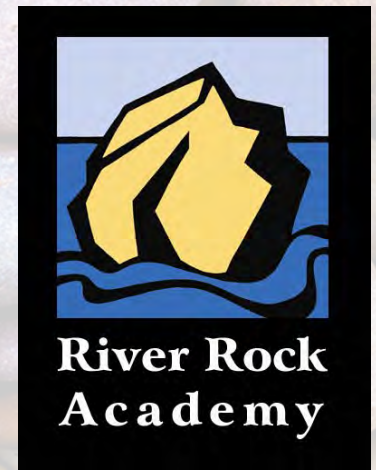


# **River Rock Academy**



## **Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Program**

## **Student Handbook**

**change...effect...improve**



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# **Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Program Description**

The River Rock Academy Program provides comprehensive Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth services for students in grades 6-12. Students are referred to River Rock Academy through their home school districts. This program will benefit a student who meets one of the six criteria for placement into an Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Program.

1. Disregard for school authority, including persistent violation of school policy and rules.
2. Display or use of controlled substances on school property or during school affiliated activities.
3. Violent or threatening behavior on school property or during school affiliated activities.
4. Possession of a weapon on school property, as defined by the Crimes Code at 18 PaC.S.912 (relating to possession of a weapon on school property) or during school affiliated activities.
5. Commission of a criminal activity on school property or during school affiliated activities.
6. Misconduct that would merit suspension or expulsion under school policy.

## **Vision, Mission, & Core Values**

The vision of River Rock Academy is to be the premier provider of alternative education services.

Our mission is to provide our students with the power to change, effect, and improve their lives.

Our guiding core values:

- **Commitment**
- **Stewardship**
- **Integrity**
- **Excellence**

## **Norms**

The three behavioral norms of River Rock Academy guide all students and staff:

1. **No student has the right to hurt, intimidate, or ridicule another student.**
2. **Education and the classroom are sacred.**
3. **Our school is sacred and we will always protect its property and belongings.**

## Expectations of River Rock Academy

- I understand I should strive to be successful in this program, but if I am unable to have success another educational placement could be provided.
- I understand that to be successful at River Rock Academy I should attend school daily. I will provide a written note within three days of my absence and if I accumulate 3 or more illegal or 10 cumulative absences, I will be required to provide a doctor's note for all future absences.
- I understand that in order to have a safe environment at school I will participate in daily searches of my person and belongings. A staff member of the same biological sex or gender will conduct the search and a handheld metal detector will also be used.
- I understand to be successful in school that I need to practice responsible behavior and avoid any major school violations such as possession of a weapon, possession of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia, vaping paraphernalia, attending school under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or acting in an aggressive manner towards others. If paraphernalia is found it will be confiscated by River Rock Academy staff and not returned. If behavior or actions warrant the police may be contacted.
- I understand that If I am behaving in a manner that may become a danger to myself and/or others, Safe Crisis Management techniques may be utilized to assure my safety and/or that of others. In addition, in order to ensure a safe program, I must be in my assigned area. If I refuse to go to an assigned area, I will eventually be escorted (this is after staff have attempted other interventions to resolve the issue).
- I understand that it is my responsibility to keep my area clean and be a good steward of the school by respecting school property.
- I understand that if I cause damage to any school property; furniture, curriculum, computers, van, etc., I may be responsible for financial restitution.
- I will hand in any electronic devices upon arriving at school and they will be secured and returned to me at dismissal time.
- I will always use kind words and actions, including on the van/bus during transportation to and/or from school.
- I will welcome all visitors in a positive manner.

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Signature of Student

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date

## Counseling

At the intake interview, which will include the student, the student's parents/guardians, referring school district representative (LEA), and River Rock Academy staff, the incident and behavior that led to the referral to the Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) program will be discussed. The referring school district representative (LEA) will provide discipline and behavior data along with interventions that were attempted at the district prior to the student's behavioral referral to the Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) program. In addition to the input from all the team members at the intake interview, a behavioral assessment will be completed and a Smart Goal Behavioral Plan will be developed prior to and/or within five school days of student's enrollment. The student's SMART goal is created to assist him/her to develop replacement behaviors for the disruptive behavior(s) that prompted their placement into AEDY. SMART Goal(s) will be created and documented on the Formal Periodic Review (FPR) form. A 45-day presumptive exit date is set based upon the student's enrollment date.

Each student enrolled into the AEDY program will be assigned to a clinical staff (i.e. PA School Certified Counselor/ Licensed Professional Counselor/ Licensed Social Worker) who will then meet individually to assist the student on successfully achieving his/her SMART Goals addressing the behavior resulting in the referral to AEDY.

River Rock Academy students will receive a minimum of 2.5 hours of counseling on a weekly basis. In addition to individual counseling, the student will participate in a social skills class and possibly small group counseling as well. The interactive group social skills class occurs daily and addressing social emotional learning including such topics as conflict resolution, problem solving, effective decision-making, communication, anger management, people skills, suicide prevention, and more. An additional tier level of counseling involves therapeutic or psycho-educational small group counseling conducted by the clinical staff focusing on specific topics such as: emotional regulation, grief and loss, coping skills, positive self-image, drug and alcohol education, and intrapersonal skills.

If intensive psychological counseling is deemed necessary, recommendations for professional services will be reviewed with the student, family, and school district.

An AEDY student will have a 45-day Formal Periodic Review (FPR) meeting and report that will reflect the student's progress towards their behavioral goal(s), as well as reflect their academic progress, attendance, and will include input from the student, parent/guardian, district representative, and River Rock Academy staff. Students may only remain in the AEDY placement until they have met their behavioral goals, at which time, the student shall return or prepare to return through a transition plan to the regular education setting. The only exception to this is when a student is meeting his/her goals but has not yet completed their expulsion, a student will then remain in the program until their expulsion is completed. If a student has not met their reason for referral behavioral goal(s), the Formal Periodic Report (FPR) must justify continued placement in the AEDY program, thereby beginning a new 45-day presumptive exit date.

## **Education**

The entire academic core curriculum classes at River Rock Academy are taught by PA certified teachers. Students will receive instruction in their four core academic classes: math, English, social studies, and science. Students will be placed in course work in these four core areas that will allow them to earn credits toward their high school diploma. Students may also receive instruction in living skills, social skills, physical education, and electives. Teachers will provide direct instruction, computer aided instruction, small group instruction, and some students will utilize a self paced curriculum. Some students within the River Rock Academy program may utilize the Edgenuity Computerized Learning Program. The Edgenuity program can be used for a self paced curriculum, credit recovery, and/or preparation for the PSSA/Keystones. The major educational emphasis of River Rock Academy is to provide all students with a sound educational course of study that will allow them to make normal academic progress toward graduation in their home school district. Special Education Services are provided by PA certified Special Education teachers or Private Academic Licensed teachers who ensures compliance with all PA Special Education Regulations. Individual Educational Plans will be developed in conjunction with referring school districts and incorporated into the Transition Plan. The Transition Plan will be used to reintegrate youth back into the public school.

## **Grades**

Grades will reflect participation, assignments completed, and test scores. Attendance will also be weighted in grade calculation.

Mid-term and marking period grades will be sent via mail on a quarterly basis to parents/guardians and home school districts. Students will receive a grade report if placed in the program for 10 or more days.

## **Parent/Guardian Involvement**

Parent/guardian involvement proves vital to the success of students. Parents/guardians are invited to be involved in:

- Periodic review meetings to review progress in the program.
- Meetings to review Individual Education Plans (IEP's)
- Calls or visits to River Rock Academy
- Referrals to professional agencies
- Parental advisory board



## Attendance Policy

Attendance equates to success. Unexcused/illegal absences will be reported to the home school district. Act 16 of 2019 amends the Public-School Code to redefine the definition of compulsory school age as “the period of a child’s life from the time the child’s parent’s elect to have the child enter school and which shall be no later than 6 years of age until the child reaches 18 years of age. The term does not include a child who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, licensed, registered or approved high school.” §24 P.S. 13-1326.

Attendance guidelines are as follows:

- If your student is absent 1 or 2 consecutive days, a written excuse note must be provided to the school office within three school days of the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused/illegal absence.
- If your student is absent 3 consecutive school days, a physician’s note is required to excuse the absence. The physician’s note must be on the official stationery from the physician’s office.
- If a note is not received by the school on the third day, those absences will be considered unexcused/illegal.
- After three unexcused/illegal absences or ten cumulative absences, a physician’s note will be required for every future absence. Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work within the marking period that the absence(s) occurred.
- Students must assume the responsibility to request their work. Work that is not made up will impact final grades.
- Any student arriving after 8:00 a.m. is considered late.

If your student is absent throughout the school year:

- *2 illegal days*—A personal contact will be made to parent/guardian via phone call
- *3 illegal days*—A personal contact will be made to parent/guardian with a written notice of truancy. An Attendance Improvement Conference will be recommended.
- *4 or 5 illegal days*—An Attendance Improvement Conference will be required at which time a Student Attendance Improvement Plan will be developed and referrals to school/community-based programs will be made. Truancy citations may be filed.
- *6 illegal days*—Referrals will be made to school/community-based Attendance Improvement Programs. Referrals may be made to Children and Youth. Truancy citations will be filed.

Parent/guardian may be cited for truant student 14 years of age and under.

Parent/guardian and/or student may be cited for 15-18 years old.

Truancy fines have increased under Act#138.

River Rock Academy will be working jointly with your student’s referring home school district regarding attendance protocols and procedures.

# **Student Responsibilities and Computer Use Agreement**

Students may have access to a variety of internet resources. We encourage students to follow teacher guidelines and exhibit responsible behavior in regard to these resources. Use of the computer/internet is a privilege. Students acknowledge that all aspects of computer use are subject to monitoring and review without cause and without notice. Students understand that any conduct that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and may result in termination of the use of River Rock Academy's computer/internet privileges. Students further acknowledge that disciplinary action may be taken, as well as possible legal action and/or financial restitution.

## **The following procedures will ensure effective classes during distance education:**

- Microphones should be positioned nearby the student. Leave microphones on mute when not speaking.
- Recording, including photographing, screen capture, or other copying methods, of chat exchanges is prohibited.
- Assume a camera is always on and the teacher or staff can see you.
- Avoid distractions, engaging in other activities, and allowing unauthorized persons from viewing classroom activities to protect the privacy and learning of other students.
- Notify the teacher at the start of the class or by chat if you need to be excused.
- Handouts and materials will be provided to you by your teacher.
- When applicable for class, it is your responsibility to have materials as provided.
- Whenever possible, work will be emailed or submitted online.
- Teachers will give alternatives for contacting him/her for assistance.
- As a parent/guardian managing the distance education experience for your student, please contact your student's teacher for resources or difficulty accessing email, Teams, Zoom, Google Classroom, or Rethink Ed.

Remember to protect you and your student's privacy, River Rock Academy will never ask for personal emails, passwords, or personal financial information by email, chat, or video conferencing.

## **Student Behavior:**

- Each student is expected to review and sign/affirm the Student Responsibilities and Expected Behaviors Agreement located in the Intake Packet.
- River Rock Academy Student Handbook guidelines remain in effect through distance education. Violations of appropriate behavior or conduct will result in further discussion of the student's access to distance education tools.
- Inappropriate language or gestures will not be tolerated on video, chat, or any other technology platform used for distance education.
- Cyberbullying of teachers or other students will not be tolerated.
- Sharing of other student information from remote learning is prohibited and a violation of individual privacy laws.

## **Point System**

River Rock Academy uses a five point system that is used to determine privileges and eligibility for special activities. It is also used for progress monitoring purposes. Each teacher evaluates every student in all periods each day. The measurable criteria for the point system are as follows:

### **TALID**

- **Task** – Student remains on task
- **Area** – Student remains in area allowable by staff
- **Language** – Student uses appropriate language
- **Interaction** – Student interacts well with peers and staff (uses kind words and actions, maintains personal boundaries, speaks in a calm, kind voice)
- **Direction** – Student follows directions across all school settings

1 point each for a total of 5 points per period

## **Student Conduct and Responsibilities**

Every student at River Rock Academy is expected to show courtesy and respect to each other and to all faculty members and visitors. Each student is to see that their own behavior is acceptable and appropriate at all times. All students share in the responsibility to develop a school climate that is respectful, tolerant of individual differences, and conducive to learning.

## **Field Trips**

As part of our MTSS system of support, field trips occur occasionally throughout the year. Field trips may be experiences that are in alignment with curriculum instruction, enhance the student's learning opportunities, and/or provide exposure to community resources and activities. Participation in activities on and off campus are often contingent on student behavioral points. A parent's permission form will be sent home for each field trip.

## **Money and Valuables**

Money and valuables should not be brought to school. School staff is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. If students choose to bring such items to school, they are to be turned into a staff member in the morning and will be returned at dismissal. Students are not permitted to bring more than \$10.00 a day.

# **Multi-Tier System of Support**

At River Rock Academy, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), is the comprehensive framework of support designed to assist all students in achieving success academically, behaviorally, and in their social-emotional development. Universal screening tools and assessments determine which tier of support and interventions are most appropriate for the student.

## **River Rock Academy Components of MTSS**

### **Multiple Levels of Social-Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Support**

TIER 1 – Tier 1 practices and systems establish a foundation of regular, proactive support while preventing unwanted behaviors. Academically, students are exposed to a high quality standards-based core curriculum. River Rock Academy provides these universal supports to all students, schoolwide.

TIER 2 – Tier 2 practices and systems support students who are at risk for developing more serious problem behaviors before those behaviors start. These supports help students develop the skills they need to benefit from core programs at the school. Academically and behaviorally, students who struggle are supported with research-based interventions, small group, and one-on-one instruction.

TIER 3 – At Tier 3, students receive more intensive, individualized support to improve their behavioral and academic outcomes. At this level, River Rock Academy, heavily utilizes data and other formal assessments to determine a student's need. Evaluation services and outside agencies will also commence.

### **Schoolwide Positive Approach to Behavioral Expectations (PBIS)**

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed.

### **On-going Data Collection and Continual Assessment**

Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. These services may be provided by a variety of personnel, including general education teachers, special educators, and specialists. Progress is closely monitored to assess both the learning rate and level of performance of individual students.

### **Professional Learning and Shared Ownership**

Staff at River Rock Academy are career learners who share a commitment to excellence. In partnership with PaTTAN (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network), our educators are fully immersed in the MTSS Framework of Learning. We share an organizational philosophy that begins with our Core MTSS Team who support the campus level teams that consist of administration, teachers, and specialists.

### **Family Engagement**

River Rock Academy endeavors to maintain continual open lines of communication with the families of our students. Regularly made positive phone calls and emails, in addition to the newsletter and other methods of outreach, are utilized to create an open and continual imparting of student progress.

## **Therapeutic Interventions**

Infractions of the rules of conduct/major rule violations will result in staff intervention. The intervention may begin on any of the following levels:

- Non-verbal
- Verbal
- Loss of privileges
- In-school suspension
- Success contract
- Therapeutic time-out
- Safe Crisis Management
- Out-of-school suspension
- Police intervention

## **Search Policy**

The safety of our students is paramount at River Rock Academy. Therefore, searches occur regularly to ensure our school is safe and drug-free. Police may also be utilized to randomly search students and the school. If contraband is found in a River Rock Academy building or on school grounds it will be confiscated by staff. Students who are given permission to drive to school must submit to random searches of their vehicles, as defined in the driving agreement.

## **Safe2Say Something (S2SS)**

Safe2SaySomething (S2SS) is designed to help staff and students recognize risk factors and signals of those who may be a threat to themselves or others. From a student perspective, S2SS teaches students to treat every warning sign seriously and to act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult and/or by reporting it anonymously to the Pennsylvania S2SS Crisis Center via telephone, mobile device, or website.

The program is based on the following three-step system:

1. An anonymous tip is submitted via one of the following options:  
Website: [safe2saypa.org](http://safe2saypa.org) OR Tip Line: 1-844-SAF2SAY OR Mobile App: safe2say
2. All calls and tips are received by the 24/7 S2SS Crisis Center. A S2SS Crisis Center analyst receives and reviews tip information. The tip is triaged and categorized as either life safety or non-life safety. The tip is then sent to school officials and law enforcement/911 call center (as needed) via text, email, and/or phone call.
3. School officials and law enforcement intervene and/or offer assistance to School officials and law enforcement (as needed) investigate, assess, and intervene with reported at-risk individuals. School officials report their outcomes into the Safe2SaySomething platform and close out the tip, ensuring accountability for every tip submitted. Specific questions relative to the S2SS program may be directed to River Rock Academy's Coordinator of Safe2SaySomething, Brian Billman, at [Brian.Billman@riverrockacademy.com](mailto:Brian.Billman@riverrockacademy.com).

## **Safe Crisis Management**

River Rock Academy attempts to manage physical aggression and/or violence safely. Non-physical intervention is always preferred. Physical intervention is used as a last resort to maintain a safe environment. Safe Crisis Management should be a rare occurrence, however, it is important that students and parents are knowledgeable on the philosophy.

All River Rock Academy staff members are trained in Safe Crisis Management and receive SCM training from a JKM Training certified instructor.

## **Mandated Reporting**

All River Rock staff members are mandated reporters through the State of Pennsylvania. We are required by law to report all cases of alleged child abuse without prejudice. In the case of a specific allegation of child abuse our staff members will report said abuse to the PA ChildLine.

## **Dress Code**

- All students are expected to practice good daily hygiene.
- Hoodies and coats will not be worn in the building.
- Hats and bandanas will be removed upon entering the building.
- Pants should be worn at the waist with no boxers or underwear showing. Shorts/skirts and shirts/tops should not be tight, too short, or transparent. Midriffs should be covered at all times. Tank tops are not permitted at anytime.
- Jewelry/apparel depicting or alluding to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, Satan, intimidation or discrimination towards race or gender, gangs, or vulgarities are not permitted.
- Pajamas and slippers are not permitted.
- Purses, lotions, and lipsticks are not permitted unless otherwise authorized.

Staff will use their discretion to make judgments about the dress code.

## **Snacks**

Snacks may be offered for students to purchase twice a day. The proceeds from the sale of snacks is used for program activities. No outside food or drink may be brought into our school other than a packed lunch. No gum or candy will be permitted on the premises. Bottled water is the only drink allowed for purchase in the program. No powdered drink packets are allowed.

## **Breakfast**

Breakfast is available for purchase each morning. Breakfast price is subject to change. The breakfast is provided by the local school district. Request forms for free and reduced breakfast and lunch are available through your child's campus and returned to the local school district for approval.

## **Lunches**

Lunch is available for purchase from the local school district, with a reduced rate cost for qualifying students. Students will be notified of the cost at the beginning of the school year. This will also be communicated to students who enter the program throughout the school year. Free lunch is also available to qualifying students. Parents/guardians must complete the school lunch application form to be considered for a free or reduced rate lunch. Students are permitted to pack a lunch. No opened drink container or glass containers are allowed in school. Water and juice containers (100% juice) in packed lunches must be sealed and consumed at lunch time only. Students MAY NOT sell their lunches to other students. In the event that the student is tardy past 9:00 a.m., a lunch cannot be ordered.

## **Medication Permission**

In order for River Rock Academy to administer any over-the-counter or prescription medication, these rules must be followed:

- Before receiving any over-the-counter medications or prescription medications from River Rock Academy, the parent/guardian must have completed River Rock's medication paperwork and have a prescription from the ordering physician. Both physician and parent/guardian signatures are needed before any medications will be given. If one or any of the signatures are missing, medications will not be given.
- Verbal consent for over-the-counter medications, such as Tylenol, or cough drops will not be permitted.
- If the signatures are missing and the parent or guardian feels their child needs this medication, the parent or guardian may bring the medication in and provide the medication at that time.
- To ensure the safety of the student, over-the-counter medications will only be given between 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This reduces the occurrence of medication errors. This is due to staff being unable to verify what medication might have been taken at home.
- Medication may be administered at River Rock Academy only when absolutely necessary.
- Students may not transport or bring in medications under any circumstances. Parent/Guardian or delegated adult is responsible for bringing medications to school.



## **Emergency Medical Plan**

An emergency is an incident where the student in question needs immediate medical attention. When possible, River Rock Academy staff will contact the parent/guardian so the student can be taken to the family physician. Following is the protocol that River Rock Academy staff would utilize in the event of a medical emergency:

- Injured student will be separated from the group as necessary.
- Staff member(s) will call for Emergency Medical Services if needed.
- Staff member(s) will apply appropriate First Aid and/or CPR/AED as needed.
- If the student requires immediate hospitalization, he/she will be transported by an ambulance or River Rock Academy staff. Students will be transported to the nearest hospital.
- If contact cannot be made with the parent/guardian, River Rock Academy staff will utilize the Consent for Medical Treatment form to obtain proper medical treatment.
- If contact cannot be made with the parent/guardian, and hospitalization is required, River Rock Academy staff will stay with the child until either the child is released from the hospital or the parent/guardian arrives.

## **Fire and Emergency Procedures**

River Rock Academy regularly holds emergency fire drills and provides instruction to the students on the procedures. Students are to remain quiet throughout the entire drill and follow all staff directives.

## **Extreme Weather and Other Announcements**

River Rock Academy will notify your family via a recording on our school messenger system via phone, text, and/or email in the event of delays, early dismissals, closings, or other school related announcements. If, for whatever reason, you choose not to be included in the school messenger system, please contact your Campus Director.

# River Rock Academy Complaint Process

Dear (Complainant):

Thank you for contacting RIVER ROCK ACADEMY and providing us with the opportunity to assist you in this matter. The following is a process designed to address complaints and concerns regarding any aspect of Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY), including placement and exiting decisions, the quality of academic instruction, the provision or omission of language assistance services, and services to students with disabilities to include reasonable modifications. This process is referred to as the “AEDY Complaint Process” throughout this document.

Individuals having complaints and concerns regarding AEDY are required to seek resolution via the relevant School District<sup>1</sup> rather than elevating concerns to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in the first instance. The filing of a complaint via the AEDY Complaint Process does not limit any other rights or remedies under federal and state law. This means, for example, that a parent may still file a separate due process complaint concerning his or her child’s Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) as provided pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”).

School districts will ensure that parents and students who are limited in (or have no) English proficiency (known as Limited English Proficiency or “LEP”) are provided translation and interpretation services to participate in the AEDY Complaint Process. If you need translation and interpretation services to access this document or the AEDY Complaint Process, please contact Brandon Hoff.

## **Filing a Complaint with the School District**

Any individual or organization may submit a written complaint using the AEDY Complaint Form found at <https://www.riverrockacademy.net>. The form must be completed and sent to the relevant School District.

The complaint must include:

1. The facts on which the statement is based;
2. All relevant documents and supporting information;
3. A proposed resolution to the problem to the extent known and available to the complainant at the time the complaint is filed; and
2. The contact information for the complainant.

All relevant documents must be forwarded to River Rock Academy, LLC at 2124 Ambassador Circle, Lancaster, PA 17603, or faxed to 717-517-7932, or emailed to Brandon Hoff at [Brandon.Hoff@riverrockacademy.com](mailto:Brandon.Hoff@riverrockacademy.com).

Failure to provide all of the information in the AEDY Complaint Form will not result in the complaint

being dismissed. AEDY Programs and LEAs will work with complainants to ensure that the requested information is as complete as possible.

The Staff Member in charge of this process shall be impartial and River Rock Academy will ensure that the Staff Member handling the investigation is not the subject of the complaint. The Staff Member in charge of this process may interview any individual who is said to have knowledge of the allegations. As part of the investigation, the Staff Member may require the AEDY Program and/or School District to respond to the allegations and may contact the complainant. The Staff Member may consider any relevant evidence as part of the investigation and outcome.

If the Staff Member concludes an investigation and makes a finding of compliance, the Staff Member will notify the complainant and the School District and take no further action. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, the Staff Member may provide the State AEDY Complaint Process information to the complainant. If the Staff Member concludes an investigation and makes a finding of noncompliance, the Staff Member will notify the complainant, the School District as applicable and direct corrective action to address the noncompliance.

The Staff Member will make a good faith effort to perform the actions outlined above in accordance with the following timeline: (1) investigate within 30 days of a determination that an investigation is appropriate, and (2) determine compliance or noncompliance within 30 days of the conclusion of an investigation. Depending upon the nature of the allegations and the investigation, the Staff Member may take additional time for these steps and will notify the complainant if additional time is needed. Regardless of the aforementioned timelines, the Staff Member will expedite its investigation and corrective action for allegations involving the health, safety, and welfare of students or for other good cause shown.

The Staff Member will review the actions taken to address any noncompliance. If the Staff Member determines that River Rock Academy addressed the noncompliance, the matter will be closed. If the Staff Member determines that River Rock Academy failed to address the noncompliance, the Staff Member will report to an Administrator for appropriate enforcement action.

The Staff Member will acknowledge receipt of complaints. To determine the status of a complaint, please feel free to contact Brandon Hoff at 717-208-3349. If the complainant disagrees with the School District's conclusions, he or she may file a complaint with PDE.

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<sup>1</sup>While the term "School District" is used throughout, this document pertains to charter schools as well as school districts placing students in AEDY Programs.

# MODELO DEL PROCESO DE QUEJA A NIVEL LOCAL

Estimado(a) (Complainant):

Gracias por ponerse en contacto con River Rock Academy y por brindarnos la oportunidad de ayudarlo con este asunto. El siguiente proceso está diseñado para abordar las quejas e inquietudes relacionadas con cualquier aspecto de los programas de Educación Alternativa para la Juventud Disruptiva (AEDY, por sus siglas en inglés), incluyendo las decisiones de colocación y salida, la calidad de la instrucción académica, la provisión u omisión de servicios de asistencia lingüística y los servicios para estudiantes con discapacidades para incluir modificaciones razonables. Este proceso se denomina “proceso de queja de la AEDY” en este documento.

Los individuos que tienen quejas e inquietudes con respecto al programa AEDY deben buscar una resolución a través del distrito escolar<sup>1</sup> relevante en lugar de presentar sus inquietudes al PDE como primera medida. Presentar una queja a través del proceso de queja de la AEDY no limita ningún otro derecho ni remedio bajo la ley federal y estatal. Esto significa, por ejemplo, que un padre puede presentar una queja del proceso legal debido por separado con relación al programa de educación individualizado (IEP, por sus siglas en inglés) de su niño conforme a la Ley de Educación para Individuos con Discapacidades (IDEA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Los distritos escolares se asegurarán de que los padres y estudiantes que no hablen inglés o que tengan un nivel de inglés limitado (LEP, por sus siglas en inglés) reciban servicios de traducción e interpretación para participar en el progreso de queja de la AEDY. Si usted necesita servicios de traducción e interpretación para tener acceso a este documento o al proceso de queja de la AEDY, por favor comuníquese con Brandon Hoff.

## **Cómo presentar una queja al distrito escolar**

Cualquier individuo u organización puede presentar una queja por escrito utilizando el Formulario de Queja de AEDY que se encuentra adjunto. El formulario debe ser completado y enviado al distrito escolar relevante.

La queja debe incluir lo siguiente:

1. Los hechos en los que se basa la declaración
2. Todos los documentos relevantes y la información que respalda la queja
3. Una resolución propuesta para el problema en la medida conocida y disponible para el denunciante al momento de presentar la queja
4. La información de contacto del denunciante

Todos los documentos relevantes deben ser enviados a River Rock Academy, a la siguiente dirección: 2124 Ambassador Circle Lancaster, PA 17603, o por fax al 717-517-7932, o por correo electrónico a [Brandon.Hoff@riverrockacademy.com](mailto:Brandon.Hoff@riverrockacademy.com).

La queja no será desestimada si no se proporciona toda la información en el formulario de queja de la AEDY. La LEA trabajará con los denunciantes para asegurarse de que la información solicitada sea completada lo más que se pueda.

El miembro del personal que está a cargo de este proceso será imparcial y el distrito escolar se asegurará de que el miembro del personal que está manejando la investigación no sea el sujeto de la queja. El miembro del personal a cargo de este proceso puede entrevistar a cualquier individuo que se sepa que tiene conocimiento de las alegaciones. Como parte de la investigación, el miembro del personal puede requerir que el Programa y/o el distrito escolar respondan a las alegaciones y puede contactar al denunciante. El miembro del personal puede considerar cualquier evidencia relevante como parte de la investigación y el resultado.

Si el miembro del personal concluye una investigación y determina que hubo cumplimiento, el miembro del personal le notificará al denunciante y al distrito escolar y no tomará ninguna otra medida. Si el denunciante no está satisfecho con la decisión, el miembro del personal le puede proporcionar información sobre el Proceso de Quejas Estatal de la AEDY. Si el miembro del personal concluye una investigación y determina que hubo falta de cumplimiento, el miembro del personal notificará al denunciante y al distrito escolar pertinente y dirigirá medidas correctivas para abordar la falta de cumplimiento.

El miembro del personal hará un esfuerzo de buena fe para realizar las acciones descritas anteriormente de acuerdo con el siguiente cronograma: (1) investigar dentro de 30 días después de haber hecho una determinación de que una investigación es apropiada, y (2) determinar el cumplimiento o la falta de cumplimiento dentro de 30 días después de la conclusión de una investigación. Dependiendo de la naturaleza de las acusaciones y de la investigación, el miembro del personal puede tomarse un tiempo adicional para seguir estos pasos y notificará al denunciante si se necesita tiempo adicional. Sin importar los plazos de tiempo antes mencionados, el miembro del personal acelerará su investigación y la acción correctiva para las alegaciones que tengan que ver con la salud, la seguridad y el bienestar de los estudiantes o para cualquier otra causa justa.

El miembro del personal revisará las acciones tomadas para abordar cualquier incumplimiento. Si el miembro del personal determina que el distrito escolar abordó la falta de cumplimiento, se cerrará el asunto. Si el miembro del personal determina que el distrito escolar no abordó la falta de cumplimiento, el miembro del personal reportará esto a un administrador del distrito escolar para tomar la acción de cumplimiento correspondiente.

El miembro del personal acusará de recibo todas las quejas. Para conocer el estado de una queja, por favor comuníquese con Brandon Hoff llamando al 717-208-3349. Si el denunciante no está de acuerdo con las conclusiones del distrito escolar, él/ella puede presentar una queja ante el PDE.

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<sup>1</sup>Aunque aquí usamos el término “distrito escolar”, este documento también atañe a las escuelas chárter y los distritos escolares que colocan a estudiantes en los programas AEDY.

# Statement on Bullying Prevention

**No one should suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to his/her own suffering and that of other potential targets.**

For the protection of the students and staff, River Rock Academy has created and maintained a learning atmosphere which is respectful and supportive. Providing a safe school environment where all students and staff are treated with respect and dignity, and are free from bullying, intimidation, and harassment is one of our highest priorities. This freedom is fundamental to our program and is extended to everyone without exception. This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the education environment. We expect our students to refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying and report to a staff member any witnessed or suspected instance of bullying to help prevent further instances.

Our school setting provides an opportunity to teach students that cooperation and respect of others are key values at River Rock Academy. Our school setting includes:

- The school building and school grounds
- School vehicles
- Any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school
- Any virtual environment which would reach a student or students inside the school and interfere with the student(s)' education and learning

For the purpose of our school policy, bullying is defined as a hostile activity which harms or induces fear through the threat of further aggression and/or creates terror. Bullying may be premeditated or a sudden activity. It may be subtle or easy to identify, done by one person or a group. Bullying includes but is not necessarily limited to:

- **Power Imbalance** – occurs when a bully uses his/her physical or social power over a victim, such as offensive notes or graffiti, demeaning social media posts, texts, pictures, or emails (cyber bullying), teasing, spreading rumors, name calling .
- **Intent to Harm** – the bully seeks to inflict physical or emotional harm and/or takes pleasure in this activity, such as stealing, hiding or damaging another student's property, physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting at another student, exclusion that is severe or persistent and interferes with a student's education and creates a threatening environment.
- **Threat of Further Aggression** – the bully and the victim believe the bullying will continue.
- **Terror** – when any bullying increases, it becomes a "systematic violence or harassment used to intimidate and maintain dominance."

*(Barbara Coloroso, The Bully, The Bullied & The Bystander, 2003)*

Bullying is a violation of our company norms and will not be tolerated. River Rock Academy condemns all forms of bullying. No one should be fearful of being bullied or harassed. The actions of any one person or group of individuals which threaten the health and safety of students and/or staff must be addressed promptly. Early intervention, reinforcement of a consistent message and follow-through from students, parents, staff and administration can ensure that everyone's right to learn and work in a safe environment is respected.

Information on the full River Rock Academy Bullying Prevention Policy can be provided upon request.

## Nondiscrimination in Services

While enrolled at River Rock Academy, all students maintain certain rights. These rights include:

- A child may not be discriminated against because of race, color, religious creed, disability, handicap, ancestry, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or sex.
- A child may not be abused, mistreated, threatened, harassed, or subject to corporal punishment.
- A child has the right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- A child has the right to be informed of the rules of the facility.
- A child has the right to communicate with others by telephone subject to reasonable facility policy and written instructions from the contracting agency or court, if applicable, regarding circumstances, frequency, time, payment, and privacy.
- A child has the right to communicate and visit privately with his/her attorney and clergy.
- A child has the right to be protected from unreasonable search and seizure. River Rock Academy may conduct search and seizure procedures, subject to reasonable facility policy.
- A child has the right to practice the religion or faith of choice, or not to practice any religion or faith.
- A child has the right to rehabilitation and treatment.
- A child has the right to be free from excessive medication.
- A child may not be subjected to unusual or extreme methods of discipline which may cause psychological or physical harm to the child.
- A child has the right to clean, seasonal clothing that is age and gender appropriate.
- The child and child's family maintain the right to lodge grievance without fear of retaliation pursuant to the grievance policy listed in the student handbook.
- River Rock Academy will obtain written consent for treatment resulting from accidental injuries/illnesses.
- Program services shall be made accessible to eligible persons with disabilities through the most practical and economically feasible methods available.

Any student/client/parent/guardian who believes they have been discriminated against may file a complaint of discrimination with:

River Rock Academy, LLC.  
2124 Ambassador Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission  
Harrisburg Regional Office  
Riverfront Office Center  
1101 South Front Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Bureau of Equal Opportunity  
Central Regional Office  
Cameron and Maclay Street  
Building 56, Patton House  
P.O. Box 61260  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-1260

U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services  
Office for Civil Rights  
Suite 372, Public Ledger Bldg.  
150 S. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-9111

# **Video Monitoring On Buses and Campus Hallways**

## **Camera Location, Operation and Control:**

- The Vice President of Operations may approve the equipping of campus hallways and buses with video monitoring devices for monitoring student behavior.
- Video monitoring equipment shall be in operation as determined necessary by the Vice President of Operations to monitor student behavior and for building security purposes.
- The Vice President of Operations shall be responsible to audit the use and security of surveillance cameras, including monitors and tapes.
- Students and parents/guardians shall be informed by the administration at the beginning of each school year about the recording of student behavior in hallways and on school buses and the purposes of such practices.
- Audio taping shall be consistent with state and federal laws.

## **Access to Personal Information:**

- Parents/Guardians and eligible students may request access to video recorded information when the video constitutes an “education record” within the meaning of the Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA). Neither a parent/guardian nor a student that has been video recorded, shall be allowed to view the video recording, in accordance with federal and state laws, unless the requesting student is the only subject on the video recording or written permission has been obtained from the parents/guardians of all the other students on the video recording.
- Requests for viewing video recordings shall be made to the Vice President of Operations within ten (10) days of the date of the recording. Approval/Denial for viewing shall be made within five (5) days of receipt of the request and so communicated to the requesting individual. Video recordings shall be made available for viewing within forty-five (45) days of the approval of the request, consistent with FERPA.
- Actual viewing shall be permitted only at school-related sites such as school buildings or administration offices. Only the portions of the tape concerning the requesting individual shall be made available for viewing. Video recordings shall remain the property of the school and may be reproduced only in accordance with the law including applicable policies or other directives.



## Asbestos Notification

This notice is to inform you that some **River Rock Academy Campuses** may contain asbestos material in some places throughout their respective buildings. **River Rock Academy** continues to manage the asbestos containing materials as per AHERA regulations. Each campus, where asbestos material is present, has a sign posted stating that asbestos material is present. A copy of each individual campuses' Asbestos Management Plan is on file at its respective school's main office. Each school adheres to the AHERA regulations by having a "Bi-annual Periodic Surveillance Check" and an "every three year onsite inspection" by a U.S. EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response state-certified inspector.

Should you have any questions regarding the plan itself, please contact the specific school's main office. Please call ahead to make arrangements to view the management plan if needed. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the asbestos notification and/or management plan, please contact Dave Neumayer, Director of Facilities and Project Management at [David.Neumayer@newstory.com](mailto:David.Neumayer@newstory.com).

# AEDY Campus Locations

## **Amity Campus**

2144 Weavertown Road  
Douglassville, PA 19518  
Phone: (610) 919-0140  
Fax: (610) 919-0143

## **Bradford Campus**

272 Ennis Lane  
Towanda, PA 18848  
Phone: (570) 512-5597  
Fax: (570) 904-8680

## **Carlisle Campus**

346 York Rd.  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
Phone: (717) 218-0816  
Fax: (717) 218-0194

## **Clifton Heights Campus**

4 Rockbourne Road  
Clifton Heights, PA 19018  
Phone: (484) 540-5851  
Fax: (484) 540-5852

## **Cressona Campus**

45 Wilder St.  
Cressona, PA 17929  
Phone: (570) 593-0383  
Fax: (570) 593-0384

## **Harrisburg Campus**

1842 Derry St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
Phone: (717) 703-4500  
Fax: (717) 703-4520

## **Lancaster Campus**

2124 Ambassador Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
Phone: (717) 869-4196  
Fax: (717) 869-5930

## **Newville Campus**

399 Roxbury Road  
Newville, PA 17241  
Phone: (717) 776-3759  
Fax: (717) 776-5467

## **Red Lion Campus**

220 Country Club Road  
Red Lion, PA 17356  
Phone: (717) 244-7453  
Fax: (717) 244-7651

## **Sinking Spring Campus**

810 Brownsville Road  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608  
Phone: (610) 670-1273  
Fax: (610) 670-1389

## **Spring Grove Campus**

149 East College Avenue  
Spring Grove, PA 17362  
Phone: (717) 225-1430  
Fax: (717) 225-0965

## **Williamsport Campus**

1650 Sheridan St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: (570) 360-8401  
Fax: (570) 991-6362

Classes are in session from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.