2026-2027

River Edge Schools Code of Conduct

The time is always right to do what is right.

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

MISSION STATEMENT

The River Edge School District is a partnership of students, parents, staff, and community members. We are dedicated to providing a supportive environment in which all students can reach their maximum academic potential, while developing as responsible citizens who respect individuality. Our goals will be achieved because:

- curriculum and instruction are aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards,
- all decisions reflect the academic, social/emotional, and physical needs of pre-K to sixth-grade students,
- cooperation and ongoing communication exist between the school district and the community,
- school administrators and the Board of Education work together to assess and adjust procedures in response to new mandates and the changing needs of the community.

Dr. Nicholas Bernice, Superintendent
Mr. Eric Thomasevich, Business Administrator
Mrs. Denise Heitman, Principal
Mr. Nicholas Grimshaw, Principal
Ms. Christine Moran, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Evan Jaffe, Director of Special Services
Mrs. Brooke Geller, Supervisor of Innovation, Assessment, & Special Projects

Revised August 2026

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OUR BELIEFS

The River Edge Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in students' behavior.

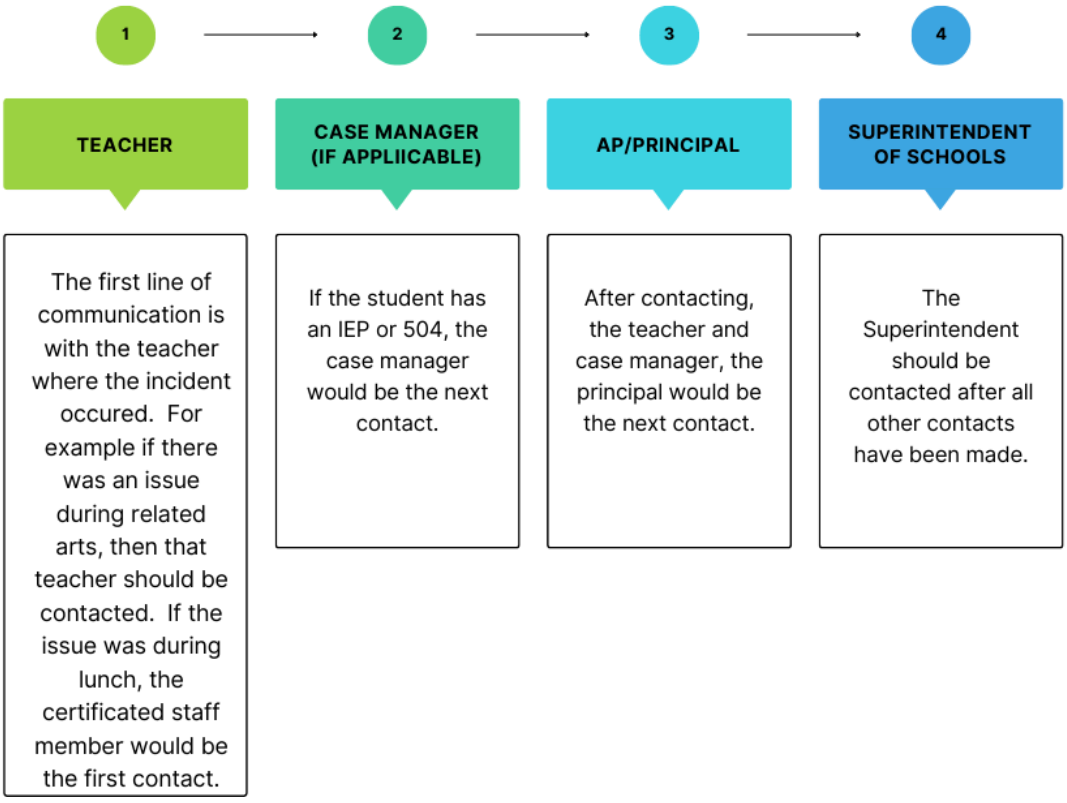
All students at Roosevelt/Cherry Hill Schools should conduct themselves in a manner that will respect themselves, their parents, teachers, fellow students, visitors, and school property.

We believe in creating a safe and positive learning environment where every student feels valued, respected, and included.

We value upstanding individuals who respect others, themselves, school equipment, materials, and property.

Our code of conduct outlines our behaviors and expectations for all students, staff, and visitors to our school. By following this code of conduct, we can work together to create a community where everyone can thrive and reach their full potential. We encourage all families and students to review and understand this code of conduct, and we look forward to working together to maintain a positive and respectful school environment.

Chain of Communication Between Home and School



UNIVERSAL EXPECTATIONS

Our students are expected to:

- Arrive at school on time each day
- Follow all classroom rules and expectations
- Be organized and prepared for class each day
- Give maximum effort
- Use appropriate language
- Choose actions and words that are kind
- Keep hallways clean and quiet
- Keep our school free from vandalism
- Take care of school materials, equipment, and property
- Be helpful to others
- Be accountable for your words and actions

LUNCHTIME EXPECTATIONS

- Enter the cafeteria in a quiet and orderly fashion
- Remain seated
- Sit at the table without crowding the other children
- Use good manners
- Speak in a soft, inside voice
- Do not share or trade food
- Clean up after yourself before being dismissed
- Listen to and respect the adults in charge

PLAYGROUND & RECESS EXPECTATIONS

- Follow the directions of the adults in charge and dress appropriately for the weather.
- Play in the designated areas only
- Do not leave the recess area
- Avoid rough activities such as pushing, wrestling, tackling, or play fighting.
- Include all children who want to play
- Share playground equipment and supplies
- Use playground equipment in the manner for which it was intended
- Tell an adult immediately if someone gets hurt
- Tell an adult immediately if someone is bullied or harassed
- When recess is over, stop playing and line up immediately in your class's designated area

CELL PHONES, CAMERAS, PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES, TABLETS, SMART WATCHES, VIDEO, VOICE RECORDERS, AND ANY OTHER WiFi OR CELLULAR ENABLED DEVICES

Students may not use cell phones, smart watches, or similar devices on school property during school hours. If students bring a cell phone or wear a watch with cell phone capability, it must be set to silent and kept in their locker/cubby. In addition, any device that records video images or voices is not permitted on school grounds or field trips. The clear intention here is to respect privacy rights. Students who photograph or capture images of other students on school property with or without their permission will be referred to the school administration for appropriate action. Lunch, recess, and other play times are meant to be pleasant, socially interactive daily activities. Electronic devices are not permitted to be used during this time.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

The River Edge School District affords all students access to meaningful technology resources that advance and promote learning. Proper student etiquette, both at school and at home, is the responsibility of every student. It is important to note that using such resources is a privilege, not a right. Students are to use technology resources only in productive ways to promote the learning process, as supervised by the classroom teacher. In addition, students should never post/share personal information about themselves on the internet (i.e., names,

addresses, telephone numbers, or personal photographs) or send harassing messages using electronic mail and/or other forms of communication.
Furthermore, students shall not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the District system or any other computer system through the District system, nor shall they go beyond their authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another individual's account or accessing another's files. Students shall not deliberately try to disrupt the District's computer system performance or destroy data by spreading computer viruses that can damage computer systems, firewalls, servers, or network systems. Please refer to the Acceptable Use Agreement. All students and families will acknowledge they have read and agree to our Acceptable Use Policies on the Genesis Parent Portal.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Homework aims to reinforce and extend learning, develop independent study habits, and foster responsibility and time management skills. It serves as a tool for students to practice and apply what they have learned in the classroom.

The amount of homework assigned will be appropriate for the students' grade level and individual needs. Typically, homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday.

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

Kindergarten 5-10 minutes 3-4 times a week
Grade 1 10-15 minutes 3-4 times a week
Grade 2 10-30 minutes 3-4 times a week
Grade 3 20-40 minutes 3-4 times a week
Grade 4 30-60 minutes 3-4 times a week
Grade 5 40-60 minutes 3-4 times a week
Grade 6 45-75 minutes 3-4 times a week

Parental Involvement

Parents and caregivers are crucial in supporting their child's learning process. They are encouraged to:
a. Create a conducive homework environment that is quiet, well-lit, and free from distractions.
b. Establish a consistent homework routine, setting aside dedicated time for completing assignments.
c. Provide necessary guidance and support, without completing the work for the child.
d. Monitor their child's progress and communicate with teachers if any difficulties arise.

Homework Expectations

Students are expected to:
a. Complete all homework assignments to the best of their ability and submit them on time.
b. Demonstrate independent effort and take responsibility for their work.
c. Seek clarification from teachers if they have any questions or need additional support.
d. Maintain organization by keeping track of assignments, materials, and due dates.

DRESS CODE

To provide a safe and secure school, strengthen the educational focus, and establish an orderly learning environment while preparing students for success in the professional workplace, the following standards for student dress and appearance must be followed.

- Clothing that exposes the mid-section of the body (midriffs or undergarments) is not permitted.
- Any clothing articles that reveal undergarments are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, bralettes, camisoles, form-fitting tank tops, boxer shorts, underwear, etc.
- Skirts, dresses, shorts, or “skorts ” must cover underwear and extend at least 2 inches below the buttocks.
- Excessively tight clothing, such as bodysuits/leotards, must be covered with a top layer.
- Clothing may not be adorned by slogans, symbols, or advertising promoting drugs, alcohol, or similarly inappropriate themes.
- Hoods and hats are not permitted except those worn for religious or medical purposes, unless a pre-announced special occasion permits them.
- Slippers, open-toe footwear, shoes with wheels, flip-flops, and high platform shoes are not permitted.
- All footwear must have a supportive backing.
- Sunglasses, or any other eyewear, are not permitted unless the lenses are for corrective vision.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Tardiness – Students will be considered tardy if they enter the building after 8:30 am.

Lunchroom Misbehavior – Lunchroom misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, disrespecting or not listening to teachers and other students, leaving seats without permission, throwing or trading food, making or leaving a mess, yelling, and other inappropriate behavior.

Physical Confrontation – Physical confrontation is a dispute, conflict, or physical aggression that may or may not result in injury.

Physical Assault - Physical assault is an intentional or reckless act that causes physical harm or bodily injury.

Cell Phone/Smart Watch – Any device used to text, call, or access the Internet.

Verbal Misconduct – Verbal misconduct is a type of emotional abuse that uses language and communication to cause harm.

Verbal misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Teasing: making fun of or laughing at someone
- Rumors: spreading false information about someone
- Gossip: talking negatively about someone behind their back

- Name-calling: using negative words to describe someone
- Profanity: swear words or other inappropriate language
- Exclusion: leaving someone out of games and discussions

Academic Dishonesty – Not completing your work on a test or an assignment, or copying the work of others.

Disrespecting an Adult – Includes, but is not limited to, talking back, walking away while being spoken to, and not following adults' directions.

Theft or Defacing Property – Taking personal or school property without permission from the owner and vandalizing personal or school property. Examples include, but are not limited to, writing on walls, breaking windows, and intentionally breaking school or individual equipment. If property is stolen or damaged, you are expected to pay for the damage or return the stolen item.

Accountability - accepting responsibility and acting to repair harm done.

HIB – HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

The River Edge School District has conscientiously implemented the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requirements by providing programs and training opportunities for staff and students to develop strategies for conflict resolution and create a positive learning environment for all students.

VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

This plan will be used when dealing with conduct that may or may not rise to the level of HIB. Remedial measures shall be designed to correct problematic behavior, prevent another occurrence of the problem, and protect and provide support for all students.

We believe in restorative practices where we work with our students to examine the harmful impact of conduct infractions and then determine what can be done to repair that harm while holding students accountable.

Making mistakes is a part of life, and especially a part of growing up. Teachers, counselors, mental health professionals, and administrators must teach and guide while ensuring our students' physical and emotional safety at all times.

Administration reserves the right to use its discretion regarding each incident.

Prohibited Conduct	**1st Offense Consequences may include:**	**2nd Offense Consequences may include:**	**3rd Offense Consequences may include:**
Attendance	Students should make every effort to be punctual. Meetings with parents will be scheduled for chronic tardiness.		

Lunchroom Misbehavior	Conference with a student Discussion of appropriate lunchroom behavior	Reassignment of seats Parent contact Community Service in the Lunchroom	Reflection with the principal Student presentation Parent meeting Loss of privileges
Physical Confrontation	Conference with the student, contact the parent Detention	Contact parent Referral to School Counselor Detention Loss of privileges	Parent conference Referral to School Counselor Restorative session with Principal Detention suspension
Physical Assault	Parent conference Referral to School Counselor Detention Loss of privileges	Parent conference In-school suspension Behavioral intervention	Parent conference Out-of-school suspension Referral to I&RS
Cellular/WiFi-enabled device misuse	Confiscate the device until the end of the school day Loss of privileges	Confiscate device Contact parent The parent must pick up the phone Detention Loss of privileges	Confiscate the telephone, contact the parent The parent must pick up the phone Detention Loss of privileges
Verbal Misconduct (teasing, rumors, gossip, name-calling, profanity, exclusion)	Conference with a student Apology	Contact parent Referral to School Counselor	Parent Conference Referral to School Counselor Student presentation
Academic Dishonesty	Complete the assignment appropriately during detention Contact parent	Grade adjustment on the assignment Contact parent Referral to School Counselor	Parent conference Referral to School Counselor Detention/suspension
Violation of Acceptable Use Agreement	Loss of technology privileges as per the Acceptable Use Agreement Contact parent	Loss of technology privileges as per the Acceptable Use Agreement Parent conference Student presentation	Indefinite removal of technology privileges

Disrespectful behavior towards an adult	Warning and apology, Conference with the student	Contact parent Referral to School Counselor	Parent Conference Referral to School Counselor Student presentation about respect
Sexual Exposure and/or contact	Contact parent Referral to Counselor Detention for 1-3 days	Parent Conference Detention for 1 week, Suspension	Out-of-school suspension (1- 5 days) Contact authorities
Dress Code	Contact the parent for a change of clothes.	Contact the parent for a change of clothes.	Parent conference

Sexual Assault	Immediate report to the Superintendent Parent Conference Referral to School Counselor Referral to River Edge Police Suspension Contact DCPP	Extended suspension pending board hearing
Weapons or Explosives	Immediate report to Superintendent Confiscate a dangerous item Referral to School Counselor Police involvement Loss of school privileges. Suspension: Firearm, automatic 1-year suspension	Police Involvement

Terroristic Threats (hit lists, bomb scares, and bodily threats against students or staff).	Immediate report to School administrator and central office Parent conference Referral to School Counselor School suspension (1-3 days or until the results of Psychiatric evaluation demonstrates that the student may return to school. Loss of school privileges, Police involvement	Extended suspension pending board hearing	
Fire Alarm or 911 Call	Immediate report to school administrator and central office Parent conference Referral to school counselor	Suspension	Police involvement
Illegal Substances	Confiscate illegal Substance/paraphernalia Parent conference Police involvement Referral to school counselor Suspension	Police Involvement	Police Involvement

Smoking, Tobacco, inhalants, vaping devices, e-cigarettes	Parent/guardians notified; Suspension and/or referral to a counselor for quitting assessment Confiscate materials Notification to principal and superintendent	Parent/guardians notified; Suspension and/or referral to a counselor for quitting assessment Confiscate materials Notification to principal and superintendent	
Possession of a drug paraphernalia not containing any controlled dangerous substance	Parents/guardians notified; Referral to a counselor Confiscate materials Notification to Superintendent Police notified	Out-of-school suspension plus all Consequences listed for the first offense Police notified	Out-of-school suspension plus all consequences listed for a first offense School-based counseling
Possession of alcohol, drugs, steroids, or substances identified	Confiscate materials Parents/guardians notified Superintendent notified Law enforcement notified Suspension Student sent out for drug test/clearance	All consequences listed for the first offense 5-9 days suspension	Expulsion Hearing

Under the influence of alcohol, drugs, steroids, or substances	Parents/guardians notified; Immediate medical examination, including urinalysis and/or blood test to verify use; and determine the extent of use; 1-5 days suspension Law enforcement contacted Medical statement Substantiating the student's state of well-being is required before re-entry after a positive diagnosis of chemical use. Referral to the school counselor, and Reentry plan	Expulsion hearing plus all consequences listed for a first offense 5-9 day suspension Reentry plan	Expulsion Hearing
Distribution, transferring, or selling	Parents/guardians notified; 10-day suspension and expulsion hearing; Law enforcement contacted		

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

The River Edge Board of Education believes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers must demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, disrupts a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Therefore, the school district will not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Consequences for HIB that are found to violate the HIB policy

The Principal or Designee will determine the consequences imposed based on the specific student and the nature of the
incident:

First Offense Consequences Can Include:
1. A copy of the result of the investigation shall be placed in the student's
record
2. Restorative actions, including but not limited to counseling or behavior intervention services
3. Research-based project
4. Detention

Second Offense Consequences Can Include:
1. A copy of the result of the investigation shall be placed in the student's
record
2. Restorative actions, including counseling or behavior intervention services
3. Research-based project
4. Detention
5. Suspension
6. Parent meeting with student and administration

Third Offense Consequences Can Include:
1. A copy of the result of the investigation shall be placed in the student's
record
2. Restorative actions, including counseling or behavior intervention services
3. Research-based project
4. Detention
5. Suspension
6. Parent meeting with student and administration
7. May require the student to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to complete a class or training program to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior

Consequences For Incidents That Fail To Qualify As HIB, But Result In Code of Conduct Violations
The degree of sanctions will be determined by the school climate team, Principal, and/or Designee based on the specific student and the nature of the incident:

First Offense Consequences Can Include:
1. Warn the administrator or teacher to confer with the student
2. Teacher conference with student
3. School-based counseling
4. Research-based project
5. Administrator conference with the student

6. In-school suspension
7. Suspension

Second Offense Consequences Can Include:
1. Administrator conference with the student
2. School-based counseling
3. Loss of privileges
4. In-school suspension
5. Suspension
6. Parent meeting with student and administration

Third Offense Consequences Can Include:
1. Administrator conference with the student
2. School-based counseling
3. Loss of privileges
4. In-school suspension
5. Suspension
6. Parent meeting with student and administration