

**RIO REAL**



**RIO REAL SCHOOL  
PARENT/STUDENT  
HANDBOOK  
Grades 6-8**

2023-2024

Dr. María M. Hernández,  
Principal



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## **Introduction**

### **WELCOME**

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about our school. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained within it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in it.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing and may not address every situation and circumstance that may occur during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable School District policies, State and Federal statutes and regulations, and the Parents Rights and Responsibilities Annual Notice.

### **SCHOOL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Rio School District believes that a child’s ability to learn is affected by social, health and economic factors outside the classroom. To ensure student success, the District makes it a priority to develop programs that address the whole child.

Reaching beyond the students to parents and the community, the District is committed to developing and maintaining strong partnerships with local organizations and finding ways to provide resources to the citizens in our service area.

The District’s leadership believes that all its decisions must reflect the concept that all students can learn and succeed. Every student in the district has a right to a high-quality education that challenges the student to achieve his/her full potential.

The Rio School District believes that all students should be provided a foundation where every student feels valued and valuable, safe and respected, and socially and emotionally happy and healthy. RSD accomplishes this in the adoption of the “40 Developmental Assets” which acts as the framework for a positive school environment that the entire community can participate in. A discipline philosophy is also included to encourage consistent and clear expectations of students. Positive Behavior Support is a philosophy for classroom management and school discipline. It is a citizen approach that teaches students about their rights and responsibilities for living and learning in a democratic society. School sites, teachers and staff are encouraged to utilize Positive Behavior Support approach strategies when working with students in a variety of situations. This approach helps to encourage adults working with students to find alternative solutions to student issues; all of which is practiced through character education curriculums that teach RSD students tolerance and problem solving skills.

### **PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS**

All parents are required to attend the annual Back-to-School Night, Literacy, Math and Multicultural Nights. During these nights teachers will provide valuable information regarding academic expectations of their instructional programs.

### **CALENDARS**

Monthly calendars are sent home at the end of the previous month.

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent teacher conferences may be scheduled upon teacher or parent request. Our goal is to work together with you to provide the best education possible for your child. Please call the school office to schedule an appointment.

## **PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT INVOLVEMENT through PTA, SSC and ELAC**

We would like to welcome all new and returning parents and students for the new school year. We hope you will join us as we work together with our teachers and staff to support the growth and development of students here on campus. We encourage you to participate in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), School Site Council (SSC), English Language Acquisition Committee (ELAC), Coffee with the Principal and other site committees and projects. Please contact the school office for additional information. Meeting dates will be posted on the monthly newsletter/calendar. All parents are welcome to attend. By working together, we can help provide our students with a quality education and a positive and safe environment.

### **Q**

Q Parent Connection is the district's web-based access to our student information system. With this web-based portal, parents can check their students' attendance, health and discipline records, standardized testing results, classroom assignments (for teachers who elect to use the system), cafeteria information, and more. Middle School parents can view students' report cards (this feature is not yet available for elementary schools' Standards-Based Report Cards).

This system is only available to students' parents or legal guardians. A PIN and password is required to access the system. Parents can obtain their PIN and password by contacting any school at which one of their children attend (the same PIN and password will access information for all students parents have in the district). Parents/Guardians will be required to provide ID prior to receiving the PIN.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **ABSENCE**

Please call the office on the day of your child's absence. An absence does not excuse a student from classroom assignments. It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work. Students may not participate in after school activities if they are absent from school on the day of the activity.

### **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Students may be on campus twenty minutes before school begins unless the hours are extended by teacher request or the student is participating in a supervised activity. Students must leave campus immediately after school unless they are involved in a school activity. After arriving at school, students are not permitted to leave campus without being signed out in the office.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY (BP 6158 and AR 6158)**

Planning family vacations during the school year is discouraged. If a student is to be absent for more than five days for reasons other than illness or emergencies, arrangements should be made with the office for an Independent Study Contract **five days prior to the scheduled leave**. Parents/guardians of students who are interested in independent study, should contact the principal or designee prior to the scheduled leave to verify eligibility. Upon return to school, student work should be turned in immediately to receive credit. It is the student's responsibility to check-in with teachers upon return to school for any additional work missed.

### **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES**

Regular attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The first step to success in school is getting there. It is an obligation of student, parent and school authorities to insist upon good attendance. Excused absences include:

- a - Illness (When out for more than 3 days, a dr. note is required)
- b - Doctor/Dental appointments (Dr. note required within 3 school days or absence will be recorded as unexcused)
- c - Death in the immediate family – 1 day (mother, father, siblings, grandparents)
- d - Quarantine

A written note from the parent on the day the child returns is necessary, unless a phone call to the school is made by the parent explaining the reason for absence. *Excessive tardies and/or absences may result in referral to the School Attendance Review Team/Board.*

## **TARDINESS**

If a child arrives late to school, he/she must stop by the office for a pass to class. More than 3 tardies per year are considered excessive. Excessive tardiness may result in the referral to the School Attendance Review Board. A student who is tardy for more than any 30-minute period during the school-day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, is considered truant and shall be reported to the attendance clerk or administrator.

## **WITHDRAW FROM ATTENDANCE**

The school should be notified by the parent in advance of a student withdrawing from attendance. Parents need to indicate where the parents are moving and the address of the new school, if possible. Your child's records and report card will be sent to the new school upon request from the new school's office. Please return all books and school materials prior to moving.

## **CAMPUS SAFETY AND HEALTH**

### **EMERGENCY CARDS**

Please notify the attendance clerk of any changes of address or phone numbers.

### **CLOSED CAMPUS POLICY**

Our school is a closed campus. Students are expected to remain on campus from the time they arrive in the morning until they are dismissed in the afternoon. Students who need to leave campus for any reason must be signed out through the office by a parent/guardian, or emergency contact person (18 years or older). Students returning to school must check back into the office to get a pass allowing them to return to class.

### **SCHOOL VISITORS**

The Rio School District encourages visits to the schools and programs operated by the Rio School District by parents/guardians, members of the community, and other interested persons in order to view the educational program and facilities and to offer constructive comments.

Classroom visits by members of the community and other interested persons should be arranged in advance with the teacher, principal, or principal designee in charge. Approval or denial is based upon whether there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the visit will interfere with school activities. Visitors may be accompanied by the principal or principal designee at all times while a visitor is on campus when students are present. In all cases, responsible adult behavior shall be required of all visitors. Visitors who pose a threat to the health and safety of students, teachers, or other personnel or who otherwise disrupt the normal operations of the school shall be removed.

Possession of unauthorized dangerous instruments, weapons, or devices is prohibited on school premises or any other place where a teacher or student are required to be in connection with assigned school activities. No electronic listening or recording device may be used by students or visitors in the classroom without the teacher and principal's permissions. All Rio School District schools and property are Tobacco free zones. Therefore, the use of tobacco including chewing tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, hookahs and any other vapor emitting devices is prohibited on school grounds, including personal vehicles parked on school property.

No one, other than those designated on the emergency card, will be permitted to take a child from school. All visitors are

required to check in at the school office as soon as they arrive. Parents must report to the office before going to a classroom or coming on campus. Parents who have a complaint are to request an appointment with the staff member and/or principal. No disruptions of school activities or verbal/physical assaults will be tolerated by visitors on campus. (E.C. 44810 and 44811)

Administration has the authority to direct non-students to leave campus. No outsider shall enter or remain on school grounds during school hours without having registered with the principal or designee, except to proceed expeditiously to the office of the principal or designee for the purpose of registering.

Visitors must have permission from the office to be on campus. They must be an adult and sign “in” and “out” at the office. A visitor’s badge will be provided to wear while on campus.

## **MEDICATION**

It is desirable for medication to be administered at home. Should a child need to take medication at school, the parent/guardian must notify the school immediately and follow the guidelines stated below. It is recognized that some students are able to attend school regularly because of the effective use of medication in the treatment of chronic disabilities or illness. It is also recognized that in many short-term illnesses, medication may need to be continued after a student returns to school. To accommodate this we need:

1. The original container must accompany all medicine or drugs.
2. A written physician’s order and parental consent form: “**Authorization for Any Medication Taken during School Hours**” **District Form**, which includes the medication name, reason for medication, dosage, schedule, anticipated number of days to be administered, and side effects of the medication.

3. Students may not carry any medication with them on campus including over-the-counter medication or asthma pumps.

\* Parents/Guardians must notify the school immediately if your child’s medication or dosage has been changed.

## **RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER INJURY OR SERIOUS ILLNESS**

When a child is injured on or off campus and returns to school with a cast, crutches, splints, etc., he/she needs a doctor’s clearance. This clearance should include any physical limitations or special instructions (e.g.: No PE for a week). Without a written medical clearance, the child will be excluded from school. This is done for the protection of your child as well as for the safety of others.

When your child is ill, with a fever of over 100°, the evening before or the day of school, please keep your child home. Children who run a fever, vomit, experience diarrhea, coughing, sore throat or other cold/flu related symptoms are not ready for a rigorous day of school. They need at least 24 hours of rest before returning to school. If you would like to pick up your child’s homework, please notify the Office in the morning.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

Our middle school has a full time counselor on site to assist in guiding the students through the middle school years. Services include individual and group guidance to help with personal, social and academic issues. The counselor works closely with staff and parents for a successful middle school transition.

### **ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY**

Associated Student Body (ASB) is composed of ASB officers, and class representatives. This group will act as the legislative body of ASB and will coordinate activities by considering student welfare, preparing budgets, paying bills, formulating policies, and studying parliamentary procedure, in order to conduct its affairs in a systematic manner. ASB plans and organizes school wide events in addition to maintaining the sales of campus supplies ( spirit clothes, PE clothing, promotion gowns, tickets, etc.).

## **ACTIVITIES**

We encourage students to be involved in a variety of school activities including: clubs, tutoring and ASB sponsored trips and dances. Parents, of any student engaging in disruptive behavior, will be called to pick up their son/daughter from

school activities. Parents are asked to pick up their student promptly at the end of the activity. Note: Students absent from school the day of the dance/activity may not attend without prior permission from school administration. Students who are on suspension status may not participate in any after school activities.

## **SPORTS**

The Rio School District offers opportunities to participate in sports on the middle school campus during and after school. It's important to strive for a minimum 2.0 grade point average. The grade point average is based upon the most recent trimester report card and includes grades in all classes completed. Representing our school on an athletic team is a privilege; therefore, when students participate in these events, they agree to follow school rules and show appropriate conduct. Students who fail to follow school rules and demonstrate proper conduct may be suspended from a game(s) or the team.

## **PERSONAL GIFTS**

The school will not accept, distribute or be responsible for items such as balloons, flowers, candy, pizzas, cupcakes and other personal gifts for students because they are a disruption to the educational experience. These items should be reserved for celebrations outside of school. Please see the letter of acceptable items handed out at the beginning of the year or request one from the office.

## **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Overt physical contact and/or excessive display of affection is not permitted. Students should be aware of what is acceptable behavior on campus or at any school activity or trip. Students failing to use good judgment will be warned and parents notified.

# **ACADEMICS**

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Awards and Recognitions reflect our REAL expectations of respectful, enthusiastic, accepting, leaders as well as academic recognition for achievement in subject areas and grade point average as well as attendance.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

School staff expects all students to be successful on the merit of their own work. Academic dishonesty (cheating) is a deliberate attempt to disrupt the learning process by misrepresenting another's work as one's own. We do not tolerate cheating or dishonest acts of any kind. Students should be aware that academic dishonesty may result in a zero grade for all parties involved.

## **LIBRARY/TEXTBOOKS**

Students are responsible for all textbooks issued to them. Textbooks should be covered and maintained in good condition. Students will be charged for lost or damaged books.

## **PE LOCKERS**

Students will be issued a lock and locker in which to keep their PE clothes. The school takes all reasonable precautions to ensure that lockers are safe. Students are reminded not to share lockers or locker combinations. If thefts occur, students



should notify the PE department staff and all possible steps will be made to correct the situation. However, the school does not assume any responsibility for any loss of property from lockers. Students should be aware that lockers are subject to inspection by school authorities at any time. Students are responsible for their P.E lock, should it be lost it will be replaced at the cost of the student.

## **STUDENT PROGRESSION, PROMOTION, AND GRADING**

### **Philosophy**

RSD provides every student, without exception, both the opportunity and the necessary support to benefit from a high-quality educational experience. A challenging and rigorous curriculum is implemented for all students in all content areas.

We believe that student retention is not an effective practice. Therefore, students who are struggling or who are at risk of failure should be identified early and provided with the necessary supports to meet state standards and to prepare them for the next level.

In RSD, we support a Balanced Assessment System that uses three forms of assessment: Formative Classroom, Interim Benchmark, and Annual Accountability. At the middle school level, we wholly support putting students at the center of learning and engaging them in ways that allow them to assume responsibility for their own success. **Formative Classroom Assessment** is an ongoing process used to inform instructional decisions made by the teacher and student. It is linked to the targets of daily instruction, and it provides continuous information. Formative Assessment is what happens when teaching is still underway. Formative Assessment helps shape decisions about what needs to happen next to better prepare students for the summative assessment. This may involve giving students ungraded practice, helping them see where they might improve, or informing teachers on how they might adapt instruction to help move students toward the target.

**Benchmark Assessment** fulfills the traditional role of measuring student progress. Results from tests feed into an evaluation, like a mark in a grade book or a report card. They reflect the level of student learning at a particular point in time.

**Annual Accountability Assessment** is used to improve future instructional practices in order to improve student achievement. Annual state assessments have an impact on student progression and decisions regarding future programmatic placement.

### **Procedures for Middle School**

The RSD has approved the following procedures for assessing and reporting to parents the achievement of middle school students. Traditional, optional, and magnet programs may use alternate reporting standards and forms.

### **Components of Academic Grades**

Academic grades reflect what the student knows and is able to do. Academic grades may include the following:

- Cooperative Group Work
- Discussion/Problem Solving
- Homework
- In-Class Assignments
- Journals/Logs/Notebooks
- Participation
- Portfolio (Collection of Content Work)
- Projects/Inquiry based learning and Performance Assessments/Presentations
- Quizzes and Tests
- Student Reflection

Each teacher will supply a copy of his or her grading procedures to the students and the principal. Parents/Guardians may

obtain information about grading procedures from their child, at Back to School Night and by request, as well as during parent/guardian-teacher conferences.

### **Determining Academic Grades**

Letter grades represent the following:

A (Exceeds Standards) .....	90–100%
B (Meets Standards) .....	80–89%
C (Marginally Meets Standards) .....	70–79%
D (Below Standards) .....	60–69%
F (Unsatisfactory) .....	Below 60%

I or NM (Incomplete or No Mark)—Incomplete work due to absence must be completed and the grade recorded within two weeks of the end of the interim grading period. If the student has not completed the work within that time, the student’s grade is recorded as a U. NM will be given to students who have been in attendance for less than 25% of the trimester.

### **Conduct Grades**

Conduct grades represent the extent to which the student does the following:

- Shows self-control and self-discipline
- Respects the rights and feelings of others
- Accepts responsibility for his or her own actions
- Cooperates in group activities

Conduct is not a component of the academic grade except in physical education (PE) class.

Teacher judgment of student conduct in individual classrooms is indicated according to the following scale: S—Satisfactory NI—Needs Improvement U—Unsatisfactory

### **Grade Reporting**

Interim grade reports are issued at the end of each six-week grading period. Each six-weeks grade represents a report of all work completed during that grading period. If a student is exhibiting unsatisfactory performance or is experiencing changes in performance, the teacher must notify the parents/guardians in a timely manner, prior to distribution of the interim grade report or report card. Any of the following forms may be used for this purpose:

- District-provided Notice of Significant Change in Student Performance
- District-provided Middle School Interim Progress Report
- School-designed Progress Report

After notification of a deficiency, the teacher, student, and parent/guardian must cooperate to develop a plan for improvement.

### **Student Support and Assistance**

Students who do not meet grade level standards in their core subjects will be considered for intervention. Response to Intervention provides a framework making it possible for students to access a range of programs and obtain services that will support the individual needs of the child and his/her family. Both academic and Social/Emotional/Behavioral (“SBE”) interventions are made available through site Intervention Progress Teams (IPT). The RtI process acts as a framework and organizing tool so that all district services and interventions will be accessible at the appropriate levels of interventions. The team is a regular education process that uses a positive problem solving approach to do everything possible to make students’ school life successful. Parents of referred students are an important part of this process. A planned transitional program and the Response to Intervention (RtI) process is in place for students who need extra support in advancing through middle school. Support and assistance may include one or more of the following:

- English Language Learner (ELL) Program
- Guidance department

- IPT (Intervention Progress Team)
- Specialized programs
- Summer programs when available
- Title I Programs
- Tier 2 and 3 Interventions

### **Procedure for Review and Reconsideration of Grades**

1. Within ten days of receiving the grades, the parent/guardian informs the school principal in writing that a review and reconsideration are desired and provides reasons for initiating the process.
2. Within five days of receiving a parent's/guardian's letter, the principal directs the teacher(s) and counselor to review the request and examine appropriate records and classroom work. The teacher and counselor then give the principal a written recommendation, including a rationale that supports or rejects the request.
3. Within five days after receiving the recommendation, the principal schedules a conference with the parent/guardian. Any decision that results from the conference is given to the parent/guardian in writing within five days after the conference. If the decision results in the student being retained or it results in a final grade remaining as assigned, the principal copies his or her decision to the superintendent/designee.
4. The principal makes the final decision in the review of an interim grade. However, a parent may appeal the principal's decision concerning progression/retention, final grade, or meeting any of the promotion and transition from middle school to high school standards by sending a letter to the superintendent/designee within ten days of the principal's decision. 5. The superintendent/designee sends a written response to the parent/guardian stating the final decision.

### **PROMOTION ACTIVITIES**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion and Oxnard Grad Night Criteria**

Rio School District students must maintain high standards of academic achievement set forth by their teachers, school administration, district, and the State of California to be eligible to participate in any, or all, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities and Promotion. Students must also maintain good behavioral standing with their peers, teachers, school administration, district, as well as California state law to be eligible to participate in any, or all, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities and Promotion.

#### **Behavioral Criteria for Promotion and Oxnard Grad Night:**

Students must be eligible to participate in either activity in order to attend 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion or Grad Night.

We are looking forward to the promotion activities as a time to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of our students. It is the Rio School District's desire that all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students end their tenure in the Rio School District on a positive note as they transition to high school.

### **HOMEWORK**

The Rio Elementary School District Board Policy BP6154 states that the Board:

- Recognizes that homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline, and life-long learning habits.
- Recognizes that the time spent on homework directly influences a student's ability to meet the District academic standards.
- Expects students, parents/guardians, and staff to view homework as a routine and an important part of students' daily lives

#### **Recommended Amount of Time:**

Homework assignments will vary in length and difficulty according to the individual student, but generally will take 60-90 minutes (grades 6-8). In addition to doing homework assignments, all students are expected to read nightly for a minimum of 30 minutes.

## **Nature and Purpose of Homework**

- Promotes independence and responsibility.
- Provides additional practice/reinforcement of fundamentals.
- Allows for completion of unfinished class work or assignments missed during absences.
- Supports and encourages consistent daily reading.
- May include research/projects in assigned subject areas for which there is insufficient time in class.
- Keeps parents informed of current learning in class.

## **Principal's Responsibility**

- The Principal will facilitate sending home Homework Guidelines for parents to read and review prior to attending Back to School Night.

## **Teacher's Responsibilities**

- Teachers will communicate homework procedures and expectations to all parents at the beginning of school each year (i.e., Back to School Night, introductory letter).
- Teachers will clarify at the beginning of the school year whether parents are to review and/or assist in correcting homework before it is turned in.
- Teachers generally will assign homework four days a week. These assignments should not require that the homework be completed over weekends or holidays.
- Teachers will assign homework that is commensurate with a student's abilities so that the homework assignments are neither too challenging nor not challenging enough and can be completed independently.
- Homework copies will be legible and directions will be clear and understandable to student and/or parent.
- Homework will be meaningful and relevant to class work.
- Teachers will help parents understand the objectives of the school curriculum at Back to School Night and parent conferences and through student progress reports.
- Homework will be checked or corrected and returned to the student in class or sent home. Teacher will review homework corrections/comments with the student, if necessary.
- Teachers will notify parents when the student repeatedly fails to turn in homework on time.
- Teachers will guide students and parents to available homework support services, as needed.

## **Student Responsibilities**

- Students are expected to complete assigned homework independently and on time.
- Students are expected to turn in neat and legible homework.
- Students will ask the teacher for clarification if homework assignment is not clear.
- Students will be encouraged to talk with the teacher if homework assignments are too difficult or too easy.
- Students are expected to show parents any checked or corrected homework returned by the teacher.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

- Parents are expected to provide a regular study and/or reading time in a suitable setting with appropriate materials.
- Parents are encouraged to offer guidance but avoid doing the assignment for the child.
- Parents are encouraged to provide a balance between homework and the child's free time. If a child consistently does not complete assignments within the recommended time frame (homework is too challenging/not challenging enough), parents should contact the teacher.
- Parents are expected to understand the objectives of the school curriculum and the relationship of the homework to these objectives.
- Parents are expected to ask the child to show/discuss checked or corrected homework.

- If parents have questions or concerns at any time, they are encouraged to contact their child's teacher.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are part of the student's learning experience and are part of the school curriculum. They are planned and supervised by the classroom teacher. A permission slip must be signed by the parent/guardian prior to the trip. *No child may attend any trip for which his or her permission slip has not been returned.* Field trips are an extension of the school program and all school rules apply, including the dress code policy.

## **SCHOOL GUIDELINES**

### **BUS POLICY BP 5131.1**

In order to help ensure the safety and well-being of students, bus drivers, and others, it is expected that students will exhibit appropriate and orderly conduct at all times when using school transportation, including while preparing to ride, riding, or leaving the bus. The Superintendent or designee may deny a student the privilege of using school transportation upon the student's continued disorderly conduct or his/her persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver.

### **DRESS POLICY BP5132(a).**

The Board of Trustees believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Student's clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process (BP5132(a)).

Schools may adopt and enforce a reasonable dress code policy that requires pupils to wear a school wide uniform or prohibits the wearing of "gang-related clothing: if it is determined that it is necessary for the health and safety of the school environment.

*(E.C. 35183)*

- Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, associated with gangs, or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
- No professional athletic team logos and names are permitted on hats, jerseys, shorts and pants. University and college clothing is acceptable.
- Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors. Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day (Education Code 35183.5).
- Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. See-through or fishnet fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited for all students.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals must have heel straps. Flip-flops or backless shoes or sandals are not acceptable (For safety reasons, shoes with embedded wheels (Heelys) may only be worn with the wheels removed.).

The school site may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

**Students may not possess the following items on school property or at school events:**

Alcoholic beverages, narcotics, e-Cigarettes, Hookah Pens, over-the-counter medications, cigarettes, tobacco products, inhalants, cigarette lighters, matches, and look-alikes.

Electronic signaling devices, laser pens, iPods, mp3 players, CD Players, beepers, cameras, TV's/DVDs, or any other electronic items of distraction will not be permitted to disrupt instruction, instructional programs, and/or school-related activities. **Cell phones must be completely turned off during all instructional time. The Rio School District assumes no responsibility for the protection of, loss of, or damage to any electronic device.**

Cellular devices that have the capability to take photographs or to record audio, shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or at a school-sponsored activity, unless authorized in advance by administration.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in the confiscation of the electronic device.

Any confiscated item may not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian. The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student.

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The school administration may conduct a search of a student suspected of possession or involvement with drugs, weapons, alcohol or other materials in violation of school rules or state law. The search may include inspection of clothing, purses, wallets, backpacks, lockers and other personal property.

## BULLYING

The Rio School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics set forth in section 422.55 of the Penal Code and E.C.220 and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Both students who are bullied and students who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

What students and parents can do:

What students can do:

- Be a friend to others: introduce yourself to new student, invite other students to play or hang out with you, work with an adult to solve disagreements.
- Talk to an adult.
- Be a supportive Bystander; Speak to an adult if you see another student being bullied.

What parents can do:

- Volunteer in the school.
- Participate in the School Safety Committee, School Site Council, Parent English Language Committee, or other school wide committees.
- Notify your child's teacher, school counselor, or Principal if your child reports bullying to you or you suspect something is wrong.

## **Unacceptable Behavior and Suspensions**

The Following behavior is UNACCEPTABLE and will result in consistently applied discipline (according to Education Code 48900, 48260, 31583):

School sites will follow the Rio School District's Progressive Discipline Matrix for unacceptable behaviors.

- Threatening, bullying, fighting, assault and battery.
  - Extortion (taking or attempting to take money or property from another person by use of a threat).
- Truancy: excessive absences and/or tardiness.
- Causing or attempting to cause damage to school or private property.
- Disturbing class or student activities.
- Use of profanity, vulgarity, or obscenity.
- Disobedience, defiance, or disrespect to school employees.
- Inappropriate mode of dress.
- Possession of personal radios, tapes, CD Players.
- Electronic devices: Students are permitted to carry a cell phone; however, all cell phones must remain turned off and in student backpacks when at school. If a student is caught with a cell phone in hand during school hours, the phone will be confiscated and a parent will need to come to the office to retrieve it.
- Severe disruptive behavior is not tolerated in the Rio School District. Students may be suspended from school and a conference will be held with their parents. As an alternative to suspension, a parent may be required to spend a day at school with his/her child.

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS – BE REAL (RESPECTFUL, ENTHUSIASTIC, ACCEPTING, LEADERS)**

**All students can learn and they have the right to:**

- \*Be safe and protected
- \*Be free from verbal abuse and harm
- \*Be treated with respect
- \*Learn in a “cared for” environment
- \*Be able to learn without distraction

**Students are expected to display appropriate behavior while in class, on the school grounds and at school-sponsored events. Note: All school rules are in effect on the way to school and on the way home from school.**

- \*Show respect for yourself and others
- \*Be in your seat (assigned or flexible), ready to work with all your materials, when the bell rings.
- \*Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself /respect personal space
- \*Students should treat all staff members and fellow students in a respectful and safe manner.
- \*Attend classes, on time, on a daily basis

**The following behavior is UNACCEPTABLE at school and will result in consistently applied discipline (according to Education Code 48900)**

- \*Threatening, bullying, fighting, harassment, assault and battery and cyber-bullying
- \*Extortion (taking or attempting to take money or property from another person by use of threat)
- \*Truancy, excessive absences, tardies
- \*Causing or attempting to cause damage to school or private property

- \*Disturbing class or student activities
- \*Use of profanity, vulgarity, or obscenity (includes sexting)
- \*Disobedience, defiance, or disrespect to school employees
- \*Inappropriate mode of dress (see dress policy)
- \*Possession of electronic signaling devices (see prohibited items)
- \*Possession, use, sale, or furnishing of tobacco related products, marijuana or any controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or intoxicant of any kind, firearms, firecrackers, smoke bombs, lighters, matches or other explosive or incendiary devices, imitation firearms, chains, knives, marking pens or any other objects deemed dangerous or that could cause damage to school or private property.
- \*Students are to remain within the campus boundaries
- \*Students will not spit, use offensive language or make offensive gestures
- \*Roughhousing (tackling on the field) is not allowed on campus as a safety precaution
- \*Students should carry a hall pass from the teacher or office if they are out of the classroom during the class period.
- \*Students are not allowed to bring gum, candy, sodas, energy drinks and caffeinated drinks on school grounds.

Note: Harassment can be anything from teasing to physically pushing someone and trying to frighten him/her or any unwelcome sexual behavior from another person, which may include sexual comments, jokes, rumors, graffiti, touching or staring in a sexual manner.

Students who believe that they have been harassed, sexually or otherwise, should immediately inform an administrator, teacher or counselor so that necessary steps can be made to stop this type of behavior.

### **Bicycles, Skateboards and Scooters**

Students riding bicycles to school must park and lock them in the designated area immediately upon arrival at school. Bikes must be walked on school property and on sidewalks. Skate boards, bikes and scooters are not to be ridden on campus at any time. Skateboards and scooters should be held and put away while on school property. **Bicycle (skateboard and scooter) riders under age 18 must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet which meets specified safety standards when they ride on a street, bikeway, or public bicycle path or trail** (Vehicle Code Sections 21212,21204).

### **School Dance Expectations**

The following is a list of expectations for attending dances at the Rio School District's Middle Schools.

#### **Ticket Sales**

Tickets are available for sale both prior to the dance (pre-sale) and at the dance. It is highly encouraged that students purchase their dance tickets prior to the actual dance. School dances are for enrolled students only. Tickets may not be purchased for students attending other schools.

#### **Dress Code**

The established dress code for students will be in effect during school sponsored dances. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change into appropriate clothing.

#### **Lighting and Music**

ASB or sponsoring clubs will coordinate with the DJ to ensure that lighting and music at the dance is appropriate. ASB will generate a list of alternative songs that may be inserted as a way to avoid inappropriate dancing.



## **Dance Supervision**

ASB or sponsoring clubs will ensure adequate staff supervision at dances to provide a safe environment for students.

## **Dance Standards**

Dancing styles that involve touching of the breasts, buttocks, or genitals, grinding, straddling each other's legs, or that simulate sexual activity are not permitted. When dancing back to front, all dancers must remain upright – no sexual bending is allowed, no hands on knees and no hands on the dance floor with your buttocks touching your dance partner.

## **Consequences for Violating Expectations**

If a student violates the rules and ignores warnings, they will be asked to leave the dance. Parents/guardians will be contacted and arrangements will be made for them to go home.

## **School Rules**

Students attending a school dance will be held accountable for all school expectations and regulations. Students who are truant or suspended on the day of the dance are not eligible to attend.

## **Philosophy of Administrative Student Discipline in Rio School District (K-8)**

Disciplinary procedures, when required, should be an educational process. Disciplinary sanctions are imposed to help students develop individual responsibility and encourage self-discipline, to foster a respect for the rights of others, and to protect the rights, freedoms, and safety of all members of the school community. Students who demonstrate an unwillingness or inability to follow established expectations will be treated consistently and fairly.

The Rio School District recognizes that each person has value to him/herself and to the community. To ensure that students acquire and apply the skills necessary to develop into responsible contributing members of the community, those responsible for such growth and development shall work to ensure that acquisition of self-discipline and respect.

The Board of Trustees recognizes the need and responsibility to provide for the programs, staff, and facilities conducive to fostering such student development.

The staff recognizes the need to assist each student in developing responsibility and accountability to both him/herself and the school community.

The student body recognizes the need to act in a positive manner, which encourages a healthy and safe school environment for both themselves and all members of the school community.

Therefore, it is the Board's responsibility to establish a discipline policy, which encourages, teaches, and fosters positive behaviors and the development of self-discipline on the part of each student.

To this end, the District has established a progressive discipline program. Progressive discipline ensures that the consequence for misbehavior is commensurate with the misconduct. In determining an appropriate consequence, principals and vice principals consider multiple factors: the age and developmental level of the student, the circumstances unique to each individual incident, the severity of the incident, the student's attitude, the student's behavior record, and guidelines set forth in Ed Code 48900 through 48918.5. Consequences should be designed to correct the problem with a minimum of attention to the misbehavior and a minimal disruption to the educational process. The ultimate goal is to instruct and

counsel students in order to develop a sense of self-control, positive self-esteem, successful interpersonal skills, respect for others, acceptance of responsibility, good judgment, and good citizenship, remembering that suspension is to be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct (Ed Code 48900.5).

To develop these necessary life skills for success in a communal society, the District uses Positive Behavior Support strategies:

1. Positive Behavior Support focuses upon appropriate social skills, including anger management. (Counselors)
2. Facilitated peer mediation teaches students to resolve their own conflicts by applying the mores of our civilized society. (K-8)
3. Positive Behavior Support celebrates and encourages the values desired in a cooperative social environment. Students practice praising others, giving up put-downs, seeking wise people, noticing hurts, righting wrongs, and helping others. (K-5)
4. Positive Behavior Support focuses upon developing democratic classrooms which detail the rights and responsibilities of its citizens. Students create class rules related to the four compelling state interests -- property loss and damage, legitimate educational purpose, threat to health and safety, and serious disruption of the educational process. (K-8)

A key component of teaching good citizenship is the recognition of good student behavior. Therefore, schools celebrate positive attendance, academic achievement and effort, and also kindness and cooperation in citizenship.

**Within each school community in the Rio School District, there is a professional commitment to keep students in school.** Each teacher is responsible for maintaining a positive class climate that supports learning. All minor violations of class rules will be dealt with by the teacher. Such things as talking while the teacher is instructing, passing notes or chewing gum can be handled in the classroom by the teacher. More persistent and serious behaviors will be referred to the principal. For behaviors which cannot be settled in the classroom, our first step would be a parent contact, and a principal or vice principal-student conference. Outcomes might be detention; school community service at lunch, after school, or on Saturday; a counseling referral; and/or a facilitated peer mediation referral. If a pattern of repeated offenses emerges, a behavior contract, or behavior support plan which details the teaching of an acceptable replacement behavior, will be written. A report to the Police or Sheriff's Department may be made in conjunction with any of the offenses which warrant law enforcement involvement.

Off-campus suspension or recommendation for expulsion will be requested for more severe behaviors in accordance with the California Education Code.

The progressive discipline procedures outlined have been adopted by the Governing Board to ensure that each of our campuses is a learning community committed to helping each and every one of our students achieve academic success, while at the same time developing character attributes that will help our students to become productive participants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **McKinney-Vento Education Program**

Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act, McKinney-Vento Assistance Act requires Local Education Agencies (also known as school districts) to:

1. Ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth;
2. Remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless students;
3. Immediately enroll homeless students in school, even if they lack the required documentation for enrollment;
4. Have access to educational and other services necessary for them to meet the same challenging performance standards as the students;
5. Not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

### **FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESS**

According to the McKinney Vento Assistance Act, a homeless student is a person between the ages of two and eighteen who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence who is:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; 2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; 3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Abandoned in hospitals;
5. Awaiting foster care placement;
6. Staying in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
7. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
8. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in conditions described in above; “Unaccompanied”, not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

### **EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS**

Students who find themselves in any of these living situations are deemed homeless by the federal definition and are entitled to the following rights:

1. School placement must be made regardless of whether the child or youth resides with the homeless parent or has been temporarily residing.
2. Homeless students have the right to attend the school of origin, or the school in the attendance area in which they are temporarily residing.
3. Homeless students shall, to the extent feasible, be placed in their school of origin, unless it is against the wishes of their parent/guardian, then the students will attend the school in the area where they are temporarily residing. School placement for homeless students is based on the student’s best interest as defined in law.
4. Homeless students have the right to attend the school of origin for the duration of their homelessness. If the student becomes permanently housed during the academic year, he or she is entitled to stay in the school of origin for the

remainder of the academic year.

5. Students who become homeless in between academic years are entitled to attend the school of origin for the following academic year.
6. School districts are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided to or from the school of origin, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison).
7. If a homeless student continues to live within the boundaries of the school district of the school of origin, the school district must provide or arrange transportation for the students to and from the school of origin.
8. If a homeless student continues to attend the school of origin but is living within the boundaries of another school district, the school district of origin and the school district where the homeless student is living must agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the students with transportation to and from the school of origin.
9. If the school districts cannot agree upon a method, the responsibility and cost for transportation are to be shared equally.
10. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the school district's homeless liaison shall assist in placement or enrollment decisions, consider the views of the student, and provide notice to the students of his/her right to appeal rights.
11. If the student is placed at a school other than school of origin or a school requested by the parent/guardian, the school shall provide a written explanation of its decision, including their right to appeal the decision.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL**

Per the MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT, schools must:

1. Identify students who meet the federal definition of homelessness.
2. Enroll immediately, even if records normally needed for enrollment are lacking, such as proof of residency, school records, immunizations, etc.
3. Contact the last school of attendance to obtain relevant records.
4. Do not immediately check out students due to change of address.
5. Investigate a student's change of address and if it is due to loss of housing, the student must be allowed to attend for the duration of homelessness.
6. When homeless students become permanently housed, allow them to complete the school year.
7. The school district shall provide transportation to the school of origin and share the cost of transportation if the student is displaced to a neighboring school district.
8. If a dispute arises, allow the homeless student to immediately enroll/continue attending the school, pending resolution

of the dispute. Explanations and the right to appeal MUST be provided IN WRITING, to parents/guardians.

9. School districts must have a dispute policy in place.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT**

1. Enroll your children in school immediately.
2. Sign your children up for food program (you automatically qualify).
3. Make sure your children attend school every day.
4. Ask about support services like tutoring, counseling, after school programs, etc.
5. Meet with your child's teacher regularly.
6. Give your input on what you think is best for your child.
7. Notify the school when moving.
8. When leaving a school, get current school records, such as immunizations, check out grades, IEPs, etc. 9.

Contact the new district's homeless liaison for help in enrolling in the new school.

### **Rio School District STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT**

**Use of Rio School District technology is intended to support your academic success. You must read and agree to follow the network rules below to use your network account.**

**\*Please sign the mandatory information request form if you agree with the following:**

(The request form will be located with the other documents you will receive on the first day of school).

The Rio School District hereinafter referred to as Rio, has a strong commitment to providing a quality educational curriculum for its students, including access to and experience with technology. Rio's goals for technology in education include promoting educational excellence in schools by facilitating collaboration, innovation, and communication, providing appropriate access to all students, supporting critical and creative thinking, fully integrating technology into the daily curriculum, and preparing students and educators to meet the challenges of a highly technological and information-rich classroom and workplace.

Rio recognizes that curricular technology can enhance student achievement. Rio provides a wide range of technological resources, including Internet access, to its students for the purpose of advancing the educational mission of the district.

Students waive any right to privacy or confidentiality to material that was accessed, created, sent or stored using Rio technology or a Rio provided network account.

Rio provides students with access to technology and the Internet. Through the Internet, students may have access to applications, databases, web sites, and email. Students are expected to use the technology and the Internet responsibly for school related purposes.

In compliance with California legislation, E-Rate, and the Children's Internet Protection Act, Rio addresses the appropriate and ethical use of information technology in the classroom so that students and teachers can distinguish lawful from unlawful uses of copyrighted works, including the following topics: the concept and purpose of both copyright and fair use; distinguishing lawful from unlawful downloading and peer-to-peer file sharing; and avoiding plagiarism and provides for the education of minors about Internet safety, including appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness and response, and protect online privacy and avoid online predators.

Students are expected and will be held accountable to follow current legal regulations and the rules set forth in this policy and the student disciplinary code. Board Policies and Administrative Regulations will govern all violations of this policy. For clarification of other related student policies and consequences including suspension or expulsion that may result from misuse, please refer to your student handbook.

**Student and Parents - Please review the agreement below.**

As a condition of the right to use Rio School District technology services, students understand and agree with the following:

***I will use technology resources responsibly:***

- I will use the Internet and other technology resources for academic activities.
- I will store only educationally appropriate materials.
- I will not use Rio technology for commercial purposes or to offer or provide products or services through Rio technology.
- I will not use technology resources to violate Rio policies, federal and/or state laws.
- I will not intentionally access and/or store inappropriate information, including, but not limited to the following:
  - material that is obscene;
  - child pornography;
  - material that depicts, or describes in an offensive way, violence, nudity, sex, death, or bodily functions;
  - material that has been designated as for adults only;
  - material that promotes or advocates illegal activities;
  - material that promotes the use of alcohol or tobacco, school cheating, or weapons;
  - material that advocates participation in hate groups or other potentially dangerous groups.
  
- I will not participate in unacceptable behaviors including but not limited to:
  - personal attacks, harassment or bullying another person;
  - creation and transmission of offensive, obscene, or indecent material;
  - creation of defamatory material; plagiarism; infringement of copyright laws, including software, published texts, and student work;
  - political advocacy and/or religious proselytizing;
  - transmission of commercial and/or advertising material;
  - creation and transmission of material which a recipient might consider disparaging, harassing, and/or abusive based on race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, and/or political beliefs.

***I will use technology resources safely:***

- I will not share my password with anyone.
- I will not give out my name, picture, address, e-mail, or any other personally identifying information online.
- I will only access social networking and collaborative web sites, blogs, or post to Internet sites as it relates to educational purposes.

***I will use technology resources respectfully:***

- I will not deliberately attempt to harm or destroy data on any system on the network or Internet.
- I will not damage equipment or inappropriately alter settings.
- I will not inappropriately alter any other users' files.
- I will not log in through another person's account or access another person's files.
- I will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the (insert district name/abbreviation here) network or to any other system using the (insert district name/abbreviation here) network.
- I will not go beyond my authorized access.
- I will not circumvent (i.e., use proxies) (insert district name/abbreviation here) Internet filters. • I will not disclose names, personal contact information, or any other private or personal information about other students.
- I will not use the (insert district name/abbreviation here) network to engage in any unlawful activity or to threaten the safety of any person.
- I will not use threatening, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory or disrespectful language. • I will neither transmit nor post information that could cause disruption to my school or any other organization.

***I will use technology resources in a manner that respects the intellectual property of others:***

- I will respect the rights of copyright owners in my use of materials.
- I will not install, store, or distribute unauthorized copyrighted software or materials.
- I will properly cite sources for material that is not my own.

***I understand that:***

- By accepting these terms and conditions, I waive any right to privacy or confidentiality to material created, sent, accessed, or stored using Rio technology or a Rio provided network account.
- Rio School District personnel have the right to review any material sent, emailed, accessed, or stored through Rio technology or a Rio provided network account.
- My use of the Internet will be monitored, as required by federal law. Rio's monitoring of Internet usage can reveal all activities I engage in using the Rio network.
- Rio personnel can remove any material that it believes may be unlawful, obscene, indecent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable.
- Rio does not promise that the functions of the Internet service will meet any specific requirements I may have, or that the Internet service will be error-free or uninterrupted.
- Rio administrators have the final say on what constitutes a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy. Violations include, but are not limited to, all bulleted points in this agreement.
- In the event there is a claim that I have violated this policy or the student disciplinary code in my use of Rio Network, I will be provided with notice and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the student disciplinary code. • Rio will not be responsible for any damage I may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data, interruptions of service, or exposure to inappropriate material or people.
- Rio will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through the system. Rio accepts no liability relative to information stored and/or retrieved by students on Rio-owned technology resources. • Rio will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the system. • My parents can be held financially responsible for any harm that may result from my intentional misuse of the system. • Although Rio will make a concerted effort to protect me from adverse consequences resulting from use of Rio technology resources, I must exercise individual vigilance and responsibility to avoid inappropriate and/or illegal activities. • Rio accepts no liability for student-owned technology resources used on Rio property.

**Title I School-Level Parental Involvement Policy**  
**RIO REAL SCHOOL GRADES 6-8**

Rio Real School has developed a written Title I parental involvement policy with input from Title I parents. Parents were surveyed about the needs and interests of families and students in order to meet the social/emotional and academic needs of our students. The plan was distributed during the monthly parent meetings of September and October and during the annual Title I meeting held in the fall. The policy is also included in the back to school packet sent home in September. This policy includes a description of how the Title I parental involvement requirements will be met [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(a)-(f) inclusive].

**To involve parents in the Title I program at Rio Real the following practices have been established:**

- The school convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. .
  - At the beginning of every year, we hold our annual Title I meeting, notifying parents through our monthly calendar and newsletter.
- The school offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening. ○ Various meetings are offered (PTA, SSC, ELAC, Title I, parent conferences, family night, back to school) in the morning, afternoon and evening.
- The school involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review\*, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the Title I parental involvement policy.\*\* ○ Parents are given the opportunity to provide input as to how we can improve our program and policy. We provide this opportunity at the following meetings: PTA, SSC, ELAC
- The school provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs.
  - Information is provided at our annual Title I meeting.
- The school provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. ○ Information is provided at our annual Title I meeting.
- If requested by parents of Title I students, the school provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
  - Parents are provided with parent rights at IEP meeting and reminded that they have the right to call a meeting at any time to discuss their child's education.
  - Parents are informed of this opportunity at back to school night and parent conferences.

\*\*This policy will be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(c)(3)]

**School-Parent Compact**

Rio Real distributes to parents of Title I students a school-parent compact. The compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students.



- The school’s responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction
- The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child’s class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities

○ As stated before, Parents are given the opportunity to provide input as to how we can improve our program and policy. We provide this opportunity at the following meetings: PTA, SSC, ELAC

### **Building Capacity for Involvement**

Rio Real engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school has established the following practices.

- The school provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding the State’s academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.
  - Teachers provide this information at back to school night
- The school provides Title I parents with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
  - Training opportunities and materials are provided at Principal Coffee as well as our annual family night

With the assistance of Title I parents, the school educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to work with parents as equal partners.

- Staff members are advised at SSC and ELAC meetings

The school coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. ● Parent meetings and training through the Office of Student and Family Services

The school provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents.

- If needed and when appropriate, translators and child care is provided for parents

### **Accessibility**

Rio Real provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand.

- All correspondence is sent home in English and Spanish. Electronic phone messages are delivered in English and Spanish

### **Rio School District Teacher-Student-Parent Agreement**

It is important that families and schools work together to help students achieve high academic standards. The following are agreed upon roles and responsibilities that we as partners will carry out to support student success in school and in life.

THE TEACHER PLEDGE: I understand the importance of the school experience to every student and my role as a teacher and

model. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- I will provide a safe, positive and healthy learning environment for your child.
- I will strive to be aware of the individual needs of your child and will work to maximize instructional time to achieve his/her educational potential.
- I will provide your child with instruction to develop language skills for academic success.
- I will ensure that appropriate skills and concepts are taught to maximize student performance.
- I will communicate class work and homework expectations clearly.
- I will assign homework to promote, enhance, and/or reinforce concepts previously taught.
- I will correct and return appropriate work in a timely manner.
- I will communicate with you regarding your child's progress on an ongoing basis (i.e., mid-term reports, phone calls, report cards)
- I will provide a description and explanation of the curriculum, academic assessments, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- I will involve parents/guardians in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I. • I will be available to discuss your child's progress by phone or by appointment.

THE STUDENT PLEDGE: I realize that my education is important to me. It helps me to develop tools I need to become a happy and productive person. I also understand my parent(s) or guardian wants to help me do my best in school. I know I am the one responsible for my own success, and that I must work hard to achieve it. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- I will attend school each day, staying out only when I am sick.
- I will arrive at school on time and ready to work.
- I will return completed homework on time.
- I will share work, school information, and notes with my parent(s) or guardian and return them to school, when requested.
- I will be responsible for my own behavior.
- I will be a cooperative learner, allowing the teacher to teach and the other students to learn.
- I am responsible for seeking help in an appropriate time and manner when I need it.

THE PARENT PLEDGE: I realize that my child's school years are very important, and I understand that my participation in my child's education will help his or her achievement and attitude. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- I will ensure that my child attends school each day unless he/she is ill.
- I will see to it that my child arrives at school on time.
- I will notify the school when my child is absent and state the reason for the absence.
- I will make sure my child gets an adequate night's sleep and has a healthy diet at home and at school. • I will support our school's/district's attendance, discipline, and homework policies.
- I will monitor my child's progress in school regularly.
- I will provide an appropriate place for my child to study.
- I will encourage my child to complete his/her homework.
- I will attend Back to School Night, parent conferences, Literacy Night, Family Math Night, Multicultural Festival and other school activities.
- I will limit any activities that interfere with my child's learning.
- I will be sure that the school has my child's completed and updated Emergency Card.
- I will schedule my child's personal, medical and dental appointments after school hours when possible.