



Rochester CUSD #3A

4 Rocket Drive Rochester, Illinois 62563-9282, United States

Recommended Student Handbook Changes

May 15, 2024

Rochester Elementary Schools:

- Student drop-off times have been adjusted to 7:30 a.m.
- Mr. Randy Krepel noted that revisions at Rochester Intermediate School (RIS) align with the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) recommendations. These revisions include:
 - Updating policies in line with the IPA Model Student Handbook.
 - Amending the Sexual Misconduct Policy.
 - Updating Complaint Contact and Procedures.
 - Expanding the Definition for Distractions.
 - Adding Artificial Intelligence to the Dishonesty Policy.
 - Enhancing the Bullying Policy by ensuring families are notified within 24 hours and incorporating language addressing retaliation as a form of bullying.

Rochester Junior High School:

- Following the IPA Model Student Handbook, revisions include:
 - Updating the Sexual Misconduct Policy.
 - Revising Complaint Contact and Procedures.
 - Implementing an "Away for the Day" electronic device policy, requiring devices to be stored in lockers during instructional time, with specified check times.
 - Amending the Absences Policy to encourage attendance at civic events.
 - Enforcing a "No hoods" policy within the building.
 - Expanding the Definition for Distractions.
 - Prohibiting blankets from being brought to school.
 - Adding Artificial Intelligence to the Dishonesty Policy.

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Rochester High School:

- In alignment with the IPA Model Student Handbook, revisions entail:
 - Updating the Sexual Misconduct Policy.
 - Revising Complaint Contact and Procedures.
 - Instituting a policy where students enrolled in AP English/Language Arts and achieving high standardized test scores must enroll in the most rigorous class the following year.
 - Introducing a new cell phone policy aimed at maximizing instructional time by allowing a full 60 minutes per block of cell phone-free instruction. Exceptions apply to IEP students and those with written permission from administrators. Clear consequences for violations are outlined.

Items for Future Consideration:

- Examination and potential adjustments to graduation groups at Rochester High School.
- Initiation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion dialogues and actions.

Grants Updates:

- Title I: Funds allocated to support student literacy, including resources for reading teachers, literacy aides, English Language Learners, and homeless students.
- Title II: Allocated for instructional improvement, including mentoring programs, professional development, and educational conferences.
- Title IV: Support for the College Now program, with provisions for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

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- IDEA and School Improvement Grants: Including targeted funding for 3rd grade improvement, resources for special education students, and support for early intervention and workforce transition programs.

These recommended handbook changes and grant updates reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and academically enriching environment for all students.

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