (B) physical pain; (C) illness; (D) impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or (E) any other injury to the body, no matter how temporary.

R25 Serious Bodily Injury

A student shall not cause serious bodily injury to oneself or others. Serious bodily injury is defined as “A bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or faculty” (18 U.S.C. Section 1365(h)).

R26 Dangerous Weapons

A. **Dangerous Weapon other than a firearm, explosive, incendiary or poison gas.** A student shall not use, possess, sell, negotiate, broker, or distribute a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, which is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury on school property, school sponsored activities, or by utilizing social media. Dangerous weapons include, but are not limited to knives, swords, razors,

needles, metal knuckles, martial arts devices or other dangerous instruments which could be mistakenly identified or used as a dangerous weapon.

- B. **Firearms.** A student shall not use, design, produce, handle, transmit, transport, sell, negotiate, broker, conceal, distribute or possess any firearm, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm ammunition, holster, or firearm silencer; on school property, school sponsored activities, or by utilizing social media which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion, compressed air, spring or other mechanical means. This includes but is not limited to, zip guns, starter guns and flare guns. This also includes any “look-alike” firearm, pellet gun, BB gun, or other object which could be mistakenly identified as a firearm.
- C. **Explosive, Incendiary, or Poison Gas.** A student shall not use, possess, sell, negotiate, broker, or distribute any destructive device on school property, school sponsored activities, or by utilizing social media, which would include a bomb, a grenade, an improvised explosive device of any kind, a rocket having a propellant charge, or a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge. This includes any weapon that will, or that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant.
- D. **Other Weapons (to include less than lethal).** A student shall not use, possess, sell, negotiate, broker, or distribute any weapon designed to cause pain, harm or injury on school property, school sponsored activities, or by utilizing social media. These weapons include, but are not limited to, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, pepper spray, mace, pocket chains, Tasers or other electronic control weapons (ECW) or electronic control devices (ECD), whips, sharp objects, or other objects fashioned for use as a weapon.

R27 Drugs

Student will not knowingly use, possess, sell, conceal, negotiate or broker to distribute or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, betel nut, steroid, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, look-alike drug, or intoxicant of any kind while on school grounds during, before, or after school hours, off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event, or on school buses or rented carriers.

- A. **Suspected Use**
- B. **Possession or having control, use of, or evidence of use.**
- C. **Prescription Drugs and Over the Counter Drugs.**

Students who must take either prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours must have parental permission on file in the clinic and the medication must be kept in the clinic unless the requirements for self-possession of emergency medication are followed. Medication cannot be brought to school, taken, or administered except in compliance with these guidelines and board policy. No student shall have possession of, sell, conceal, negotiate, or broker to distribute or be under the influence of any prescription drug or over the counter drug of any kind while on school

grounds during, before, or after school hours, off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event, or on school buses or rented carriers.

R28 Fighting

A student shall not strike, push or fight with another person. This includes mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence, regardless of who initiated the incident. An individual whose deliberate behavior directly leads to a fight between other parties shall be considered a participant, and may receive consequences as a result of their actions.

R29 Hazing/Extortion

Hazing is defined as doing any act of coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Hazing by any means or method is prohibited. A student shall not use force or intimidation to obtain anything (e.g. privileges, property, and money) from another person.

R30 Sexual Misconduct

A range of sexual contact that includes pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments or jokes, welcome or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other physical or verbal communication of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

R31 Arson

No student, by means of fire or explosion, shall cause or create a risk of physical harm or damage to any school or privately property. No student shall cause a fire or attempt to cause a fire on school property or at school sponsored activities, unless expressly permitted and supervised during the course of classroom instruction or experimentation.

R32 Alcohol

Students will not knowingly use, possess, sell, conceal, negotiate, or broker to distribute or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind while on school grounds during, before, or after school hours, off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event, or on school buses or rented carriers.

R33 False Alarms/Bomb Threats/Tampering with Emergency Equipment

A student shall not destroy, damage, tamper with, remove or deploy any fire safety equipment, automated electronic defibrillator or other device that's intended use is for or during an emergency situation. No student shall cause the evacuation of any school building or related property, or otherwise cause panic, alarm or inconvenience by means of a false alarm, threat, false activation of a fire alarm or by circulating any information, verbal or written, to indicate any emergency or danger exists or has the potential to exist when it is known, or the person has reason to know that the information or alarm is false.

R34 Gang Related Behavior

A student shall not wear, carry or display gang paraphernalia; exhibit behavior verbally or by action, which symbolizes gang affiliation; or cause and/or participate in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student. A student shall not be involved in initiations, hazing, intimidations and/or gang related activities of group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, and/or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm.

Bus Behavior Protocol

Bus suspension periods will be commensurate with the infraction(s) committed as determined by the Superintendent or designated District personnel. The following progressive response parameters will be followed when students fail to follow bus rules. These measures will be implemented upon violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct, incidents of disorderly conduct, or failure to follow directives and guidance of the bus driver. Infractions will be documented by the bus driver via an *Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report*. Consequences may be adjusted at the discretion of the Administrator.

MINOR

First Minor Offense	Written warning and a copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the parents or guardians by the Transportation Department.
Second Minor Offense	Written warning and a copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the parents or guardians <i>and</i> the school by the Transportation Department.
Third Minor Offense	<i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school and a meeting with the parent or guardian is held by the Principal or designee.
Fourth Minor Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges up to 3 days. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.
Fifth Minor Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges up to 5 days. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.
Sixth Minor Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges for 10 days. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.
Seventh Minor Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.

MAJOR

First Major Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges up to 3 days. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.
Second Major Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges up to 5 days. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.
Third Major Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges for 10 days. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.
Fourth Major Offense	May result in a loss of all riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. A copy of the <i>Unsatisfactory Conduct on School Bus Report</i> sent to the school by the Transportation Department.

Any major offense may result in an immediate suspension or loss of riding privileges for the remainder of the year.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of the Student Code of Conduct

Reynoldsburg City Schools

Student Code of Conduct

Student Agreement

I, _____, (print student's name) have received and read the Student Code of Conduct ("SCC") for the Reynoldsburg City Schools. I am aware of my rights and responsibilities under the SCC. Furthermore, I understand that inappropriate student behavior will result in interventions and consequences as stated under the SCC.

Student Signature

Date

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Empowering leaders who impact the NOW and innovate the FUTURE



Parent/Guardian Agreement

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Reynoldsburg City Schools believes that you should be informed regarding our effort to create and maintain a safe secure learning environment for all students. Please read the SCC and sign the document below to acknowledge your receipt and understanding of the SCC.

I am the parent or guardian of the above named student. I have received and read the SCC. I understand that by signing this document, I agree to support and promote the goals of the SCC and make every effort to work with the school in resolving all disciplinary matters.

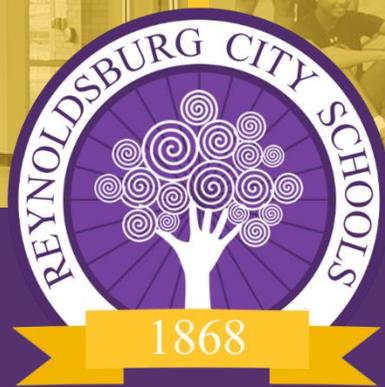
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

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