

Reagan County Success Center

Student Handbook



2013-2014

Reagan County Success Center

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It is the policy of the Reagan County Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its educational or career and technology programs, activities or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. For information about rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator:

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RCSC

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Reagan County Success Center program is to provide accelerated instruction to students who are at risk of dropping out of school. The setting at the program is quite different from that of the traditional high school. Students must attend a minimum of four hours per day. Individualized, self-paced curriculum allows for acceleration as well as improvement in student achievement. The staff is dedicated to helping students, who have difficulty succeeding in a traditional high school setting, achieve their educational and vocational goals.

Students must apply for admission and enrollment at the Reagan County Success Center and attend by Choice in most cases. Enrollment is limited. Students are encouraged to attend and earn enough credits to maintain their enrollment. Once a student has applied, been accepted, and enrolled in the program of the Reagan County Success Center, they are no longer eligible to re-enroll in Reagan County High School. The difference in graduation requirements necessitates that students continue in the program until graduation.

Classes at the Reagan County Success Center are not delineated by grade level. Students should receive specific course outlines when they enroll in a class. Students are expected to complete courses in a timely manner, thus allowing students who are diligent to finish a course in a short amount of time. Upon completion of one course, the student may move to another course. For those students with frequent absences or those who need more time to learn concepts, the process may take longer. Subjects taught in the Reagan County Success program include English, mathematics, social studies, science, and various electives necessary for a high school diploma.

II. Food Services

Breakfast is provided at the Reagan County Success Center.

III. Application Process

1. Pick up application from the Reagan County Success Center or Reagan County High School.
2. Return completed application, transcript, and attendance record.
3. An interview with the student and the student's parents or legal guardian will be scheduled after the principal has reviewed the application.
4. Application will be approved or denied.

To be considered for The Reagan County Success Center a student must be:

- Between 15 and 21 years of age,
- A legal resident of Reagan County ISD,
- possess the maturity necessary to benefit from a self-paced curriculum
- And meet one or more of the following:
 1. be a parent,
 2. be a student who is totally self-supporting,
 3. be a 5th year senior,
 4. not have been enrolled for one semester or more,
 5. **be more than one year behind in credits,**
 6. or be more than two years over age for classification(Special consideration will be given for students meeting the state definition of at-risk.)

Admission Guidelines for students currently enrolled at RCHS

A counselor's recommendation is needed before a currently enrolled student may seek enrollment in the success center. The student must continue to attend classes at Reagan County High School during the application process.

Because the Reagan County Success Center is able to serve a limited number of students, priority will be given to those students who are determined to be most in need of an alternative learning environment.

IV. General Code of Conduct

RCISD has an obligation to all members of the learning community to maintain a school climate conducive to learning. Any threat with the intent to do bodily harm to another student or a staff member will be taken seriously and be subject to disciplinary action. The Reagan County ISD Code of Conduct will be strictly followed. In addition, students are reminded to avoid the following:

- Tobacco products on school premises (including the parking lot)
- Public display of affection
- Physical contact of any kind
- Being truant
- Possession and use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Any reference to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
- Gang activity of any nature (verbal, sign, drawings)
- Fighting and hazing
- Cheating, plagiarism, or forgery
- Abusive, disruptive, and vulgar language
- Defacing or destroying school property
- Stealing and gambling
- Fireworks, firearms, and knives
- Showing disrespect to anyone

- Sitting in cars after arriving at school or before leaving after school
- Unauthorized or illegal demonstrations
- Disruption and interference with school processes
- Possession of pornographic materials on campus
- Sleeping in class

V. Attendance

Absences

A student absent from school shall provide a reason for the absence, either with a note from the student's parent/guardian or a parent/guardian phone call. The student's parent/guardian shall sign the note. If the student is 18 years of age or older or has been declared by a court of law to be an emancipated minor, the student may sign or call in place of a parent or guardian. The principal or designee will determine the validity of all absences and tardiness.

Release of Students from School

A student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day expect with permission from the principal or designee. Unless the principal or designee has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning. If a student who becomes ill during the school day, the nurse, principal, or designee will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

Excused Absences

The following reasons are justification for an excused absence:

- Personal illness
- Illness or death in the immediate family
- Quarantine
- Weather or dangerous road conditions that can be verified and would have an effect on attendance
- Special circumstances over which neither the student nor the parent had control that are deemed acceptable by the principal.

Unexcused absences

An unexcused absence is any absence not excused by the principal or designee.

Truancy

A willful, unexcused absence without the knowledge or approval of the principal is truancy. Students may be considered truant even with parent permission to be absent. The principal, or the principal's designee, will determine truancy based upon the preponderance of the evidence involved in the situation.

College Days

Seniors are allowed 2 days to attend a college for orientation, counseling, and/or preregistration. The day is an excusable absence and is not applied against exemptions. Advance permission must be granted from the principal's office and proof of attendance must be brought back from the college.

Compulsory Attendance and Denial of Credit

State compulsory attendance laws (TEC 25.085) generally require all children between the ages of six and 18 to attend school each day that school is in session. Texas Education Code 25.092 requires students to be in attendance 90 percent of the days that class is offered during each semester to be awarded credit. A student that violates TEC 25.092 may not be given credit for a class in which the violation occurred and must petition the attendance committee for the opportunity to regain class credit. If given the opportunity to regain credit, the student must follow the conditions imposed by the attendance committee. Even though a student may be passing all subjects, he/she will be denied credit until he/she has successfully completed conditions imposed by the attendance committee. If a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student's enrollment.

Academic Progress

In order to remain enrolled in the program, students must make continuous academic progress. Academic progress is measured by the number of credits earned a semester. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 4 courses during a semester. Students who fail to meet the minimum progress requirements may be withdrawn from the Reagan County Success program. Students who are dismissed may reenter the program after a semester suspension pending available space.

VI. General Procedures

Uses of Telephones

Students will not be allowed to use the telephone during class time. In addition, non-emergency phone messages will be held in the office until the end of the school day. Emergency messages will be delivered promptly.

Visitors

Visitors to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the permission of the principal or the principal's designee. Such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.

VII. Curriculum and Grades

The Reagan County Success program was created to meet the needs of students who have dropped out of the traditional school or who are at risk of dropping out of school. The Success curriculum meets the mandated standards set by the Texas Education Agency and

the local school district. Students must complete the Texas Public High School Graduation requirements. Students who graduate on the state minimum plan do not have eligibility for the Texas grant program. Upon completion of graduation requirements a cumulative grade point average will be computed.

The scale will be the same one used at Reagan County High School and the same GPA will be required to gain recognition as an honor graduate. The top ranking student who has earned more than eight (8) credits at the Reagan County Success Center will also be recognized in the spring awards program held at the Success Center.

Students with no more than two absences may be exempt from course finals.

VIII. Classifications

High school students are classified according to the number of credits completed. Six (6) credits are required to be a sophomore; twelve (12) credits are required to be a junior; Eighteen (18) credits are required to be a senior; and twenty-two (22) credits are required to graduate under the minimum plan or twenty-six (26) credits are required to graduate under the recommended plan.

IX. Junior/Senior Prom

Junior and Senior level students in good standing are eligible to attend the Jr/Sr prom of Reagan County High School. They must comply with all the requirements for attendance as stated in the Reagan County High School handbook.

X. Graduation

When students receive sufficient credits for graduation, they receive diplomas from Reagan County High School and may participate in the school commencement program and project graduation. Students enrolled in Reagan County Success Center are not a part of Reagan County High School and thus are not included in the Reagan County High School class ranking and are not eligible for consideration as a High School honor graduate. Students who wish to participate in the graduation ceremonies of RCHS must notify the principal of the Success program and complete necessary documentation prior to March 15th. An intent to graduate must be completed to insure that diplomas, cap & gown, and other details are arranged.

XI. Graduation Requirements

Minimum High School Plan-22 credits minimum

English Language Arts (4 credits)

English 1 a____, b____
English 2 a____, b____
English 3 a____, b____
English 4 a____, b____
SOL 1 a____, b____
SOL 2 a____, b____

Academic Elective (1credit)

World History a____, b____
World Geography a____, b____
Science Course a____, b____

Speech (1/2 credit)

Communication Applications____

Physical Education

(1 credit)
Foundations of Personal Fitness____
Individual Sports 1 ____
Individual Sports 2 ____

Math (3 credits to include Alg. I & Geom.)

Algebra I a____, b____
Geometry a____, b____
Algebra II a____, b____
Math Models a____, b____

Electives (6 1/2 credits)

Science (2 credits)

IPC a____, b____ and
Biology a____, b____
Chemistry a____, b____
Physics a____, b____

Social Studies (2& 1/2 credits)

World History a____, b____ or
World Geography a____, b____
United States History a____, b____
Government _____

Fine Arts (1 credit)

_____ a____, b____

Economics (1/2 credit)

Economics _____

TAKS Exit Level

ELA _____ on _____ Mathematics _____ on _____
Science _____ on _____ Social Studies _____ on _____

It is my understanding that because of the limited courses available at the Success Center my decision to enroll my student in the Success Center necessitates following a Minimum Graduation Plan

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

XII. Dress Code

The dress code for Reagan County Success Center students will be the same as for RCHS students as described in the RCISD Code of Conduct.

XIII. Medications

Any student that takes prescription medication must have a parent consent form signed and the medication must be in the original bottle with the student's name on the label. All medications (cough drops, aspirin, etc.) must be checked in upon arrival. They must be in the original container and labeled. Medications must be given to a member of the Success Center staff upon arrival.

XIV. Sexual Harassment

Students shall not engage in sexual harassment toward another student or a District employee. A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against a student shall result in disciplinary action. Sexual harassment by a student includes unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.

XV. Bacterial Meningitis

What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord---also called the meninges. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral (aseptic) meningitis is common; most people recover fully. Medical management of viral meningitis consists of supportive treatment and there is usually no indication for the use of antibiotics. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and may involve complicated medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and life support management. There are two common types of bacteria that cause meningitis:

- *Strep pneumoniae* caused pneumococcal meningitis; there are over 80 subtypes that cause illness
- *Neisseria meningitidis*-meningococcal meningitis; there are 5 subtypes that cause serious illness-
A, B, C, Y,-135

What are the symptoms?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms. Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have:

- Severe headache
- High temperature
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to bright lights
- Neck stiffness, joint pains
- Drowsiness or confusion

In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots or bruises caused by bleeding under the skin. These can occur anywhere on the body. They are a sign of blood poisoning (septicemia), which sometimes happens with meningitis, particularly the meningococcal strain.

How serious is bacterial meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability, such as deafness, blindness, amputations or brain damage (resulting in mental retardation or paralysis) even with prompt treatment.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes). The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. Being a carrier helps to stimulate your body's natural defense.

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**WHERE WE MEASURE SUCCESS...
ONE STUDENT AT A TIME!**