



Cheerleader Guidelines

High School

Richardson Independent School District

2009-2010

RISD HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER GUIDELINES

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RISD HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER GUIDELINES

Cheerleading is a stand-alone extra-curricular activity. The cheerleader guidelines are unique to team members. The guidelines provide a necessary framework to aid in developing a successful cheerleading squad.

PHILOSOPHY

The primary purpose of cheerleading is to create enthusiasm and support for the district's athletic teams. The goal of instructional and performance activities is to enhance each individual member's skills and development, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each team member must be aware of the time commitment and individual dedication required to achieve personal improvement and effective teamwork through responsibility and discipline. Cheerleaders will demonstrate good citizenship, moral standards, and assume responsibility for developing school spirit.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cheerleading for 10th – 12th grade is a course offered during the school day for which physical education credit is granted as stipulated in the Richardson Independent School District's Program of Studies and Course Descriptions.

To ensure the district guidelines are reviewed and updated as needed, the Director of Student Services will arrange a required annual meeting with campus sponsors.

ELIGIBILITY - TRYOUTS

A student must fulfill the requirement of trying out in person in front of the judges in order to be a cheerleader candidate. To be eligible for tryouts, a cheerleader candidate must be enrolled as a student in the Richardson Independent School District. Any student who was not enrolled and actually in attendance at the beginning of the school year at the RISD school where he or she desires to tryout must:

- **Otherwise meet the minimum eligibility criteria; and**

- **If a newly enrolled student, must be enrolled and in attendance in classes in the RISD school fifteen (15) calendar days *prior* to the tryout.**

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Students must have passed all subjects* with a minimum grade of 70 the preceding six-week grading period in order to participate in **any** of the out-of-school workshops. Tryouts for students who have failed one or more courses are limited to **one-day** participation before the judges. If ineligible, the student cannot receive any outside help from the senior varsity cheerleaders or the sponsor.

**EXCEPTION:* Students who are enrolled in current year TEA UIL Advanced Courses identified for No-Pass, No-Play Exemption, including Pre-AP or AP courses, and make a grade below 70 in any of these classes are exempt from this eligibility ruling (see counselor).

INDIVIDUAL & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

- To be eligible as a candidate, a student must have a 90 average in Individual and Civic Responsibility.
- Individual and Civic Responsibility grades from all previous six-weeks for the current year will be averaged together.
- The following scale will be used: A = 95; B = 85; C = 75; F = 65

CREDITS

At the beginning of the school year, cheerleaders must have earned the designated number of credits in state-approved courses towards graduation at the scheduled time.

VARSITY

- A Varsity Cheerleader must have earned the designated number of credits in state-approved courses towards graduation at the scheduled time: 11th grade - at least 10.0 credits; 12th grade - at least 15.0 credits

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JUNIOR VARSITY

- A Junior Varsity Cheerleader must have earned the designated number of credits in state-approved courses towards graduation at the scheduled time: 10th grade - at least 5.0 credits.

Failure to meet the required number of credits will result in automatic dismissal from the team.

PERMISSION SLIPS & MEDICAL RELEASE

All candidates must complete and turn in required permission slips, including a medical release form, prior to participation in any tryout activities.

ORIENTATION MEETING

All candidates must attend scheduled orientation meetings accompanied by a parent/guardian prior to the beginning of the tryout workshops or they will not be allowed to try out or the upcoming school year. All candidates will be advised in writing of requirements, duties, responsibilities and consequences of rules violations prior to tryouts.

All parents and students will have an opportunity to discuss concerns and questions with the sponsor and/or principal prior to the parent and student signing the agreement form indicating understanding and willingness to comply with all applicable rules as a condition of participation.

VARSITY MASCOT

Eligible varsity candidates who wish to tryout for mascot must meet all eligibility requirements for varsity cheerleader, and must comply with the cheerleading guidelines.

TRYOUT PROCESS

- Varsity Cheerleaders must enroll in a cheerleading course offered during the fall and spring semesters, for which a grade and physical education credit is granted. The obligation is for the entire school year.
- Workshops and election dates will be scheduled by the school.
- Each student wishing to try out for cheerleader or varsity mascot MUST attend an orientation session, accompanied by a parent (or adult

representative in unusual, PRE-ARRANGED circumstances)

- Tryout process cannot exceed three days of out-of-school activities, excluding the judging.
- Eligible Magnet Students and/or 9th - 12th grade candidates for cheerleader must try out in person in front of the judges only.
- A student may participate in the cheerleading/varsity mascot tryout process at only one RISD school per year.
- Tryout workshops and judging are closed to observers. Cheer sponsors, out-going seniors, and school administrators may be present.
- No video taping of the material is allowed during the workshops.
- Required tryout attire will be determined by each individual school.

JUDGES

- Three qualified cheerleader judges from recognized associations will score the performance of candidates for high school cheerleader and varsity mascot.
- An effort will be made to secure impartial judges who are not acquainted with any candidate. Individuals who have attended any RISD high school during the four years prior to the school year in which tryouts take place may not be used as judges.
- Immediately after scoring, the judges' score sheets will be turned over to a school administrator who will maintain the scores for the remainder of the school year.
- If unusually large discrepancies exist between one judge's scores and the other two judges' scores, the administrator monitoring the tryouts shall request a callback to rescore the candidates.
- The judges will not view and evaluate a previously taped performance of an injured candidate; all candidates will be evaluated based on their performance in front of the judges on the specified day.

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SCORING

- Based on a 5-point scale, candidates will be judged in the following categories:
 - Appearance
 - Spirit and Enthusiasm
 - Motion Technique
 - Voice and Projection
 - Jumps
 - Dance (10th-12th grade only)
 - Tumbling
- The administrator will total the judges' scores and rank the cheerleader candidates from the highest total to the lowest.
- The top fifteen (15) scores for each respective grade will determine the freshman, junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders.
- If two or more candidates for cheerleader have the same judge's score for the last available position, a tiebreak procedure will be followed. Callbacks will continue until the tie is resolved.

A candidate's scores and score sheets will be made available to the candidate's parent or legal guardian upon request the week following the tryout announcements.

SELECTION OF HEAD CHEERLEADERS

Head cheerleaders will be determined by each individual school.

MAGNET STUDENTS

A student accepted into the magnet at Richardson High School who completes the tryout procedure and makes the team must commit to attending Richardson High School. Failure to commit or a decision to return to the home school will result in a forfeiture of rights to participate in cheerleading at the home school for the remainder of the school year. A student may participate in the cheerleading tryout process at only one RISD school per year.

VACANCIES

Any cheerleader team vacancies that occur on or after the first day of school will not be filled.

APPOINTMENT PERIOD

A cheerleader or varsity mascot who is selected during tryouts will serve from the date of selection to the end of the following school year.

SAFETY & CONDITIONING

All team members must complete and pass an annual physical examination and the record must be on file with the cheerleader sponsor before the cheerleader can participate in any cheerleading activities.

Safe practices and adequate conditioning are of paramount importance for each cheerleading squad, and are vital to efficient athletic performance. Warming up with stretching and flexibility exercises is required for cheerleading and important in reducing injuries. Students with injuries are encouraged to seek proper medical attention. No student will knowingly be subjected to any unsafe situation.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING PROGRAM

Each school will develop a strength and conditioning program designed to enhance performance and minimize injuries. All cheerleaders will be required to participate in these activities. The plan will include the following:

- Running (reasonable distance)
- Sit-ups / Pushups
- Strength Training
- Stretching and Flexibility

Students also will receive information outlining healthy nutritional practices.

INJURIES

- RISD will work in partnership with the parents, physicians, and trainers to address injuries as they occur.
- RISD will encourage our students to receive appropriate medical attention when an injury is reported.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Official summer practice may begin no earlier than three weeks prior to the opening day of school. The amount of time spent in summer practice shall not exceed a total of forty-five hours in any one-week period (Monday through Saturday), and no more than six hours in any one day. There will be no Sunday practices.
- At a minimum, there must be a period of six continuous weeks each summer during which practices are not allowed. During that six-week period, the school, sponsor, coach, or students cannot organize any formal or informal practice.
- The sponsor or a qualified adult designated by the sponsor will supervise all required cheerleading practices. At no time may cheerleaders be left unsupervised during a scheduled practice.

SUMMER CHEERLEADING CAMP

Summer cheerleading camp is optional and is not an RISD-sponsored event. Attendance and participation is solely at the discretion of the individual and his/her parent(s). Cheerleaders who do attend such camps must comply with any rules and procedures of the specific camp, the RISD cheerleader guidelines, as well as the RISD code of conduct. RISD expects that any student who represents the district will conduct himself/herself in an exemplary fashion at all times.

PRACTICES

- The principal must approve official practice times.
- Cheerleaders must attend practice sessions as instructed by the sponsor.
- Practice time will be limited to a total of eight hours per school week outside the school day. The school week is defined as beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of the calendar week and ending at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.
- Morning workout or practice for cheerleaders can start no earlier than two hours before school and cannot exceed the eight-hour rule during the school week, regardless of the start time.

- All practices or workouts should be held to a maximum of 2 ½ hours of work time.
- No more than two workouts per day, including class time, are permitted.
- There will be no Sunday practices.
- A maximum total of 20 hours per week participation in contests and/or practices, including Saturday, will be permitted.
- All required practices will be supervised by the cheerleader sponsor or an authorized adult designated by the cheerleader sponsor. At no time may cheerleader members be left unsupervised during a scheduled practice.

PERFORMANCES

- Each school's 9th grade squad will follow an A/B rotation schedule to cheer at freshman sporting events.
- Cheerleaders may not lead cheers at any activity unless the sponsor or an appropriate school official is designated to oversee the activity.
- All routines must be approved by the sponsor and in compliance with district and safety guidelines. The total performance time for each routine is limited to 2 ½ minutes.
- No student may lead cheers more than one night during the school week, with exceptions for tournaments and play-off games. The school week is defined as beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of the calendar week and ending at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.

TRANSPORTATION

The school district will not provide transportation for cheerleaders to performances, practices, or special events.

ATTENDANCE

A student who is not present for any required activity outside the regular school day, such as games and practices, is considered absent.

- Excused absences are defined as absences due to personal illness, for religious holidays, death or serious illness in the family, or other absence

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excused at the discretion of the sponsor or principal.

- To participate in evening performances, a student must have attended three class periods the day of the performance unless excused in advance by the sponsor or principal. School or personal conflict should be communicated 5 days prior to the sponsor.

CHEERLEADING COURSE GRADING – (10TH – 12TH GRADE)

PARTICIPATION - 25%

ATTENDANCE

A student who is not present for any required activity outside the regular school day, such as games, practices, clinics/coaching, assigned performances, is considered absent. Excused absences are defined as absences due to personal illness, religious holidays, death or serious illness in the family, or other absences excused at the discretion of the sponsor or principal.

Absences from cheerleading caused by conflicts with other school activities will be excused at the discretion of the sponsor or principal.

Only one unexcused activity absence per cheerleading year is allowed. Upon the second unexcused absence, the student will receive written notice of three-week probation. A student will be removed from the squad upon the third unexcused absence in a semester.

Cheerleaders or varsity mascots who miss practices for pep rally or half time (whether excused or unexcused) will not be permitted to perform in the specific routine.

- unexcused practice absences - 15 point deduction
- unexcused performance absences - 25 point deduction

TARDY & EARLY DEPARTURE

A tardy is defined as arriving 1 minute after the time stated by the sponsor or coach.

Tardy to regular cheer class period will be covered under school policy.

- tardy to practice = 15 point deduction
- unexcused early departure from cheer activity/performance/practice = 15 point deduction
- tardy to cheer activity/performance (the time assigned by the sponsor for pre-activity or half time preparations) = 15 point deduction
- any arrival after half time will be considered an unexcused absence.

SKILLS – 25%

KNOWLEDGE OF MATERIAL

Chants, cheers, dances and pep rally routines will be evaluated through observation and quizzes.

MOTION, JUMPS, TUMBLING, STUNT TECHNIQUE

Skills will be evaluated through observation and quizzes.

KNOWLEDGE OF INDIVIDUAL & SQUAD ACTIVITIES - 25%

RESPONSIBILITY FULFILLMENT

- Cheerleaders or varsity mascot must meet all deadlines for turning in uniforms, equipment, paperwork, money, etc. -10 point deduction per day
- Cheerleaders and varsity mascot will volunteer or be assigned to certain tasks by the sponsor or heads, such as painting, hanging signs, finding props or music, enlisting student participants, decorating locker room, etc. -10 point deduction for neglecting the task assigned/volunteered
- Cheerleaders and varsity mascot are responsible for bringing and taking back their assigned equipment from each activity - 10 point deduction for neglecting this responsibility

PHYSICAL FITNESS 25%

Cheerleaders are required to participate in conditioning activities assigned by the sponsor and/or coach - 10 point deduction for refusal to participate without parent/doctor corroboration.

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CITIZENSHIP

A cheerleader or varsity mascot who is assigned a three-week probation for conduct (not academics) will receive a citizenship grade no higher than a C for that six-week period.

DEMERITS

ASSIGNING DEMERITS

- Only the cheerleading sponsor and the coach will assign demerits.
- Demerits are cumulative (entire cheerleading year)
- Upon receiving the 10th demerit the cheerleader/varsity mascot will be placed on a three-week probation

DEMERIT LIST

Talking when learning routines or when a sponsor or coach is giving directions.	1
Incomplete uniform (bow, shell, bottom, tights, socks, etc.)	1
Removal of any part of the uniform without permission.	1
Chewing gum	1
Wearing jewelry (Including body jewelry & spacers)	1
Misuse of supplies and not cleaning up after painting or decorating activity	1
Not wearing hair specified by the sponsor	1
Not participating in pre-game warm-up or set-up	1
School or personal conflict not communicated 5 days prior to the sponsor	1
Inappropriate cell phone use (Ringing during practice, talking while at a game or in practice, etc.)	1
Insubordination or disrespect to the cheerleading sponsor, coach	3
Insubordination or disrespect to a captain	3
Public display of affection	3
Displaying poor sportsmanship towards opposing team/fans/cheerleaders	3
Conduct Unbecoming (inappropriate use of technology, vandalism, insubordination to teachers & staff members.	1 - 3 Sponsors Discretion

Additionally, the following demerits will apply to:

- Freshman cheerleaders the entire school year.
- All newly-elected team members from selection to the end of the spring semester.
- Any cheerleader not enrolled in a spring semester cheerleading course.

DEMERIT LIST

Late to practice	1
Late turning in money, uniforms, etc.	1
Not dressed out for practice	1
Leaving early from practice/game without permission	1
Leaving early from practice/game with a sponsor's permission but for an unexcused reason	2
Unexcused absence from practice	2
Unexcused absence from a game	3

MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY

CREDITS

At the beginning of the school year, cheerleaders must have earned the designated number of credits in state-approved courses towards graduation at the scheduled time: 10th grade – at least 5.0 credits; 11th grade – at least 10.0 credits; 12th grade – at least 15.0 credits. Failure to meet the required number of credits will result in automatic dismissal from the team.

GRADES

Cheerleaders must maintain a minimum grade average of 70 in all classes. Failure to do so will result in a three-week probation period.*

**EXCEPTION:* Students who are enrolled in current year TEA/UII Advanced Courses identified for No-Pass, No-Play exemption, including Pre-AP or AP courses, and make a grade below 70 in any of the these classes are exempt from this eligibility ruling (see counselor).

INDIVIDUAL & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

All students must maintain an Individual and Civic Responsibility grade average of 90 for the previous six-week grading period. Individual and Civic Responsibility grades in all courses will be averaged together (A = 95; B = 85; C = 75; F = 65).

If a member fails to meet the criteria listed above, please see “Probation” under “Conduct and Probationary Procedures” for more details.

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CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP

Each cheerleading team member is assured of a position only if he/she has continuous enrollment *during* the school year involved. In the event that enrollment has not been continuous, reinstatement and conditions of reinstatement are at the discretion of the sponsor and principal.

CONDUCT & PROBATIONARY PROCEDURES

Participation in cheerleading is a privilege. Certain standards are necessary to maintain the integrity and reputation of any organization. Cheerleading is a stand-alone extra-curricular activity. The cheerleader guidelines are unique to team members. Cheerleaders represent the school and the district at all times. Each member must conduct him or her self in an exemplary manner at all times, whether during school, at a performance, or during leisure and social activities. The behavior, character, and personal appearance of each member should set a positive example for others at all times.

Cheerleaders should never be seen smoking, drinking alcohol, using any kind of illegal drug or other illegal substance, or engaging in any unlawful or prohibited activity. Please refer to the *RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students: Alcohol & Illegal Drugs* for a detailed description of the consequences for alcohol & illegal drug activities.

Violations of the RISD Student Code of Conduct resulting in an assignment to in-school-suspension (ISS) will result in a probationary period. Violations of the RISD Student Code of Conduct (categories II or III) resulting in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program placement (Christa McAuliffe Learning Center) or expulsion will result in removal from the team.

PROBATION

In addition to the other events set out herein that may result in a probationary period, Cheerleaders and varsity mascot are subject to a three-week probationary period for the following:

- Receiving ISS/OSS for misconduct at school, (local school policy guidelines for students)
- Engaging in harassment or hazing (corroboration required)
- Using Foul or Offensive Language (profanities)
- Deliberately exposing one's anatomy to public view (mooning for example)
- Involved as a participant in a cheating incident
- Inappropriate pictures on the internet

Prior to a cheerleader being placed on probation or removed from the team, he or she will be notified in writing of the reasons for the action. A conference with the principal and sponsor will be offered to the parent and the student. The student will be given the opportunity to present his or her version of the events. A student or parent not satisfied with the outcome of the conference may contact the Director of Student Services.

REMOVAL

Cheerleaders and varsity mascots will be immediately removed from the squad for the following:

- Discovered engaging in sexual acts by a faculty or staff member on or off school property.
- Any arrest for illegal activity on or off school property.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

A cheerleader whose recorded six-weeks grade average is below 70 in any course*, subject to the No Pass – No Play rules, shall be given a seven-day grace period before being placed on probation (see example below). If a student's average is elevated to 70 or above during the grace period, the student will not be placed on probation.

The grade average of a student given academic probation shall be reviewed two weeks following the date on which the probation began (the third week of the six-week period). If the student is passing **all courses*** with a minimum grade of 70 on the last class day of the third week of the six-weeks period, the student may be reinstated effective at the end of the regular school day, seven calendar days later. Refer to the UIL / RISD Eligibility Calendar.

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***EXCEPTION:** This section does not apply to grades received in current year TEA/UIIL Advanced Courses identified for No-Pass, No-Play exemption, including Pre-AP or AP courses. (See counselor).

INDIVIDUAL & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Individual and Civic Responsibility grades in all courses will be averaged together (A = 95; B = 85; C = 75; F = 65). A cheerleader whose recorded Individual and Civic Responsibility average is below 90 shall be given a seven-day grace period before being placed on probation (see example below). If a student's average is elevated to 90 or above during the grace period, the student will not be placed on probation. Refer to the UIL / RISD Eligibility Calendar.

The Individual and Civic Responsibility average of a student given academic probation shall be reviewed two weeks following the date on which the probation began (the third week of the six weeks). If the student has an average of 90 or above in Individual and Civic Responsibility on the last class day of the third week of the six-weeks school period, the student may be reinstated effective at the end of the regular school day, seven calendar days later.

CONDITIONS OF ACADEMIC PROBATION

A cheerleader who is on probation for academic reasons will not be allowed to participate in any cheerleading performance during the probationary period.

While on academic probation, if a cheerleader attends the performance, he/she must sit with the sponsor until the cheerleading team is released, or otherwise dismissed by the sponsor.

He/she will not be allowed to wear the uniform to school the day of the game or to an activity.

During probation, the cheerleader must attend all practices as scheduled.

DROPPING A COURSE

Dropping a course with a grade below 70 **after the end of the fourth week into the course or at the end of a six-weeks grading period** will be considered a failing grade for eligibility purposes, thus causing the student to lose eligibility for the next six-week period.

Dropping an advanced course, which is exempted for No-Pass, No-Play does not cause loss of eligibility unless full-time enrollment status is affected. RISD policy requires secondary students to carry five state and local credit-bearing courses to maintain full-time status.

DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

A cheerleader will be placed on probation for violations of school and/or cheerleading constitution policies and procedures.

Conditions of Disciplinary Probation

- A cheerleader who is on probation for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in any cheerleading performance during the probationary period.
- While on disciplinary probation, a cheerleader is required to attend the performance and must sit with the sponsor until the cheerleading team is released.
- He/she will not be allowed to wear the uniform to school the day of the game or to an activity.
- During probation, the cheerleader must attend practice as scheduled.

REMOVAL

A cheerleader who receives a second failing grade in any subsequent six-week period will be removed from the team.

A cheerleader will be removed from the team upon receiving a second probation.

Cheerleaders who are removed from the team may try out the following year if they meet all eligibility requirements.

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FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

All anticipated expenditures for cheerleading will be discussed at the student/parent orientation meetings prior to tryouts.

REQUIRED EXPENDITURES

Required expenditures for cheerleading shall not exceed \$600 per cheerleading school year.

OPTIONAL EXPENDITURES

Expenses for trips, competitions, pictures, summer camp, and social events are considered optional, as students are not required to participate.

FUNDRAISING

Cheerleader organizations and/or their parents' booster groups may conduct fundraising events consistent with the RISD policies and guidelines. Funds may be used to pay for a recognition banquet for members, and to assist cheerleaders and/or the team to purchase additional items necessary for special events. *Policy References: FJ (Local) and GKB (Legal) RE: Fund-raising Activities.*

AWARDS, GIFTS & TREATS

- Cheerleader awards shall not exceed \$10 in value per year.
- If a student chooses to give gifts to other students or district employees, those gifts should only be an expression of appreciation, rather than a gift of significant monetary value. Expenditures by each student for gifts shall not exceed a total of \$25 per year (all gifts).
- Personal expenditures by students and parents for treats for athletes will not be allowed.

UNIFORMS

- Cheerleaders must wear uniforms as designated by the sponsor.
- The following items will be provided by the school district each year: two basic uniforms,

other miscellaneous supplies, and equipment. Personal items such as socks, tights, shoes and workout clothes will not be provided. All items issued by the school district must be returned in good condition with normal wear and tear expected.

- A record will be kept of all uniforms and equipment issued to cheerleaders. The cheerleader will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned, items with excessive abuse, and/or items that might be unusable or destroyed due to improper use.
- The school district will not provide uniforms for 9th grade cheerleaders.

TRIPS

Cheerleaders may schedule one approved trip each year. A trip is a special event that takes place outside of the Metroplex. Trips will not be mandatory for any member and will not affect his/her or her status in any way if he or she chooses not to participate in the trip. Any exception must be approved by the Director of Student Services and the Assistant Superintendent. *Policy References: FMG (Local) and FMG (R) (Local) RE: Travel Guidelines.*

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RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students: Alcohol & Illegal Drugs

RISD expects that all students, including students who participate in any Extracurricular Activities (Extracurricular Students) will conduct themselves at all times in an exemplary manner that brings honor to the District, their school, and themselves. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and is conditioned on the student's compliance with all rules and regulations of the activity and District policies and guidelines, including these guidelines. The use, possession, sale, or furnishing to others of alcohol or drugs of any kind is strictly prohibited (the Prohibition). Any student who violates the Prohibition is not in compliance with the rules of participation and will be subject to disciplinary measures, which could result in removal from the extracurricular activities in which the student participates.

These guidelines and statement of consequences apply to all extracurricular activities sponsored by the Richardson Independent School District and to all Extracurricular Students. The purpose of these guidelines is to deter and eliminate any use, possession, sale, or the furnishing to others of alcohol or other drugs, help students avoid drug and alcohol use, establish consistency in consequences across all activities for students who do not comply with the Prohibition, promote a high quality educational experience in all activities and assist RISD to maintain order and a safe learning environment, and to promote a high level of civic and individual responsibility among students.

Extracurricular students are subject to these guidelines at all times throughout the twelve month calendar year, whether the extracurricular activity is "in season" or inactive and on weekends and during school holidays. Refer also to Board Policy FO

(Local). Notwithstanding these guidelines, violations of the RISD Student Code of Conduct (categories II or III) resulting in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program placement (Christa McAuliffe Learning Center) will result in removal from all extracurricular participation for the remainder of the school year.

To ensure consistency among activities, these guidelines shall be used by all extracurricular groups. However, nothing in these guidelines prohibits an extracurricular activity sponsor from developing activity guidelines and rules to address topics other than alcohol or illegal drug activities.

The following definitions will apply to these guidelines:

- Leadership Position- a position or office an Extracurricular Student holds in an organization or group either by election or appointment. Such positions may include without limitation: captain, officer, squad leader, drum major, section chair.
- Parent- A student's biological or adoptive parent or parents, legal guardian, or other person in lawful control of the student.
- Prescription Drugs- A drug authorized by a licensed physician specifically for that student. A student who uses a prescription drug in a manner prescribed by the student's physician and who has followed school policies in such use shall not be considered to have violated this policy.
- Possession- To have an item in or on ones personal being or property, including without limitation, clothing, purse, backpack, private vehicle used for transportation to or from school or school-related events, or other property used by the student such as a desk, locker, or cubby-hole.

RISD HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER GUIDELINES

- Use (Substance)- Voluntarily introducing into one's body, by any means, a prohibited substance, recently enough that it is detectable by observation of the students physical appearance, actions, breath, speech, or by substance testing.
- Extracurricular Activities- School sponsored activities including but not limited to Dance & Drill Teams, Bell Guards, Cheerleaders, Spirit Groups, Sports, Fine Arts, Clubs, UIL governed Activities, Mock Trial, AC DEC, and other school sponsored student activities unique to a campus.

An Extracurricular Student violates the Prohibition if he or she:

- Receives an MIP (Minor in Possession), MIC (Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor), DWI (Driving While Intoxicated), DUI (Driving Under the Influence of an Illegal Substance), or other citation for the illegal use or possession of alcohol/drugs, or furnishing alcohol/drugs to another in a non-school setting;
- Is observed by a faculty or staff member using, possessing, or furnishing to another student any drugs, including alcohol, on or off school property (observation via internet site, video, still picture, or other media will be considered);
- Receives any citation for or is arrested for illegal alcohol/drug activity or substance on or off school property;
- Performs or participates in an extracurricular activity while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

An Extracurricular Student who receives an MIP, MIC, DUI, DWI, or other alcohol/drug citation shall promptly notify the activity sponsor. An Extracurricular Student who fails to do so may be subject to further disciplinary action once the activity sponsor or administrator learns of the offense. The consequences for violation of the Prohibition apply regardless of the disposition of any citation the student may receive.

Process: When an activity sponsor or campus administrator learns that an Extracurricular Student has violated the Prohibition, the sponsor or administrator will attempt to gather as much information as is available about the suspected violation and shall immediately communicate with the student and his/her parent to review the information. The sponsor or administrator will take reasonable steps to ensure the student and his/her parents are notified of the suspected violation of the Prohibition and to offer the student and his/her parent a meeting with the administrator and/or sponsor and give them an opportunity to provide information about the student's suspected actions. Parents and/or students who refuse to promptly meet with the sponsor or administrator forfeit their opportunity for a conference. The administrator or sponsor will notify the student and his/her parent in writing of the reasons for any consequences imposed.

A student or parent who is not satisfied with the outcome of the conference or the principal's decision may appeal the decision through the District's Student and Parent Complaint Policy (FNG (Local)), but the consequence will not be delayed during any appeal. Copies of the policy are available on the District's website or may be obtained from the school.

PROBATION: Last Chance Opportunity

All Extracurricular Students are expected to comply with these guidelines. An Extracurricular Student who does not do so is subject to disciplinary action. While some offenses may be so severe that they will result in immediate removal from the extracurricular activity, where appropriate, the District will consider allowing a student who violates the Prohibition to serve a last chance probationary period if the violation of the Prohibition is the first instance of the student's failure to comply with these guidelines.

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Probation: A student's first violation of the Prohibition will result in the Extracurricular Student's (i) removal for the remainder of the school year from all leadership positions he or she holds, including any such positions that the student might seek or be appointed to later in the school year; and (ii) removal from all extracurricular activities for 20 school days or UIL Competition dates. (See below*)

- The 20 school days or UIL Competition dates removal period start at the parent /student / principal conference. If the parent/student forfeits the conference, the principal will determine the start date;
- During the 20-day removal period, the student and the parent must attend and successfully complete the RISD alcohol / drug educational program. Students may be required to have follow-up sessions with the Intervention Specialist on campus. The student is responsible for all fees associated with the program. A student/parent must complete the educational program before the student will be reinstated after the removal period.
- Students may participate in practices for the extracurricular activities while on probation.
- *If an activity schedules competition or performance during the summer or on a school holiday (excluding weekends), any days on which the student's team or group actually competes or performs will be counted toward completion of the 20-day probation period.
- "UIL Competition Date" means a day on which the individual or group actually competes or performs in a UIL or Non-UIL sponsored activity when the school is represented.

An Extracurricular Student can receive only **one** probation period for violating the Prohibition during the students' 9-12 high school career.

Second Offense or Subsequent Offenses

A second offense or subsequent offenses will result in removal from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. Students will also be removed from all leadership positions for the remainder of the school year.

- If the infraction occurs and/or is discovered 60 or less days prior to the end of the school year, the student will be removed from all extracurricular activities and leadership positions for at least 60 school days or UIL Competition dates. The removal days may extend into the next school year.
- When a second or subsequent infraction occurs after the end of the school year, the consequence will go into effect at the parent or legal guardian /student/principal conference. The student will be removed from all extracurricular activities for the entire up-coming school year.
- If the parent or legal guardian /student forfeit the conference, the principal will determine the start date.
- During a period of removal, an Extracurricular Student may not wear his / her uniform, travel with the team or organization, or otherwise act as a representative of the team or organization.

An Extracurricular Student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities and to pursue future leadership positions after the second offense, if:

- It is the start of the school year and the student has "sat out" of all extracurricular activities for no less than 60 school days or UIL Competition days.

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2008-2009 Agreement Form

Student Statement:

My signature below certifies that I have read and understand the policies and procedures stated in these guidelines, including the RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students: Alcohol & Illegal Drugs. I agree to comply with all rules and regulations written in these guidelines and any additional rules adopted by my school as a condition of participation as a cheerleader or varsity mascot. I understand that my failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the team and/or all extracurricular activities.

Printed Name of Student

Student Signature

Date Signed

Parent Statement (for students under 18 years of age):

My signature below certifies that I have read and understand the policies and procedures stated in these guidelines, including the RISD District-Wide Guidelines for Extracurricular Students: Alcohol & Illegal Drugs. I understand that my child must comply with all rules and regulations written in these guidelines and any additional rules adopted by my child's school as a condition of participation as a cheerleader or mascot. I understand that his or her failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the team and/or all extracurricular activities. I understand that a component of the cheerleading practices and performances in which my child will participate involves tumbling and stunting. I further understand that injuries can occur during such activities.

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date Signed