



Royalton Public Schools

Employee Handbook

2025-2026 DRAFT

Board Approved **(Date)**

ISD 485 prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The notice of nondiscrimination is located on the district website's [Title IX page](#).

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Mission of Royalton Public School District

The Mission of Royalton Public School District is to:

Create a collaborative and caring community where all students are inspired to achieve excellence in their learning, performance, integrity and leadership.

Core Values of Royalton Public School District



RESPECT
HONEST
INTEGRITY
LEADERSHIP
ACCOUNTABILITY
SERVICE

Welcome from District and Purpose of Handbook

Welcome! You are a part of a dedicated organization. We hope that your employment with Royalton Public Schools will be rewarding and challenging. We take pride in our employees as well as in the students and families we serve.

The School complies with all federal and state employment laws, and this handbook generally reflects those laws. The School also complies with any applicable local laws, although there may not be an express written policy regarding those laws contained in the handbook.

The employment policies and/or benefits summaries in this handbook are written for all employees. When questions arise concerning the interpretation of these policies as they relate to employees who are covered by a collective-bargaining agreement, the answers will be determined by reference to the actual union contract, rather than the summaries contained in this handbook.

Please take the time now to read this handbook carefully. Sign the acknowledgement at the end to show that you have read, understood, and agree to the contents of this handbook, which sets out the basic rules and guidelines concerning your employment. The online version of this handbook is found at www.royaltonpublicschools.org | Employee Resources and supersedes any previously issued handbooks or policy statements dealing with the subjects discussed herein. The School reserves the right to interpret, modify, or supplement the provisions of this handbook at any time. Neither this handbook nor any other communication by a management representative or other, whether oral or written, is intended in any way to create a contract of employment. Please understand that no employee handbook can address every situation in the workplace.

Annual Review of Handbook

Each year all District employees are expected to review the handbook and policies referenced herein. An employee who does not understand any policy, procedure, or guideline contained in or referenced in the handbook, should consult with the employee's supervisor, Principal, or the Human Resources Director for clarification.

Paper copies of this handbook and all policies are available upon request from the Human Resources Department.

Contract Disclaimer

No provision in this handbook or any policy referenced herein is intended to create a contract between Royalton Public School District and any employee or to limit the rights of the District and its employees to terminate the employment relationship. Where applicable, the terms of a Collective Bargaining Agreement or other contracts will take precedence over information provided in this handbook. In addition, to the extent any provision in this handbook conflicts with a School Board Policy, the School Board Policy shall prevail.

Section I: School Board Policies

It is the responsibility of all employees to be aware of and adhere to the policies that govern their employment with the Royalton Public School District. All School Board Policies can be found on the District website www.royaltonpublicschools.org, by selecting "District" on the top menu bar and "School Board Policies" on the drop down menu. The electronic link to all School Board Policies is: <https://www.royaltonpublicschools.org/policies>.

Some of the School Board Policies are summarized below for ease of reference; however all of the School Board Policies should be read in their entirety. Questions about any policy should be directed to the employee's supervisor, Principal, or Human Resources Director.

Summary of Equal Opportunity Employment Policy 401

The District provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, age, family care leave status, genetic information, veteran status, and all other protected class statuses in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to: hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training. The District also makes reasonable accommodations for disabled employees and applicants. See Policy 402 for more information about reasonable accommodations.

The District expressly prohibits any form of unlawful harassment based on an employee's protected class status. Questions concerning this policy are to be directed to the superintendent. For information on how to report a suspected violation of this policy see the Summary of Harassment and Violence Policy 413 below.

Summary of Disability Nondiscrimination Policy 402

The District does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities, because of the disability, with regard to job application procedures, advancement, discharge, compensation, job training or privilege of employment. The District shall make reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental impairment of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability, whether employee or applicant, unless to do so would cause the District an undue hardship. Employees or applicants seeking an accommodation should contact the Human Resources Director.

Summary of Employment Background Checks Policy 404

The school district shall require that applicants for school district positions who receive an offer of employment and all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, submit to a criminal history background check. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by the school district that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, the school district.

Summary of Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy 410

The District provides up to twelve weeks of job-protected leave per rolling 12 month period to eligible employees in compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act for the birth or placement for adoption/foster care of a child; to care for the employee's spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition; for the employee's own serious health condition; or for a qualifying exigency related to the employee's spouse's, child's or parent's military duties. The District also provides up to twenty-six weeks of job-protected leave per 12 month period for an employee to care for the employee's spouse, child, parent or next-of-kin who is a covered service member. Employees may apply paid sick leave to any such leave at the option of the employee and in accordance with the provisions of any applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement. The employee may also use accrued vacation or personal leave at the employee's option in accordance with the provisions of any applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement. Otherwise, FMLA leave is unpaid leave. Special rules apply to instructional employees of the District.

Employees who believe they may be eligible for FMLA leave under this policy should consult the Human Resources Department.

Summary of Expense Reimbursement Policy 412

The purpose of this policy is to identify school district business expenses that involve initial payment by an employee and qualify for reimbursement from the school district, and to specify the manner by which the employee seeks reimbursement.

Summary of Harassment and Violence Policy 413

The District strives to maintain learning and working environments that are free of illegal harassment and discrimination.

Employees shall not engage in harassment and discrimination. Any employee who engages in harassment or discrimination on the basis of another's protected class status, or who permits employees under his or her supervision to engage in illegal harassment or discrimination, may be subject to progressive discipline, which includes corrective action up to and including termination of employment.

Any employee who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination based on a protected class status should immediately report such belief to the Principal, building supervisor, Superintendent, Human Rights Officers or Human Resources Department. Employees may use the Harassment and Violence Report Form found with the School Board Policies to communicate a claim of harassment or discrimination. The District prohibits retaliation against an employee who in good faith reports suspected harassment or discrimination.

Summary of Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse Policy 414

It is the policy of the District to fully comply with Minnesota Statute 626.556 requiring mandated reporters, which includes all school personnel, to report suspected child neglect or physical or sexual abuse. Mandated reporters shall immediately report neglect or abuse that is suspected of happening, or has happened in the preceding three years, to the local welfare agency, police department, county sheriff, or agency responsible for assisting or investigating maltreatment. It shall be a violation of school policy and the law for any mandated reporter to fail to immediately report instances of child neglect, or physical or sexual abuse when the school personnel knows or has reason to believe a child is being, or has been, neglected or physically or sexually abused.

PLEASE NOTE: The Morrison County Social Service Agency may be reached at 320-632-2951 . Depending upon the student's place of residence, a referral may be made to another city's police department, or county's social service agency or sheriff's department.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for assessing or investigating allegations of child maltreatment in schools. After making a report to the Social Service Agency or law enforcement agency of an allegation of child maltreatment in school, the reporter must also provide a report to the MDE within 24 hours. A form for reporting to MDE is available as School Board Policy 414 FRM.

Summary of Mandatory Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults Policy 415

The policy of the School District is to fully comply with Minn. Stat. 626.557 requiring mandated reporters, which includes all school personnel, to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults. Mandated reporters shall immediately report maltreatment that is suspected of happening to the county sheriff or county agency responsible for assisting or investigating maltreatment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any school personnel to fail to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults when the school personnel has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been maltreated, or has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has sustained a physical injury which is not reasonably explained.

PLEASE NOTE: The Morrison County Social Service Agency may be reached at 320-632-2951 . Depending upon the student's place of residence, a referral may be made to another city's police department, or county's social service agency or sheriff's department.

Summary of Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School Policies 417, 418, & 419

Use of tobacco, tobacco related devices, electronic cigarettes, controlled substances, toxic substances, and alcohol before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any school location, is prohibited. No student, teacher, administrator, other school district personnel, or member of the public is permitted to use alcohol, toxic substances, controlled substances, tobacco, tobacco related devices or electronic cigarettes at or in any school location. The District will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or member of the public who violates this policy.

Summary of Employee Student Relationships Policy 423

The school district is committed to an educational environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity. Every school district employee is to provide students with appropriate guidance, understanding, and direction while maintaining a standard of professionalism and acting within accepted standards of conduct.

Summary of Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers Policy 427

The purpose of this policy is to establish general parameters for determining the workload limits of special education staff who provide services to children with disabilities receiving direct special education services 60 percent or less of the instructional day.

Summary of School Weapons Policy 501

No one is allowed to possess a firearm or dangerous weapon when in a school building or on school property, including buses or off campus at any school related activity. Exceptions to this policy are very limited, as described in Policy 501. Please see the complete policy for a list of exceptions. Violation of this policy shall result in discipline up to and including discharge, termination and cancelation of contract for services. In the case of a violation of the weapons prohibition, the violation shall also be reported to school police liaison officer and/or local law enforcement as well as the Minnesota Department of Education.

Summary of Student Attendance Policy 503

This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher, and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.

Summary of Distribution of Non School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees Policy 505

To protect First Amendment rights, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the educational objectives and responsibilities of the school district, the school board adopts the following regulations and procedures regarding distribution of nonschool-sponsored material on school property and at school activities. The school district recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes the right to distribute, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.

Summary of Student Discipline Policy 506

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

Summary of Bullying Prohibition Policy 514

An act of bullying, by either an individual student or group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities or on school transportation. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school District shall permit, condone or tolerate bullying. When an employee of the District witnesses, observes, receives a report of or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make every effort to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct. The employee shall immediately inform the building report taker of what occurred. Failure to address or report an incident of bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may result in disciplinary action. A report of inappropriate student behavior can be made to any teacher or administrator in the District.

Summary of Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy 515

The school district recognizes its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes. The following procedures and policies regarding the protection and privacy of parents and students are adopted by the school district, pursuant to the requirements of 20 United States Code section 1232g, et seq., (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)) 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 99 and consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13, and Minnesota Rules parts 1205.0100-1205.2000.

Summary of Student Surveys Policy 520

Occasionally, the school district utilizes surveys to obtain student opinions and information about

students. The purpose of this policy is to establish the parameters of information that may be sought in student surveys.

Summary of Student Sex Nondiscrimination Policy 522

It is the policy of the School District to fully comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The School District prohibits sexual harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. Any student, parent, or guardian having questions regarding the application of Title IX and its regulations and/or this policy and grievance process should discuss them with the Title IX Coordinator. The school district's Title IX Coordinator is **Kaitlyn Arnzen**. This policy outlines reporting of prohibited conduct, initial response, assessment and investigation by the District and resolution of the complaint and determination of responsibility.

Summary of Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy 524

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for access to the school district computer system and acceptable and safe use of the Internet, including electronic communications.

Summary of Violence Prevention Policy 525- currently in policy committee

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

Summary of Hazing Prohibition Policy 526

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing . Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

Summary of Staff notification of Violent Behavior by Students Policy 529

The purpose of this policy is to address the circumstances in which data should be provided to classroom teachers and other school staff members about students with a history of violent behavior and to establish a procedure for notifying staff regarding the placement of students with a history of violent behavior.

Summary of School Meals Policy 534

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

Section II: Ethics and Personal Conduct

Conflicts of Interest

Royalton Public Schools is concerned with conflicts of interest that create actual or potential job-related concerns, especially in the areas of confidentiality, employee relations, safety, security, and morale. If there is any actual or potential conflict of interest between you and a competitor, supplier, distributor, or contractor to the School, you must disclose it to your Supervisor. If an actual or potential conflict of interest is determined to exist, the School will take such steps as it deems necessary to reduce or eliminate this conflict.

Respectful Workplace

In addition to maintaining a work environment free of discrimination, harassment, and violence, it is the practice of the district to maintain a work environment where employees treat each other, students, parents, and visitors with respect. Employees have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the important work of an educational institution, and in accordance with the District's mission to provide an instructional environment that is caring and supportive. Employees also have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an ethical manner.

Respectful conduct includes, for example, treating others with courtesy and in a professional manner, valuing their perspectives, and appreciating their contributions. Disrespectful conduct includes, for example, aggressive, intimidating, demeaning, degrading, disruptive or malicious remarks or behavior.

An employee who believes that they have been treated in a disrespectful manner, or who witnesses disrespectful or unethical conduct, should contact their supervisor, Principal, Human Resources Department, or the Superintendent.

Conflict Resolution

Royalton Public School District encourages employees to discuss any issues you may have with a coworker directly with that individual. If you are unable to resolve the problem or issue, please contact your supervisor and arrange a meeting to discuss your concerns. It is counterproductive for employees to create or repeat rumors or gossip.

Professional Appearance

All District employees are expected to report to work dressed in a manner that reflects positively on the image of the District and consistent with the high standards and professionalism we set for ourselves as a District.

Employees are expected to present a well-groomed, professional appearance and to practice good personal hygiene. Remember, to students, parents and the public, District employees represent the District. Inappropriate dress may vary depending on the job and job settings, which includes safety concerns. If, in the judgment of an administrator or supervisor, an employee is not properly dressed, the administrator or supervisor has a responsibility to direct the employee to leave District premises until he or she is properly dressed.

Dependability

All employees are expected to maintain satisfactory attendance and report to work on time every day. Absences and tardiness create an unfair burden to co-workers and should be avoided. Absences, late arrivals and early departures must be kept to a minimum. All leaves, whether paid or unpaid, must be scheduled in accordance with District procedures and with current applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Section III: School Operations

Criminal Background Checks - Employees

In order for an individual to be eligible for employment or to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the School District, the individual must sign a criminal history consent form, which provides permission for the School District to conduct a criminal history background check, and provide payment in an amount equal to the actual cost to the School District of conducting the criminal history background check. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by the School District that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, the School District. For additional information, please see District policy 404.

Criminal Background Checks - Volunteers and/or Overnight Chaperones

The District requires volunteers and/or overnight chaperones, to submit to a criminal history background check. The opportunity to volunteer or chaperone shall be conditioned upon a determination by the District that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from volunteering with, or provision of services to, the School District.

Personnel Files

Employees shall have the right to examine their personnel files subject to the following conditions: (A) An employee, upon written request to the superintendent, may examine the contents of his or her file, which will be made available by the conclusion of the next working day. (B) No material shall be filed in an employees' personnel folder unless the employee has been sent a dated copy at the time of filing. The employee shall have the right to submit a response to any report or evaluation; such a response shall be attached to and become a part of the employee's personnel file. (C) An employee may be permitted to reproduce at his/her expense any contents of his/her personnel file. (D) The school district may destroy such files as provided by law. (E) Official grievances filed by any employee under the grievance procedure shall not be placed in the personnel file of the employee; nor shall such a grievance be utilized in personnel assignments.

Email Use

Email is the primary means of communication for many important items. Employees are expected to check their email a minimum of one time per day on the days they work.

Employee Use of Technology/Social Media

All employees are required to review and abide by School Board Policy 452 Information Technology and Policy 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety. Staff are required to monitor the websites that are accessed by students. Staff should report all inappropriate use to the Technology Department for possible disciplinary action. Staff are prohibited from accessing inappropriate material from the internet. Viewing inappropriate material may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Staff must keep their personal use of the internet to a minimum during the contracted duty day.

Nursing Mothers, Lactating Employees, and Pregnancy Accommodations

Minnesota's Nursing Mothers, Lactating Employees, and Pregnancy Accommodations law (Minnesota Statutes § 181.939) gives pregnant and lactating employees certain legal rights. Pregnant employees have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations, which may include, but are not limited to, more frequent or longer breaks, seating, limits to heavy lifting, temporary transfer to another position, temporary leave of absence or modification in work schedule or tasks. An employer cannot require an employee to take a leave or accept an accommodation. Lactating employees have the right to reasonable paid break times to express milk at work unless they are expressing milk during a break that is not usually paid, such as a meal break. Employers should provide a clean, private and secure room that is not a bathroom near the work area that includes access to an electrical outlet for employees to express milk. It is against the law for an employer to retaliate, or to take negative action, against a pregnant or lactating employee for exercising their rights under this law. Employees who believe their rights have been violated under this law can contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Labor Standards Division at dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us or 651-284-5075 for help. Employees also have the right to file a civil lawsuit for relief. For more information about this law, visit dli.mn.gov/newparents. **Checked**

Change of Personal Information

Employees are expected to notify the Human Resources Department whenever they experience a change in name, address, number of dependents, telephone number, emergency contact person, or marital status, so that District records and files can be updated. An employee may also need to complete another federal and state employee withholding allowance certificate (W-4) as well as various health insurance forms. For most benefits, employees only have 30 calendar days from the date of the event resulting in a change to make adjustments to the insurance plan(s).

Emergency School Closings

Royalton, Little Falls, Pierz, Upsala, and Swanville School Districts work with one another on weather-related emergencies.

If inclement weather is in the forecast, school closing or late start information is available on the following radio and television stations: KLTF, KFML, WYRK-Little Falls; KCLD, KLZZ, WJON-St. Cloud; WVAL, WHMH-Sauk Rapids; WCCO-Mpls; KCCO/KCCW-TV Channel 7-Alexandria; KSTP-TV Channel 5 and KARE 11, and via School Messenger system. Announcements will be made at the earliest time a determination can be made, usually not later than 6:30 a.m.

Fire Drill Procedures

1. All employees are to familiarize themselves with fire exits for their respective classroom and instructional areas.
2. All employees are to orient their students in their classrooms to the proper exits for their respective classrooms and instructional areas the first day of classes.
3. At the sound of the fire alarm system, employees are to take charge of their group directing them to stand and to walk single file in an orderly manner to their fire exit. Direct them to walk with no running or shoving allowed. All employees are to check that all students are out of the room or instructional area and then follow their group outside and assemble the group in areas away from the building. Teachers are required to bring their grade books or class lists with them during fire drills to check attendance.
4. In the event of a fire, employees are to keep students in groups away from the school so as not to hamper the Fire Dept.
5. Employees are to wait for instruction. In the event of a drill, a return bell will be sounded or a clearance given to re-enter the building.
6. In the event that a regular exit is blocked by fire or smoke, use the nearest alternate exit.
7. Please post exit directions for your classroom.

Tornado Drill Alert Procedures

Should a tornado drill or alert become necessary, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. Lights turned off.
2. All students shall be seated on the floor in the nearest interior corridor as far away from an exit as possible. The drill or alert will be announced verbally over the P.A. system or by the bells ringing in brief continuous intervals.
3. The return to classrooms will be announced verbally over the P.A. system.
4. Students are to be absolutely quiet during the drill or alert.

Lockdown Procedures

One means of securing the school is to implement lockdown procedures. These procedures may be called for in the following instances:

1. Lockdown with warning – The threat is outside of the school building. The school may have been notified of a potential threat outside of the building.
2. Lockdown with intruder – The threat/intruder is inside the building.

Lockdown with warning procedures:

- Building administrator will order and announce “lockdown with warning” procedures.
- Repeat the announcement several times. Be direct. Code words lead to confusion.
- Bring people inside.
- Lock exterior doors.
- Clear hallways, restrooms and other rooms that cannot be secured.
- Pull shades. Keep students away from windows.
- Control all movement, but continue classes. Disable bells. Move on announcement only.
- Building administrator will announce “all clear.”
- Students eating in the cafeteria can bring their trays to their classroom.

Lockdown with intruder procedures (these actions happen rapidly):

- Building administrator will order and announce “lockdown with intruder.” Repeat announcement several times. Be direct. Code words lead to confusion.
- Immediately direct all students, staff and visitors into the nearest classroom or secured space. Classes that are outside of the building SHOULD NOT enter the building. Move outside classes to a primary evacuation site.
- Students in the cafeteria, media center, or gymnasiums should evacuate the area to a safer location.
- Lock classroom doors.
- DO NOT lock exterior doors.
- Move people away from windows and doors. Turn off lights.
- DO NOT respond to anyone at the door until “all clear” is announced.
- Keep out of sight.
- Building administrator will announce “all clear.”
- Some other threats may override lockdown, i.e. confirmed fire, intruder in classroom, etc.
- Consider making an action plan for people in large common areas i.e. cafeteria, gymnasium.

Lockdown may be initiated in non-threatening circumstances to keep people away from areas where there may be a medical emergency or disturbance.

District Newsletter

Three times per year, the school district publishes a newsletter that is sent to over 1200 households. The newsletter is an excellent way of informing parents and community members about school activities. We often forget that much of what has happened or will happen is of great interest to many people. Articles need not be long. Often results of an event with the names of participants are all that is necessary. People love to see their name in print.

Earned Sick and Safe Time

Employees in Minnesota are entitled to earned sick and safe time, a form of paid leave. Employees must accrue at least one hour of earned sick and safe time for every 30 hours they work, up to at least 48 hours in a year. All of your accrued sick time per your bargaining agreement is earned sick and safe time. A year for purposes of the employee's earned sick and safe time accrual is July 1-June 30.

At the end of each pay period, employers must provide employees with the number of earned sick and safe time hours used by the employee during the pay period and available for future use. Earned sick and safe time must be paid at the same base rate employees earn from employment.

Employees are not required to seek or find a replacement for their shift to use earned sick and safe time. They may use earned sick and safe time for all or part of a shift, depending on their need.

Earned sick and safe time can be used for:

- an employee's mental or physical illness, treatment or preventive care;
- the mental or physical illness, treatment or preventive care of an employee's family member;
- absence due to domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking of an employee or their family member;
- closure of an employee's workplace due to weather or public emergency or closure of their family member's school or care facility due to weather or public emergency; and
- when determined by a health authority or health care professional that an employee or their family member is at risk of infecting others with a communicable disease.
- making funeral arrangements, attending a funeral service or memorial or addressing financial or legal matters that arise after the death of a family member.

Notifying employer, documentation

An employer can require their employees to provide up to seven days of advance notice when possible (for example, when an employee has a medical appointment scheduled in advance) before using sick and safe time. An employer can also require their employees to provide certain documentation regarding the reason for their use of earned sick and safe time if they use it for more than three consecutive scheduled workdays.

If an employee plans to use earned sick and safe time they should submit a request via Frontline prior to the absence occurring.

Retaliation, right to file complaint

It is against the law for an employer to retaliate, or to take negative action, against an employee for using or requesting earned sick and safe time or otherwise exercising their earned sick and safe time rights under the law. If an employee believes they have been retaliated against or improperly denied

earned sick and safe time, they can file a complaint with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. They can also file a civil action in court for earned sick and safe time violations.

For more information

Contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Labor Standards Division at 651-284-5075 or esst.dli@state.mn.us or visit the department's earned sick and safe time webpage at sickleave.mn.gov.

MN Paid Leave

Starting in January 2026, Paid Leave will ensure Minnesotans can take the time they need to be there for some of life's most important moments-like welcoming a child, recovering from a serious illness, or caring for a loved one. Almost all employers and individuals that work in Minnesota will be covered by Paid Leave. A maximum of 20 weeks combined in one year if someone qualifies for both medical and family leave.

Paid leave will provide payments and job protection for:

1. Medical Leave: 1-12 weeks for an employee's own serious health condition
2. Family Leave: 1-12 weeks for bonding with a new child, caring for a loved one, managing military leave, and certain personal safety issues.

The most up to date information regarding Paid Leave can be found at info.paidleave.mn.gov.

Absences

All District employees anticipating a need to be absent must submit a request to be absent for any regular scheduled duty days/shifts prior to the absence occurring. Employees are required to enter absences on the automated absence reporting/sub calling system, which can be accessed either by the internet.

The procedure is as follows:

1. Employee enters a request to be absent prior to the occurrence in accordance with union contract timelines.
2. Supervisor electronically approves/denies the request.
3. Absence occurs, if approved.
4. Information is uploaded into the payroll system for processing of leave time and substitute payments (when a sub has been employed to fill the vacancy).

Absences can be entered by computer, prior to the beginning of their shift on the day of the actual absence. Employees will need to contact their supervisor if they forget to enter an absence.

For unexpected but non-emergency absences, employees must notify their supervisor or designee in a timely fashion (before work starts). If the employee fails to call in, the employee may be placed on unauthorized leave without pay and subject to other corrective action. If the absence is due to an accident/illness/injury, a medical note may be required prior to returning to work. In emergency situations, employees are expected to call their supervisor and report the absence, or in extreme cases have a family member call the supervisor as soon as practical. Each employee is required to

take responsibility for reporting their own absence by following the proper procedure. Recurring failure to follow the absence procedure will be considered a deficiency.

Recording Hours Worked

Non-exempt, hourly employees are required to complete an electronic timecard through Frontline Time and Attendance or timesheet for all hours worked. Timecards/time sheets should be submitted to the employee's supervisor or building administrator by the last day of the payroll to ensure timely processing. The payroll week is Monday through Sunday and time sheets must be signed off on by the supervisor. Any time sheets that do not arrive in the business office by the two days following the end of the pay period may not be processed until the next scheduled payroll.

Paychecks

Royalton School District issues paychecks through direct deposit or paper check on a semi-monthly basis. Non-exempt, hourly Employees will receive payment for work performed during the pay period that ended two weeks prior to the date of the check, exempt employees will be paid for the work performed during the current pay period. Employees enrolled in direct deposit are solely responsible for updating and changing bank account information as needed.

Employees are responsible for reviewing their payroll check information for proper deductions, benefits and wages. An employee who believes there is a mistake with respect to their paycheck, or who believes an improper deduction was made from their salary, should contact the Human Resources Department.

Expense Reimbursement for District Funds

Requests for reimbursement must be pre-approved by the employee's Supervisor or Building Administrator, must be itemized using the District's check request form and signed by the designated administrator, and be accompanied by proper documentation of the expense (except with respect to mileage reimbursement request). Such expenses to be reimbursed may include transportation, meals, lodging, registration fees, required materials, parking fees and other reasonable and necessary District business-related expenses.

An acceptable form of documentation evidencing a reimbursable expense is an itemized receipt with company name, date and dollar amount paid. Credit card slips showing total dollar amount and signature will not be accepted. The travel and expense reimbursement form is located on the Royalton Public Schools website|Staff|Employee Resources.

When ordering online, a printed copy of the order from the vendor confirming the placement of the order and showing the payment transaction will be accepted. The District cannot accept an order confirmation or screen printed copy of your order that does not show payment.

Approved automobile travel shall be reimbursed at the current mileage rate set by the IRS. Commercial transportation shall reflect economy fares and shall be reimbursed only for the actual cost of the trip. Hotel reimbursement shall not include incidental charges such as phone calls.

After Hours Building Use

Employees who wish to utilize the school building(s)/facilities for non-work related use need to follow the District's Use of School District Facilities and Equipment Policy 902 and Addendum 902. They can be found on the District website under School Board Policies/School-Community Relations or by calling the Community Education Director.

Building Access and Security

The school buildings have limited access, particularly when classes are in session. The buildings are open to students at 7:15 and remain open to students until 3:30 p.m. Students are not to be in the building at any other time unless they are participating in a school-sponsored activity and are under the direct supervision of a district employee. The doors to the building lock between 8:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m. and all visitors must electronically request access into the office to gain access to the building. All doors should be kept locked during the school day. If you see people in the building that you do not recognize, please notify the office immediately.

Any coach, director, or supervisor of a student activity that meets when school is not in session is responsible for the security of the building. Under no circumstances are doors to be propped open or left unlocked and unattended.

Staff members from time to time use the building in the evenings and weekends. Be certain that when you enter the building during times other than when the building is open to the public you do the following:

1. Be certain the entrance door you used for access to the building is locked after you enter the building.
2. DO NOT PROP ANY DOORS OPEN!
3. Disarm the security system (if between 12:00 a.m.-5:00 am.).
4. When you leave the building be sure all lights are off.
5. Be certain the exterior door is completely closed and secured.

Confidential Information

Data maintained on student or other employees may be classified as private or confidential pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), and/or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It is the responsibility of all employees to follow those laws and avoid disclosing any private or confidential information to individuals who are not authorized to receive such information. Employees should refrain from sending confidential information on students to a personal email account of a parent or guardian unless permission is first granted by the student's parent or guardian.

Employee Discipline

Employees may be disciplined or discharged for just cause. The following steps outline the progressive discipline process, however, the School District reserves the right to skip steps when the offense by the employee justifies the action.

Verbal Warning: The building Administrator may meet with the employee to issue a verbal warning. This warning will be documented and placed in the employee's personal file.

Written Reprimand: The Building Administrator may meet with the employee and issue a written reprimand to the employee. The written reprimand will be placed in the employee's personnel file. Performance improvement plans may be issued as part of this meeting or at a separate meeting, depending upon the circumstances.

Unpaid Suspension: The employee may be placed on suspension without pay for up to five days. The employee may be placed on probation for up to 90 days following the suspension. A written reprimand and discussion of the conduct that led to the suspension may also be placed in the personnel file.

Termination: The employee may be recommended for termination by their direct supervisor to the Superintendent.

Employees that are members of a union shall have the right to have a representative of the union present during an investigation. A written record of all disciplinary actions, other than verbal reprimands, shall be made available to the employee upon request. All disciplinary records shall state the corrective action expected of the employee. Each employee shall receive a copy of evaluative personnel and disciplinary records. If the School District has a reason to reprimand an employee, it shall be done in a manner that maintains the dignity of the employee. Any disciplinary action or measure imposed upon an employee may be processed as a grievance through the regular grievance procedure. The union shall have the right to take up the suspension and/or discharge as a grievance at the arbitration step of the grievance procedure, and the manner shall be handled in accordance with this procedure through the arbitration step, if deemed necessary by either party.

Section IV: Employee Responsibilities

School Property and Equipment

No District purchased supplies or equipment is allowed to be used for personal use offsite. If a staff person wants to utilize District facilities/equipment, they should follow the procedure as outlined in District Policy 902.

Employee Lunch Accounts

Employee lunch codes are obtained from your building secretary. Cash or check is accepted for payment for your lunch account and can be given to your building secretary to be deposited into your lunch account. Employees must have funds in their accounts in order to purchase meals.

Building Responsibility

The employee in charge of the classroom is responsible for the equipment in these rooms. Equipment should be kept from unnecessary marking and damage. Students are held responsible for their assigned seats and should unnecessary damage occur, they should be reported to the office so that appropriate action may be taken. Employees shall periodically check the room for this purpose.

Aid the custodians by keeping the floors as free of paper as possible. A minute used at the end of the

day is suggested to have students tidy up the room.

When the room is not being used for the remainder of the day, the shades shall be adjusted, windows closed and locked. All lights shall be turned off when not needed. Classroom doors should be locked during lunch breaks or when the room is not in use.

No students shall be present in your room unless they are supervised. Do not allow students to remove window screens or to hand/climb out of windows. These actions damage screens and walls and present a professional image to passers-by.

Proper Title

Students should address you only by the proper title, be it Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Coach. Make this understood whenever the students address you by any other title, or when a student refers to another official by a title other than the proper one.

General Discipline

Each staff member shall be responsible for maintaining good student discipline whenever they may be on school grounds. When specific assignments (class advisor, student activity clubs, etc.) are made, the staff member to whom such assignment is made is charged with the responsibility for student discipline.

School Telephones

The school telephones are for school business. Personal calls must be kept to an absolute necessity and minimum. Students are not to use the phone in a classroom unless it is for school business and you are supervising the call. Please do not send a student to the office to make phone calls during class time, unless it is an emergency or in the case of illness.

School Letterhead

School stationery and envelopes will be used only for school business.

School Copiers/Printer Use

Multiple copiers/printers are available in staff workrooms for school business use. Office copiers are to be used by office staff only to preserve confidentiality of documents being printed. When ECC workroom single copier needs maintenance, the District Office office copier is the back up. District Office staff will make the copies to preserve confidentiality of documents being printed. Copies of all materials should be defaulted to black and white. On the rare occasion that non-office staff require a colored copy (ex: staff will laminate the document and re-use it from year to year, a graph needs to be deciphered and this cannot be done in black and white, or colors are the subject you are specially teaching) the following process is followed:

- Create a Help Desk ticket with the document you wish to have color copies attached and include your reason for the colored copy.
- All colored copy requests will be reviewed by Technology Staff and possibly employee supervisors before copies are printed.

Use of School Vehicle

Bus-An employee requiring bus transportation must submit a transportation request form to the transportation department. Any trips requiring transportation should be approved by the principal before scheduling. The transportation supervisor assigns all drivers.

Van-All trips for school related business by school personnel are to be taken in the school van if they are available. Mileage reimbursement for use of a personal auto will only be provided if the van is unavailable and a request has been filled out in advance.

Transportation form must be submitted to the transportation supervisor who will check for van availability. Preference will be given to trips that are most economical with the van/car. The maximum number of students allowed in the van is ten. Prior to leaving with students, the driver of the van must fill out a Pre-Trip Van Inspection Evaluation Form. Submit mileage records and evaluation form to the transportation supervisor at the conclusion of the trip.

Section V: Safety & Workplace Injuries

Non-Emergency Accidents/Injury Involving Students

It is the responsibility of the staff member to conduct their classes and maintain equipment so that accidents do not occur. Any accident, no matter how minor, must be reported to the nurse.

Non-Emergency Accidents/Injury Involving Employees

The safety of employees is a vital concern to the Royalton School District, and therefore the District has adopted policies and implemented systems and infrastructure to provide safe working conditions and equipment. In addition, employees are expected to observe safety rules to protect their own safety and the safety of others at the District. Any employee, who comes upon an unsafe condition, must immediately notify the Head Custodian or Building Principal as soon as possible.

When someone is injured at work.....

- If it is an **emergency, CALL 911**
- Otherwise, report the injury to your supervisor
- The employee **AND** supervisor should call the Paradigm nurseline at **(844) 847-8708** together. (If no supervisor is available, the employee can call alone.) Do this as soon as possible.
- The registered nurse who answers will ask what happened and recommend what to do next, whether it's self-care, urgent care or even the emergency room.
- The nurse will report the injury to RAS (our workers comp insurance company).
- The employee or supervisor should report the injury to the Human Resources Director.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Printed Name: _____ Job Title: _____

I acknowledge that I have read Royalton Public School District's Employee Handbook, understand its contents, and agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth herein. I understand that this employee handbook is not intended to nor should it be interpreted to be a contract or to otherwise create a property right in continued employment.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For office use only:

Date received: _____