



River's Edge Academy

725 School Street, Morris II 60450
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<http://www.facebook.com/riversedgeacademy>

Program Director
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**Grundy County Special Grundy County Special Education
Cooperative**

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Executive Director**

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School Hours

GCSEC Main Office Hours 7:30 am-3:30 pm (M-Thurs), 7:30 am-3:00 pm (Friday)

REA School Hours: 8:15 am-2:15 pm

Teacher Hours: 7:45 am-3:15 pm

Paraprofessional Hours: 8:00 am-3:00 pm

High School Class Schedule

Homeroom/PG & D	8:15 am - 9:00 am
Block 1	9:00 am - 9:50 am
Block 2	9:50 am - 10:40 am
Block 3	10:40 am - 11:30 am
Lunch	11:30 am - 12:15 pm
Block 4	12:15 pm - 1:05 pm
Block 5	1:05 pm - 1:55 pm
PG & D	1:55 pm - 2:15 pm
Student Departure	2:15 pm
Early release Departure	- 11:15 am

High School Grading Scale

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	Below 60

River's Edge Academy Academic Calendar - 2023 - 2024

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total			
	1	2	3	4						1	1		2	3	4	5	6	5		
7	8	9	10	11		HOL	5	6	7	8	4	HOL	10	11	12	13	14	4		
14	TI	TI	17	18	2	11	12	13	14	15	5	16	17	18	19	20	21	5		
21	22	23	24	25	5	18	19	20	21	22	5	23	24	25	26	27	28	5		
28	29	XHS	31		4	25	26	XHS	28	29	5	30	XHS					2		
					11						20							21		

November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total			
		1	2	3	3					1	1	HOL	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA		0		
6	7	8	9	10	5	4	5	6	7	8	5	TI	9	10	11	12	13	4		
13	14	15	16	17	5	11	12	13	14	15	5	HOL	16	17	18	19	20	4		
TI	PTC	NIA	HOL	NIA	0	18	19	20	21	XHS	5	22	23	24	25	26	27	5		
27	28	XHS	30		4	HOL	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA		29	30	XHS			3			
					17						16							16		

February 2023							March 2024							April 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total			
			1	2	2					1	1	NIA	2	3	4	5	6	4		
5	6	7	8	9	5	HOL	5	6	7	8	4	8	9	10	11	12	13	5		
12	13	14	15	16	5	11	12	13	14	15	5	15	16	17	18	19	20	5		
HOL	20	21	22	23	4	18	19	20	21	XHS	5	22	23	XHS	25	26	27	5		
26	27	XHS	29		4	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	0	29	30					2		
					20						15							21		

May 2024							June 2024							Notes						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Total									
		1	2	3	3							First Day of School: August 17								
6	7	8	9	10	5	EM	4	5	6	7	4	Last Day of School: May 24								
13	14	15	16	17	5	10	11	12	13	14	5	Pupil Attendance Days: 175								
20	21	22	23	XHS	5	17	18	19	20	21	5	Teacher Institute Days: 4								
HOL	EM	EM	EM	EM		24	25	26	27	28		Emergency Days: 5								
					18							Parent Teacher Conference Days: 1								
												XHS – Early Release – 11:30								

Grundy County Special Education Cooperative

A joint agreement created, supported, and governed by the school districts of Grundy County

The Mission of the Grundy County Special Education Cooperative is to prepare students with disabilities to be functional members of society by providing specialized programs, services, and personnel in a learning environment that maximizes individual potential.

Member Districts

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman District #2C

Nettle Creek District #24C

Morris Elementary District #54

Saratoga Elementary District #60C

Gardner Elementary District #72C

Gardner-S. Wilmington High School District #73

S. Wilmington Elementary District #74

Braceville Elementary District #75

Morris Community High School #101

Minooka Community High School #111

Minooka Elementary District #201

Governance & Operations

The provision of programs and services for children with disabilities is governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), the School Code of Illinois, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Policies and procedures, consistent with law, are approved and adopted by an Executive Board composed of Superintendent representatives of member districts and by a Governing Board composed of members of the boards of education of each of the member districts.

Programs and services are funded through a combination of tuition and administrative assessments paid by member districts, state pupil and personnel reimbursements, and federal grants.

We believe that...

- education must prepare students to be functional members of society.
- a child's school experience must build the foundation for life-long learning.
- parents/families, teachers, support staff, and administrators must work cooperatively and collaboratively to promote learning.
- all children are unique and must be educated in a learning environment that maximizes their individual potential.
- a student's self-esteem is critical to optimal learning.
- social, emotional, and physical development are equally as important as academic development.
- all children have strengths.
- education must be challenging, enjoyable, relevant, interactive, and productive.

Breakfast and Lunch Program (Jr High and High School)

Students can access the breakfast and lunch program once registered at River's Edge Academy. Lunch Money can be added to student accounts by sending cash or checks to the Coop (with students), or creating an account on <https://www.ezschooldpay.com/Login.aspx> . Further information about ezschooldpay is included below. Money deposits are made into accounts by 12 pm daily. Any money turned in after 12 pm will not be deposited until the next day. In the event that a student's account falls below \$10.00, a cheese sandwich will be made available at no cost for students who pay for their meals or have a "reduced" meal cost status. The cost of Breakfast will be \$1.60 and Lunch \$3.00. Those students eligible for "reduced breakfast/lunch" status will pay \$.30 for Breakfast and \$.40 for Lunch. Extra milk will cost \$.35. Checks should be made payable to "District 54" or cash can be deposited in your student's account. If you believe that your student may be eligible for free or reduced breakfast and lunch, you may contact the school for the appropriate forms or access them at www.grundyspecial.ed.org under River's Edge Academy. Students are also able to bring their own breakfast and lunch to school. Refrigeration and microwaves are available for student use.

EZSCHOOLPAY Features and Options:

- Send payments faster and directly into your child's meal accounts: Payments are credited within 10 minutes.
- Mobile applications: EZSchoolPay is available from your device's app store and are available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices. Receive alerts of low balances, make payments for your child's meal account, and purchase items from the school store.
- Low Balances: Receive alerts when your child's balance drops below a certain balance.

If you would like to take advantage of any of the features mentioned above, you must create an online account with www.EZSchoolPay.com. Getting started is easy! Visit www.EZSchoolPay.com. **The website will guide you to create an account and link your student(s) to the account before entering a credit/payment. You can find your student by searching in "Morris School District" and entering his/her Name and Birth date.** Be sure to link all you students together on your account.

At River's Edge Academy, the Eagles are PROUD

- P Prepared - Comes to work/school with everything (materials, attitude) needed to be successful.
- R Respectful - Treats others, and self, with respect.
- O Opportunistic - Sees chances to get better and acts on them, every day
- U Understanding - Accepts that setbacks and challenges happen.
- D Determined - Tries to the best of their abilities at all times

River's Edge Academy utilizes a level point system to monitor student behavioral achievement over time and across settings. Students will earn points daily based upon their compliance to school expectations and rules. Incentives and reinforcements will be provided to promote progress through the level system and promote positive behavior in school. Students will be able to access incentives and reinforcements based upon their achieved level, which is assessed every two weeks. A Level 4 (Restriction) is reserved for students who are assessed to need additional structure in the building and during classes. Students may participate in weekly, monthly, and quarterly activities based on their accumulated academic and behavioral points. A student can earn up to 100 points per day. Students that earn 85 or more points a day are considered to have had a successful day; Days are averaged and assessed bi-monthly to provide incentives. Incentives are discussed later in the handbook.

River's Edge Behavioral Expectations

The administration and staff at River's Edge Academy hold these expectations central to our behavioral program. Students that are successful in achieving these expectations will be included in incentive planning, community outings, and pop up activities.

Students that are found to be unable to achieve these goals will initially lose privileges inside the building and lose access to community outings,. If the student is still unable to achieve these goals over an extended period of time, the team may meet to discuss other options to support the student.

Appropriate and tolerant language is required at all times. The use of inappropriate language (identified as language that would not be appropriate in home school/ workplace) is prohibited.

No physical altercations or threats thereof: physical fights, including pushing and/or play fighting, will not be accepted at or associated with REA.

No possession of illicit products on school property (vapes, alcohol, etc)

Follow all directions provided by staff in a timely manner.

Display prosocial behaviors at all times while at River's Edge Academy.

Behavioral Success Levels

Incentive consideration occurs bi-monthly (every two weeks). Students that average 85 points or more over those two weeks are considered eligible for incentive trips and additional positive reinforcements inside the building. Some of those incentives are listed below.

Please note that final decisions on student incentive access fall to the REA staff discretion.

In-Building Access

Computer use during class free time

Social/ Fun lunch (lunch in cafe or alternate classrooms with access to movies, games, electronics)

Open Lunch/ Breakfast (May require supervision)

School store access

Out of building access

Chicago Auto Show

Bowling/ Laser tag

Round 1 pizza and games

Lunch in community

Movie theatre

Park trips/ Picnics

A student will be assessed every two weeks for an average behavior score of 85 or better. Students that fall below the 85 cut off will have incentive opportunities removed until the next assessment period.

Finally, students that disrupt the programming at River's Edge (negatively impacting the learning environment, room clears) regularly will be dropped to a "restriction" level, in which students will not have access to incentives until the next reassessment period.

Student inclusion in incentives is ultimately the decision of REA staff and administration.

REA Mainstreaming Consideration

For Students that are interested in returning to their home school district, River's Edge Academy utilizes a reintegration assessment to assess a student's readiness for mainstreaming with their homeschool. This document includes Class Transitions, On-Task Behaviors, Respect with staff and peers, social and instructional grouping considerations, Curriculum and assessment consideration, Peer/ Social interaction consideration, Behavior and Self - Regulation data.

Students interested in mainstreaming will identify those wishes with their homeroom teacher and REA admin; REA staff will then complete an initial assessment that includes the above mentioned categories, and schedule a meeting with the student and their family, the REA team, and the home school team to consider mainstreaming as an option.

Student mainstreaming is ultimately the decision of a collaboration of Family, Home School Staff, and REA staff.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled school days. We ask that if a student is going to be absent for the parents to contact River's Edge Academy (REA) by 9:15 a.m. at (815) 942 - 5780 with a valid cause for their absence. Follow the prompts for River's Edge Academy (REA) and Attendance. Those students who also attend their home school district and/or the Grundy Area Vocational Center (GAVC) should also notify them of your students absence. If any student is absent from school and there is no notification that the absence has been authorized by the parent, legal guardian, or other person having legal custody of the child, a Grundy County Special Education Cooperative (GCSEC) employee or other GCSEC designated agent shall make a reasonable effort to notify you of you student's absence from school by telephone. "Valid Cause" for absence shall be illness, including the mental or behavioral health of the student, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, or family emergency and shall include such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the mental, emotional, or physical health or safety of the student.

A student may accumulate nine (9) absences within a school year. Tardies are counted as absences for the purposes of truancy. Following the ninth (9th) absence a student will be required to have a doctor's note for each subsequent absence or be excused by their home district school nurse. All other absences will be considered unexcused. REA staff will assist in determining the cause for the unexcused student absenteeism, which shall, at a minimum, include interviews with the student, his or her parent or guardian, and any school officials who may have information about the student's attendance problem. Those students who have an excused absence will be allowed one day for every day absent to make up their work without penalty. If the work is not completed in the time provided and/or the student has an excused absence, 10% may be deducted from the total percentage the student received for the assignment for each day the assignment is late, unless otherwise stated in the students IEP. Additional consequences may be assigned for unexcused absences (e.g. loss of behavior level, in-school suspension) beyond day nine (9).

Truancy

Truancy is defined as an unexcused absence from school. Individuals in custody of a child under the age of seventeen (17) are responsible for the regular attendance of the schild during the school year. If a student exhibits chronic truancy, the special education personnel and home school district, along with the Truancy Prevention Specialist, will decide on further steps that may need to be taken to resolve the issue. Additionally, this team shall identify any supportive services to be made available to truant or chronically truant students. These services shall include, but need not be limited to, parent conferences, student counseling, family counseling, and information about existing community services that are available to trust and chronically truant students and relevant to their needs. Chronic truancy is defined as any student having nine (9) absences in the last 180 school days. Therefore, the previous school year is taken into consideration when determining absences. All students under the age of seventeen (17) who have nine (9) absences in the last 180 school days must be referred to the Truancy Prevention Specialist. The Truancy Prevention Specialist, with assistance from REA staff, shall collect and review chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. The review shall include an analysis of chronic absence data from River's Edge Academy (REA). River's Edge Academy (REA) shall post its absenteeism and truancy policy on its internet website, if any, and incorporate into it student handbook.

Mental Health Days

Illinois State Board of Education states, “Public Act 102-0321 (Senate Bill 1577) amends the compulsory attendance article of the School Code by allowing students to take up to five mental or behavioral health days per year. A student is not required to provide a medical note and must be given the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed during such absences. Following the second mental health day, a student may be referred to the appropriate school personnel.”

Due to the specific needs of our students, any students taking a mental health day will be referred to our social work staff to assure the student does not need further support.

Tardy / Late arrival

Any student not in class by 8:35 a.m. will be considered late to school and subject to search. For safety reasons, students who are late should enter at the School Street circle drive entrance (Door #3). If a student arrives after PG & D has ended and the first class has begun, they will remain seated in the main office until their classroom teacher or aide can come and escort them to class. Students who arrive late should be ready for class. Students who arrive with open drink containers (restaurant cup or seal broken) will have to pour it out. Lunch orders from River’s Edge Academy must be submitted by 9:15 a.m. to Morris Elementary. Therefore, students who arrive after the building lunch order has been submitted will be offered a cheese sandwich or reasonable alternative. Any student under the age of seventeen (17) that has been identified as being “chronically late” (has missed over 9 days of school within the last 180 days of school) will be referred to the Truancy Prevention Specialist.

Rules and Regulations

Students will minimally be expected to follow the general rules and regulations set up by their home school district. Consequences for breaking those rules and regulations will be governed by River’s Edge Academy, in collaboration with the home school district representative, as well as the student’s individual education plan (IEP). Additional rules and regulations that are specific to River’s Edge Academy must also be followed.

Leaving The Building Without Permission

Students are not allowed to leave the building without permission. If a student leaves school premises without permission and we are not successful in stopping or apprehending the student, the local police department and parents will be notified. If the police pick up a student, we may recommend that the student be held at the police station until the student is picked up by their parent(s). Otherwise, students will be returned to school and appropriate consequences given.

Driving to School

All students are provided transportation to and from school via the home school bus company. Therefore, driving to school is a privilege not a right. Students who have earned a behavior level two or above may request permission to drive to school. The parents and REA team will need to approve driving to school. Once approved, a student must provide the school a copy of their Driver's License, current Insurance card, and a signed parental permission consent form before they can drive to school. Students will be expected to maintain an appropriate behavior level to continue driving to school. Failure to maintain appropriate behavior or levels may result in loss of driving privileges. Students who drive to River's Edge Academy must park along the street. Parking lot spaces are reserved for Grundy County Special Education Cooperative personnel.

Special permission to drive to school may be granted with the permission of the principal, parent and home school district under special circumstances.

Drop Out Policy

When a student is above the age of seventeen (17) and misses five (5) consecutive days of school without valid cause, the student's parent(s) will be notified in writing that if the student fails to attend school for ten (10) consecutive days of school without valid cause, the student will be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn. At that time, the parent(s) or River's Edge Academy case manager may request an IEP meeting to address the issue and determine a course of action to correct the problem. When a student who is above the age of seventeen (17) misses ten (10) consecutive days of school without valid cause, the student will be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn, and the student's name will be removed from the District's enrollment roster. The student may then elect to re-enroll for the upcoming semester if they should desire to do so.

Pursuant to the Illinois School Code, the District will deny re-enrollment to any student nineteen (19) years of age or older who has dropped out and who could not, because of his or her age and lack of credits, attend classes during the normal school year and graduate before his or her twenty-second (22) birthday.

As required by Public Act 094-0916, the regional superintendent of schools will be notified quarterly of students who have dropped out of school and will report such students to the Secretary of State. The following applies:

"No graduated driver's license shall be issued to any applicant who is under 18 years of age and not legally emancipated by marriage, unless the applicant has graduated from a secondary school of this State or any other state, is enrolled in a course leading to a general educational development (GED) certificate, has obtained a GED certificate, is enrolled in an elementary or secondary school or college or university of this State or any other State and is not a chronic or habitual truant as provided in Section 26-2a of the School Code, or is receiving home instruction and submits proof of meeting any of those requirements at the time of application."

Therefore, no student under 18 years of age who has dropped out of school will be issued a graduated driver's license.

Therapeutic Breaks

The use of Isolated Time Out is not permitted! However, students may request to be removed from class for therapeutic reasons to help them deescalate or cope with a stressful situation. Currently, each class includes a small area that allows for students to process independently. Once a student is no longer escalated and ready to process they will be given the opportunity to return to class. Every effort is made to use positive consequences in order to change a student's behavior and attitude at River's Edge Academy. The majority of negative consequences are simply the removal of positive rewards and incentives based upon the behavior level system. However, it may be necessary for staff to remove a disruptive student from the classroom to protect the learning environment. When required, the staff will direct a student to a classroom cubby until they are ready to discuss the behavior and appropriately return to class. A quiet room or alternative setting may be used as a therapeutic device for students whose behavior is extremely inappropriate, uncontrollable and/or jeopardizing the physical or emotional well-being of himself or others. Once a student has regained emotional control they will be given the opportunity to process with the removing staff, social worker, or principal and return to class.

Physical Restraint Policy

If a student becomes a danger to themselves or others, REA staff members may use CPI physical restraint techniques to maintain safety of the student and others. At least two staff members will work cooperatively to provide a safe, yet firm, immobilization of the out-of-control student. All of the staff at River's Edge Academy have been trained and are certified in Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) non-violent crisis intervention (NCI) procedures. Documentation to parents and ISBE will be provided according to ISBE guidelines. River's Edge Academy prohibits the use prone or supine holds.

In School and Out of School Suspension

When a student's behavior greatly impacts their own or the learning environment of others, or River's Edge Academy's discipline system is not effective to respond to a student's behavior, River's Edge Academy may consider utilizing a short term placement at a separate facility. The days assigned to an alternate placement do not count against "Out of School Suspension" days.

Removals From Class

It is the goal of the REA educational team to keep students actively engaged in the educational process using positive interventions and support. Occasionally, students may need to self remove from class to help them cope with anxiety, anger, or stress. Other times teachers may remove a student from class to protect the learning environment and maintain a safe, healthy environment conducive for learning.

Self-removal from class (High School only)

Following the CPI / Crisis Prevention Intervention model students who are experiencing heightened anxiety may request to distance themselves from the cause of their anxiety by requesting permission to self remove from the classroom to a quiet place to help them cope and self manage their behavior and emotions. School staff should seek to support the students during this phase to help them avoid escalation.

- Students who self-remove to a classroom cubby, quiet room, or Reflections are eligible to earn points, at the discretion of the staff person who processes with the student. Points given must be agreed upon by the staff person who processes, along with either the social worker, principal, or the student's case manager.
- Students will need to fill out a reflection form.
- Students will need to process with the staff person who removed them from class before they can return to class.

Staff-directed Removal From class:

According to the CPI model students may move past anxiety to become defensive and challenging to staff directives. During this phase staff should resist the temptation to engage the student. During the defensive CPI phase the staff should set boundaries and provide clear expectations for the student. During this phase a student will be directed to separate from the classroom to a cubbie, quiet room, or Reflections. Once students have complied to staff directives and have returned to an emotional baseline the staff and student can process the concerns of the students and discuss appropriate ways to express themselves or deal with the areas of concern. After processing with the staff who removed the student they may return to class.

Staff-directed Removal From class (continued):

Students will earn no points during their time outside of the classroom.

Students will need to fill out a reflection form.

Students will need to process with the staff person who removed them from class before they can return to class.

Minimally, a student will not be allowed to return to any classroom until processing is complete. Other directives/consequences may also be required before a student is allowed to return to the classroom. Students who have their own aide, who remove from the classroom, should have their aide with them during their time outside of the classroom. Students may use any appropriate coping tool to help them maintain or regain emotional control as identified in their IEP or Behavior Intervention Plan. Students may request a brief walk with an assigned staff member. Walks are at staff discretion and will be determined by the student's behavior/staff availability at the time of the request.

Inappropriate Language

Students are expected to use appropriate language in school at all times.

If a student uses inappropriate language he or she will be redirected by a staff member and reminded of appropriate school expectations

If a student corrects the behavior they may be awarded partial points at the discretion of the staff member.

If a student argues or refuses to correct their behavior PBIS points will not be earned and other disciplinary actions may be taken.

If the student escalates the situation, they will be directed to a location outside of the classroom.

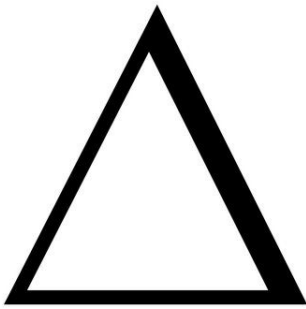
Staff-directed removal procedures above will then be followed.

REA Delta Protocol

River's Edge staff use a behavior identification system to assist student in processing changes in behavior. Information about the REA delta format is included on the following page.



Behavioral Delta Protocol



= a staff implemented response to a behavior deemed inappropriate to school or social normalcy. The Delta signifies change; De-escalation, Expectation, Process.



First Delta - direct intervention to behavior and expression of expectation.
Mild Consequence (Loss of points, short removal)



Second Delta - Direct Intervention to behavior, expression of expectation; expectaiton must be achieved before return to classroom environment. Medium Consequence (Extended loss of points, Reflections room, Process with staff, possible level reset)



Third Delta - Direct Intervention to behavior, Expression of expectation which must be achieved outside of classroom; removal from classroom environment to ISS.
Heavy consequences (Extended ISS, Drop to level 4, IEP Team check-in/ Review)

Delta intervention is cumulative! Some behaviors may supercede Delta process in response. Delta provision is at staff discretion.

Reflections

REA students will be required to follow all school and classroom rules. When student behavior becomes too disruptive for the classroom environment the student will be directed to an alternative setting until they can regain behavior and emotional control. Students who have been removed from class for any reason will be required to process with the classroom teacher in order to return to class.

In some circumstances students will be required to be removed to our reflections room which was established to address disruptive student behavior removed from class and to continue to provide staff supervision and assistance. The reflections room allows students who are demonstrating out of control and disruptive behaviors to be removed from the learning environment until they can regain behavioral control, process with appropriate school personnel and return to class in a respectful and compliant manner.

For behaviors that warrant more extreme responses, students may be assigned to the reflections room to serve an (ISS) in school suspension. Whether in the reflections room for a brief part of the school day or for a prolonged duration, students will be expected to complete all assigned work and to comply with school expectations before returning to the classroom. The use of ISS and the reflections room helps to reduce the need for more restrictive consequences such as (OSS) out of school suspension.

Notice Regarding Search and Seizure Procedures

Pursuant to law and consistent with school district policies, school authorities are authorized to conduct searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects without notice to or consent of the student. "School authorities" include school liaison police officers and staff of River's Edge Academy. There is no expectation of privacy regarding school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects while at River's Edge Academy. All students at River's Edge Academy are eligible for bag searches and metal detection as decided by the administration at River's Edge Academy.

Destruction Of State Supported Property

Destruction or loss of REA property (or cooperating district property) may result in replacement charges.

Destruction of State Supported Property is a felony, punishable by a minimum of one year in prison. There is no probation for this offense. Everything at River's Edge Academy is "State Supported Property." (i.e. computers, desks, books, pencils, pens, quiet-out room walls, etc.)

Possession, Selling, or Use of Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, or Dangerous Items

River's Edge Academy will maintain a firm policy on the possession, use, or selling of drugs, drug paraphernalia, look-alikes, or other dangerous items. If a student is selling or in possession of drugs, the parents, home school district, and police will be called. If a student is evaluated as being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, his/her parent(s) and home school district will be called and the student will be sent home. However, an ambulance may be called if the situation is determined to warrant medical attention. Further procedures will then be considered to solve the problem. While in attendance at River's Edge Academy, students should not be in possession of more than \$20.

Possession of Tobacco Products

In accordance with school policy and procedures, as well as Morris City Ordinance, possession of tobacco products is prohibited by anyone under the age of 18 (includes electronic cigarettes, vape pens/paraphernalia and liquid smoke, etc). If a student is in possession of tobacco products while at River's Edge Academy, the Morris Police Department shall be notified. Tobacco products, and/or lighters will be confiscated by school personnel. For safety reasons, those students who are 18 years or older are not allowed to possess tobacco products while at River's Edge Academy. Tobacco products and/or lighters will be confiscated by school personnel.

Gang/Gang Related

As defined by the Illinois Street Gang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act (740 ILCS 147/1,et.sequ.) a “gang” is defined as any combination, confederation, alliance, network, conspiracy, understanding, or other similar conjoining, in law or in fact, of three or more persons with an established hierarchy that, through its membership or through the agency of any member, engages in a course or pattern of criminal activity. Being a member, being involved, or joining, or promising to join, or becoming pledged to become a member of, or soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member of any public school fraternity, sorority, gang, cult, or secret society, or engaging in other gang activity, is prohibited.

Gang activity includes, but is not limited to:

1. Wearing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, insignia, sign, colors, combinations of colors or combinations of clothing, wearing apparel, accessories, identifiers, paraphernalia, or other thing that is indicative or symbolic of drug use or membership or affiliation in any gang, cult or secret society;
2. Committing any act or omission, or using any speech, either verbal or non-verbal (such as gestures, graffiti, tagging, or hand-shakes) showing membership or affiliation in any gang, cult or secret society; and
3. Using any speech or committing any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of
4. any gang or gang activity, cult or secret society, including, but not limited to: (a) soliciting others for membership in any gangs, cult or secret society, (b) requesting any person to pay dues, insurance, or protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person, (c) committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies, and (d) inciting other students to participate in any form of physical violence involving persons or property.
5. Confirmation of a student being in a public school fraternity, sorority, gang, cult, or secret society, or soliciting for membership, displaying or possessing symbols or engaging in other gang activities.
6. Any activity that includes causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves a
7. violation of state or federal law.

Student Dress

We recognize that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. We will not interfere with the ability of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance except when their choices affect the educational program and of the schools or the health and safety of others. River's Edge Academy personnel have the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of pupils and maintaining proper and appropriate conditions conducive to learning. The purpose of the student dress policy is to encourage students to "dress for success" and come to school properly prepared for participating in the educational process.

The staff at River's Edge Academy are authorized to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices that:

1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school.
 2. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
 3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
 4. Prevent the student from achieving his/her educational objectives.
- A) Any apparel determined to be too revealing or draw undue attention to itself in style, fabric or length is not acceptable.
- B) Excessively large (width and length) or extremely loose-fitting pant/shorts will not be permitted. Pant/shorts must cover undergarments and stay above the hip at all times. Undergarments should not be visible.
- C) Torn, ripped, or disheveled clothing is prohibited.
- D) Shorts and skirts that are above the fingertips with arms held down to the sides will not be permitted. Note: fingertip length may be inappropriate for some students, and the Principal or designee will make that determination.
- E) All shirts must have the ability to be tucked in. Example: when a student is standing, the midriff is not exposed, and when seated, the bare back is not visible.
- F) Sleeveless shirts are not permitted. All shirts will cover the shoulders.
- G) Shoes must be worn at all times. Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. Footwear requirements may change depending on the safety requirements of the individual classroom teacher.
- H) Obscene language or symbols, drug and/or alcohol symbols, satanic symbols, or suggestive obscene materials on clothing are expressly prohibited. Shirts advertising bars, pubs, or places off-limits to minors are prohibited.

Outerwear (coats, jackets, warm-ups, gloves, sunglasses, hats, bandannas, and other headwear) are not to be worn in the building. Carrying these items into and around the building is also prohibited, unless the student is directly entering or leaving the building.

J) Bare midriffs, tank tops, halter-tops, spaghetti straps, revealing necklines, and open- back clothing are prohibited. Also, attire with see-through, sheer, or fishnet materials are prohibited.

K) Wallet chains, studded belts, collars, and wristbands are not allowed.

L) Students who have needs that require safety equipment or special dress codes must adhere to wearing the proper equipment and/or clothing.

*Students should consider the following questions when dressing for school:

1. Does my clothing expose too much? (NO)
2. Does my clothing advertise something that is prohibited to minors? (NO)
3. Are there any obscene, profane, drug-related, gang-related, inflammatory, or inappropriate messages on my clothing? (NO)
4. Am I dressed appropriately for the weather? (YES)
5. Do I feel comfortable with my appearance? (YES)

Those students who do not adhere to the dress policy may be asked to:

1. Turn their shirt inside out (for offensive/obscene symbols/words).
2. Put masking tape over the offensive item.
3. Be asked to wear an appropriate shirt/pants provided by River's Edge Academy staff.
4. Be asked to wear suspenders for loose fitting pants.
5. Be asked to return home to change.

All students at River's Edge high School will be provided a clear book bag to bring to school. No other book bags will be permitted at the high school. A small opaque container (pencil container sized) can be included in the book bag for personal care products, and that container can also be checked upon entry.

Electronic Communication Devices (Cell Phones, ipods, MP3 Players, tablets, laptops, apple watches, etc)

The use of electronic communication devices (that are not provided by River's Edge or another school district; i.e. School provided chromebooks) at River's Edge is prohibited at all times unless told specifically otherwise. Students found using a personal electronic device will have the item confiscated until the end of the day. Personal device use can include, but is not limited to the following; texting or calling during the school day, the phone ringing, text message alerts, cell phone lights going off, cell phones laying on desk or floor. See page 27 for additional phone policy.

Sexting

Sexting is the practice of texting inappropriate photos (nudity) and/or inappropriate sexual conversation.

Previously, there was no legislation in Illinois dealing with this practice. The only legislation dealing with "possession" and/or the "distribution of pornography" and anyone participating in "sexting" meant they could be charged with "possession" and/or the "distribution of pornography."

As of January 1, 2011, an Illinois law on sexting went into effect. The new law creates a standalone category for minors so that they are not considered child pornographers and do not have to register as sex offenders. As per the Chicago Tribune, "Under one bill, minors who send indecent photos of other minors electronically, for instance by text message, can be taken into custody. Those minors are then subject to adjudication or supervision."

As stated above, cell phones are not permitted at River's Edge Academy. Should a student be in possession of a cell phone or reportedly have sexting materials on their cell phone while at school, the cell phone and information relating to the incident will be turned over to the proper authorities.

Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment

No person, shall harass or intimidate another student based on sex, ethnicity, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, or other protected group status. Rivers Edge Academy will not tolerate harassing or intimidating conduct, whether verbal, physical, visual, via the internet, or through cell phones (texting), that affects tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above. If you are aware of a student(s) being bullied or harassed, please report it to the administration immediately.

Disciplinary Action: School policy dictates disciplinary action, which may include, depending on the nature of the conduct, any of the following: Verbal warning, Loss of privileges, parent contact, Out-of-School Suspension, Suspension, police referral.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Students who engage in such conduct are subject to disciplinary action. Students who are victims of sexual harassment and their parents/guardians are encouraged to report incidents to Neil Sanburg, Director, or Carol Senica, Assistant Director, who serve as complaint managers. They may be contacted at (815)

942-5780. Sexual harassment policies and procedures will be discussed with students on a periodic basis.

Age 18 or Older

It is our policy to include parents in every aspect of their student's education. The parents of students who are 18 years or older will need to have their student give written consent to continue to share information.

Sex Offender Community Notification (In compliance with IL Law 730 ILCS effective 1/1/2007)

Information regarding the Statewide Sex Offender Database can be accessed on the following website:
<http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>

Social Networking Notification

As per the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 75/15), schools may request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website if the elementary or secondary school has reasonable cause to believe that the student's account on a social networking website contains evidence that the student has violated a school disciplinary rule or policy.

Additional rules policies

Gum

To protect the students and staff at River's Edge Academy gum and gum chewing are not allowed.

Open Drink Containers

In order to protect the students and staff at River's Edge Academy only sealed containers will be allowed into the school building by students. If a student arrives at school with an open container they will be required to dispose of the content before allowed entry into the school.

Masks

GCSEC, which includes River's Edge Academy, will follow the IDPH guidelines regarding all safety considerations including spacing, masks, and vaccinations.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones will be collected for all levels at the beginning of the day by homeroom teachers.

Students that are not on restriction will have access to their phones during lunch (Teachers can prohibit use of phones at any time as a disciplinary measure). Expectations for phone use during lunches will remain: no calls, no taking pictures or videos, and no recording of other students/staff. Failure to follow these guidelines can result in lack of access to phones at any time during the school day.

If a student chooses to not hand in their phone, disciplinary action can be taken including ISS, phone call home, and administrative action. If a student states that the phone was left at home, an effort to reach out to a family member to confirm phone is not on the student for the day will be made. Without confirmation, staff will consider past behaviors tied to phone use when deciding next steps. If you have any questions concerning our policy for cell phone use, please contact me at the email and phone number provided on the back page of this document.

Our staff is dedicated to working with our parents and guardians to support our students. We understand that you may need to speak to your student throughout the day. We have staff members at the front office that can field your call and assure your student is able to speak with you. The number to reach our front office is (815) 942-5780. This number should be used between 8:15 and 2:15 to speak with your student if needed.

Illness at School

The following procedures will assist staff when a student is ill:

1. Basic first aid is available for students who become ill or are injured at school.
2. The parents, or person designated by the parents, will be notified by the school whenever it is necessary for a student to leave school because of illness or injury.
3. Medical diagnosis and treatment are the responsibility of the parent through the services of that parent's chosen physician.

Medical Excuse for Physical Education

If it is necessary to be excused from participation in physical education, the student must provide the school with either a parent or physician's written excuse. A parent note is valid for a maximum of 2 days. A physician's excuse is required for 3 days or longer.

Medication

Students are permitted to take prescription and over-the-counter medication at school ONLY IF the appropriate forms are signed by a doctor and are on file at the Grundy County Special Education Cooperative (GCSEC)/River's Edge Academy. Forms are available at GCSEC/River's Edge Academy.

All medications, regardless of being prescription or over-the-counter (eg. Tylenol, aspirin, cough medicine, birth control pills, etc.) medication, REQUIRE A DOCTOR NOTE. Students CANNOT be in possession of prescription or over-the-counter medications while at school. If a student is in possession of prescription or over-the-counter medications while at school, they are subject to school "illegal drug possession" discipline policies.

Emergency and Snow Days

Information regarding school closures can be obtained from:

1. WJDK 95.7 FM or
2. Liking us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/riversedgeacademy or
3. Swiftreach phone call and email system (make sure you have updated phone number and email address on file with REA)

Transportation

School bus transportation will be furnished for all students who attend River's Edge Academy. It is expected that parents will comply in seeing their student ride the bus, unless alternative arrangements have been set up in advance. River's Edge Academy rules and responsibilities apply to and from school on the bus. Some students may earn the right to drive to school. This privilege is dependent upon parent and school approval.

Parents are to see that students are ready when the bus arrives in front of their home. Parents are asked to notify the school and bus company of any schedule changes, such as vacation or illness.

Minooka Transportation:

(Minooka Grade School, Minooka High School) 815-467-5133

Illinois Central:

(GSWHS, Braceville, Coal City) 815-634-0333

Morris School Districts:

(Morris Elementary, Saratoga, Morris High School) 815-416-1745

Individual bus driver cell phone numbers may be assigned.

Minooka Transportation (Parent/Student Notification):

Public Act 95-0352: Will allow both visual and audio recordings to be made on the interior of a school bus when transportation is provided for any school related activity. Notice of such recordings will have to be provided to parents, students, be clearly posted on the entrance door and inside the school bus. Recordings must be held confidential and can only be used by school officials and law enforcement personnel for disciplinary actions or prosecutions related to incidents occurring in or around the school bus.





To: Parents and Staff

RE: Annual Asbestos Management Plan Notice

From: Russell Young, Principal

This is to inform you of the status of River's Edge Academy asbestos management plan. It has been determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency that asbestos is a potential health hazard and precautions should be taken to avoid disturbing any asbestos containing materials.

As required, our building was initially inspected for asbestos. Our inspection was conducted on February 10, 1988. The AHERA law requires that a visual surveillance of asbestos containing areas be completed every six months, and a re-inspection conducted every three years. Any evidence of disturbance or change in condition will be documented in the Management Plan as required.

The Inspection/Management Plan is available for public review in the Grundy County Special Education Cooperative office. Should you wish to review the plans, please call to make an appointment between 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Any concerns relative to asbestos containing materials should be directed to Neil Sanburg, Director of Special Education, at 725 School Street, Morris, IL 60450 at (815) 942-5780.

"Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education" (Martin Luther King Jr.)



SOPPA Notification

Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology Vendors Under the Student Online Personal Protection Act

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as operators. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Ill. State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:



- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English language learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)
- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents/guardians
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

RIVER'S EDGE ACADEMY

Important links for new and returning families

725 School Street
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-5780
Regular School Hours: 8:00-2:30pm
Teacher Hours: 7:45-3:15pm Paraprofessional Hours: 7:45-2:45pm

Mr. Russell Young, Principal
ryoung@grundyspecialled.org

Ms. Karen Krolak, Social Worker
kkrolak@grundyspecialled.org

[Student Handbook](#) (online)

Please remember to register at your home school first! Once you have completed your home school registration, click [here](#) to enroll in River's Edge Academy!



REA Enrollment form

