

**ROCKETSHIP SOUTHSIDE  
COMMUNITY PREP**

**&**

**ROCKETSHIP  
TRANSFORMATION PREP**

Student/Parent Handbook  
2024-2025 School Year  
Wisconsin

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABOUT ROCKETSHIP</b>	<b>1</b>
OUR STORY .....	1
OUR MISSION .....	2
OUR MODEL .....	2
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	<b>3</b>
SCHOOL SITES .....	3
WEBSITE .....	3
<b>ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CALENDAR AND ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>4</b>
SCHOOL SCHEDULE .....	4
LAUNCH .....	4
OFFICE HOURS .....	4
ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY .....	5
COMMUNICATION .....	8
SCHOOL CANCELLATION, LATE START, AND EARLY DISMISSAL .....	8
<b>CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND SECURITY</b>	<b>8</b>
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES .....	8
STUDENT RELEASE .....	10
LATE PICK-UP .....	12
CAMPUS ACCESS AND VISITORS .....	13
ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE .....	18
FAMILY CUSTODY .....	18
STUDENT RECORDS .....	21
VOLUNTEERS AND CHAPERONES .....	21
FIELD TRIPS .....	22
SCHOOL MEALS .....	24
<b>ACADEMICS</b>	<b>25</b>
CURRICULUM .....	25
HOMEWORK .....	26
RETENTION, PROMOTION, AND ACCELERATION .....	26
TEACHER QUALIFICATION INFORMATION .....	26
<b>STUDENT SUPPORT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>27</b>
SPECIAL EDUCATION AND CHILD FIND ACTIVITIES .....	27
STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AND SECTION 504 .....	28

ENGLISH LEARNERS .....	28
STUDENT RECORD REQUESTS.....	28
OUTSIDE PROVIDERS.....	29
SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS .....	29
<b>BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE</b>	<b>30</b>
ROCKETEER CODE OF CONDUCT .....	30
COMMITMENT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY .....	30
BULLYING PREVENTION .....	34
STUDENT DISCIPLINE - GENERAL OVERVIEW .....	34
STUDENT DISCIPLINE - IN-SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.....	35
STUDENT DISCIPLINE - SUSPENSIONS, AND EXPULSIONS .....	36
LOST OR DAMAGED SCHOOL PROPERTY .....	44
STUDENT DRESS CODE.....	44
PERSONAL BELONGING .....	45
STUDENT CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL DEVICES.....	45
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	<b>46</b>
MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION.....	46
IMMUNIZATIONS.....	47
HEAD LICE.....	48
SAFETY PLANS.....	49
WEAPONS AND FIREARMS.....	51
DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO .....	51
CAMPUS SEARCHES AND SEIZURES .....	51
INTERNET SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE USE .....	52
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT .....	55
<b>PARENT INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>55</b>
ROCKETSHIP'S COMMITMENT .....	55
PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' COMMITMENT .....	56
PARENT PARTNERSHIP.....	56
HOME VISITS.....	57
PARENT OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS .....	57
<b>OPEN MEETING POLICY</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>NOTIFICATIONS OF RIGHTS AND ASSURANCES</b>	<b>58</b>
NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA (ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS).....	58
EDUCATION OF FOSTER YOUTH POLICY .....	62
EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY.....	64
SCHOOL MEALS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE.....	70

GENERAL COMPLAINT PROCESS .....	71
TITLE IX COMPLAINT PROCESS .....	73
TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT .....	74
SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT .....	76
ESSA PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW.....	77
COPPA.....	77

*Please note that Rocketship may enact additional, supplemental, or alternative policies or procedures to accommodate developing changes in circumstances and/or any public health related matter, to be separately distributed as needed. Families will be expected to comply with any such policies or procedures in the same manner as any policies and procedures contained in this handbook. The policies provided in this handbook are subject to ongoing review and board approval.*

## ABOUT ROCKETSHIP

Rocketship Southside Community Prep (“RSCP”) and Rocketship Transformation Prep (“RTP”) are part of Rocketship Public Schools (“Rocketship”), a network of public elementary charter schools serving students in neighborhoods where access to excellent schools is limited. We believe that truly transformative schools do more than educate students; they empower teachers, engage parents, and inspire communities. Rocketship strives to meet the unique needs of each and every student through a blend of traditional instruction, adaptive technology, targeted tutoring, and enrichment opportunities. Together, we can eliminate the achievement gap in our lifetime.

## OUR STORY

In 1999, Father Mateo Sheedy, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, created the Juan Diego Scholarship for Santa Clara University. He was surprised to discover that, of the hundreds of children in his parish, none of them met the basic academic requirements that would qualify them to attend their hometown college or any other top-tier university.

Father Mateo Sheedy reached out to his community and started creating a plan to improve high-quality educational options in Washington Guadalupe, a neighborhood within greater San Jose.

Unfortunately, Father Mateo Sheedy passed away but his legacy continues to live on. In 2006, parishioners approached Preston Smith, a high-achieving principal at a promising public elementary school in San Jose, to continue to build on Father Sheedy’s vision to create a K-12 education pipeline for children in low-income neighborhoods. Several public and private schools had already formed a strong 6-12 pipeline, but a high-quality K-5 option in the neighborhood was still missing, so Preston focused on developing a new elementary school model. Preston was a young principal at a promising elementary school in San Jose who recognized the impact that empowered teachers and engaged parents could have on student success.

Rocketship Mateo Sheedy Elementary opened soon after and students quickly showed strong results in academic achievement. As more families joined the waiting list, we realized the need for even more high-quality schools in the San Jose community, and beyond. Parent demand and parent organizing has played a strong role in opening new Rocketship schools all across the country.

Today, Rocketship Education is a non-profit organization operating Rocketship and it is governed by a Board of Directors. There are related, regional Rocketship nonprofits in four other areas of the country including Wisconsin, Tennessee, the District of Columbia and Texas. Altogether the Rocketship nonprofits operate thirteen (13) Rocketship schools in California, including San Jose, Redwood City, Antioch, and

Concord; three (3) in Nashville, TN; two (2) in Milwaukee, WI; three (3) in Washington, DC; and two (2) in Fort Worth, TX.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission at Rocketship is to eliminate the achievement gap by graduating all students at or above grade level in reading and math. All Rocketeers will learn to take initiative, be respectful, be responsible, show empathy, and be persistent in attaining excellence.

The purpose of schooling is for all students to learn to use their minds and hearts well. Students learn best in schools where they are known well, where expectations are high, support is strong, and where their voices and their parents' voices are valued. Rocketship strives to recognize all of these values and to ensure that the students are empowered to learn, lead, and be positive and productive members of their community.

At Rocketship, our goals include the following:

- Students will develop a deep love of learning.
- Rocketship will provide parents with a path for their children to take in order to have the best chance to attend a four-year college.
- Rocketship will encourage our alumni to become leaders in their community.

## OUR MODEL

Our model is based on the following three core pillars:

1. **Excellent teachers and leaders create transformational schools.** Rocketship invests deeply in training and development to ensure teachers and leaders have a profound impact on students and communities.
2. **Every child has a unique set of needs.** Rocketship meets these needs by customizing each child's schedule with a combination of traditional instruction, technology and tutoring.
3. **Engaged parents are essential in eliminating the achievement gap.** Rocketship develops parent leaders in our schools and communities to become powerful advocates for their children.

Instructionally, Rocketship uses what is called an enhanced rotational school model where students rotate between literacy and integrated mathematics classrooms and a Learning Lab, which is a larger room with computers where students learn by using online programs in math and literacy, and also focus on key

technology literacy skills. Tutors are present in the Learning Lab to track students' online learning progress and work with small groups of students who are behind grade level. Students also have opportunities to engage with technology in their classrooms.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### SCHOOL SITES

#### **Rocketship Southside Community Prep**

3003 W Cleveland Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53215

Phone: (414) 455-3539

Fax: (414) 918-8999

Principal: Shannon Barraza

Office Manager: Natalie Castillo

Email: ncastillo@rsed.org

#### **Rocketship Transformation Prep**

5501 N 68th St, Milwaukee, WI 53218

Phone: (414) 501-1107

Fax: (414) 255-3013

Principal: Portia Hunter

Office Manager: Sidney Pollock

Email: spollock@rsed.org

*If your call is sent to voicemail, please leave a message and we will return your call.*

### WEBSITE

Rocketship's website is [www.rocketshipschools.org](http://www.rocketshipschools.org). Here, you can find general information about Rocketship, including our educational model, our management team, and other schools in our network. Here you can find the website for each Rocketship School which includes, but is not limited to school staff contact information; parent resources, including an electronic version of this Handbook; Rocketship's Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Policy, Title IX Complaint and Investigation Procedures; school calendars; and other informational materials about the school.

## ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Rocketship Southside Community Prep and Rocketship Transformation Prep are public charter schools. Charter schools run independently of the local school district, and must be approved by a local charter school authorizer to open.

Charter schools are public schools that are tuition-free and open to any student who wishes to attend. They allow parents, organizations, and communities to restore, reinvent, and re-energize our public school system.

Rocketship will not administer any test or assessment to students prior to acceptance and enrollment into Rocketship. Rocketship will not limit enrollment on the basis of a student's race, color, religion, national origin, language spoken, intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or status as a student with special needs.

## CALENDAR AND ATTENDANCE

### SCHOOL SCHEDULE

School Day Schedule (Monday-Friday): 8:00 am - 3:25 pm

### LAUNCH

Each Rocketship campus begins the school day with Launch, which is a period of time for the whole school to come together and talk about a school-wide focus. During Launch, the school may also promote a particular successful student habit, teach a new school management system, discuss progress toward achievement goals, and foster school culture and pride. The whole school, including the staff, may also learn a song or a dance together or celebrate a particular student or classroom's recent accomplishment.

### OFFICE HOURS

Our front office staff is excited to offer assistance to our community. We encourage families to call or email our team with all requests and concerns.

Front Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30am - 3:00pm, 4:00-4:30

Front Office is closed daily from 3:00-4:00 pm to support a safe dismissal process

Email requests:

RSCP: [ncastillo@rsed.org](mailto:ncastillo@rsed.org)



RTP: jkordich@rsed.org

Please allow 3 business days for all requests.

## ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY

Rocketship deeply values the presence and participation of all students within our school community. If a student regularly misses school or is late, they will miss out on meaningful learning experiences and can fall behind. Rocketship makes every effort to partner with families to ensure that students are on time and present every school day.

### **Excused and Unexcused Absences and Tardies**

All students are expected to be on time and present in school every day.

A student must be present for a minimum of one hour in any one-half day to be considered in attendance for that half day. Students will be marked tardy if arriving after the start of the school day, but are still in attendance if they are present for a minimum of one hour per half day (determined by dividing the total student day into two equal halves). Students who are late and present for less than one hour of the half day will be marked as an unexcused absence until an acceptable excuse is provided, as discussed below.

#### Excused Absences

Proper notification and/or documentation is required for a student's absence or tardy to be marked as excused on the student's attendance record.

An absence may be excused by the Principal when the school receives a report of the absence from the parent/guardian either in writing; via electronic format (transcribed telephone calls, voicemail, email or fax); or by any other method of personal contact of which a written record is kept by the school. The statement must be presented within 48 hours after the student's return to school, or the absence may be considered a truancy.

In Wisconsin, the following absences will be considered excused with proper documentation:

- Personal illness
- Funerals
- Required legal appearances
- Designated religious holidays
- Medical or dental appointments
- Family emergencies
- Educationally beneficial activities approved by the Principal
- School suspensions up to 15 days

Under Wis. Stat. 118.15(3)(c), parents/guardians may excuse a student's absence from school for any reason by submitting written notification prior to the student's absence from school for up to 10 days per year.

If a student is excused because they are temporarily not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school, the Principal may request that the parent/guardian obtain a written statement from a licensed physician as sufficient proof of the student's condition. The statement must state the time period for which it is valid, not to exceed 30 days.

#### Unexcused Absences

The Principal, in consultation with their supervisor, when necessary, has the discretion to determine whether an absence has been properly noticed and whether it should therefore be excused or unexcused.

#### Notifying Parents of Unexcused Absences

Rocketship will make reasonable and diligent attempts to make personal contact with a student's parent/guardian on the same day and each time a student has an unexcused absence, with daily follow-ups as necessary.

#### **Leaving School During the Day**

We expect that parents/guardians will make every effort to schedule appointments after school. However, if an appointment during the school day is unavoidable, the student must bring a signed note from their parent/guardian at the beginning of the day that includes the reason for the partial absence, the time of departure from school, and the estimated time of the student's return to school. If the student has a doctor's appointment, the student must bring a note from the doctor upon return. Whenever possible, students are expected to return to school after the appointment.

Early departures for reasons that do not directly involve the student (i.e., appointment for another family member) are generally not excused but may be excused at the discretion of the Principal.

Students who become ill at school must check in at the office and remain at school until the child's parent/guardian arrives or gives permission for the student to leave campus in accordance with Rocketship's Student Release Policy. Under no circumstances may a student go home without the permission of a parent or guardian.

To support safe and efficient operations at the school, families are asked to participate in the regular dismissal process. Absent an immediate emergency, students will not be released within 10 minutes of the school's regularly-scheduled dismissal time.

#### **Vacations**

Rocketship builds vacations into its school calendar. Whenever possible, family vacations should be planned around these dates. Students who are absent for additional vacation time may only be excused if

prior written notice is provided and the absences will not result in more than ten (10) absences for the year. Otherwise, the absences will not be excused and the student will not be assured make-up work.

**Recurrent Late Arrivals**

Recurrent late arrivals may subject families to interventions. After a student accumulates five late arrivals (excused or unexcused), the family will be asked to participate in an Attendance Expectations Meeting at the school. After a student accumulates ten late arrivals (excused or unexcused), the family will be asked to attend a meeting with a School Leader and to sign an attendance contract. The Principal has the discretion to waive the intervention requirement in rare cases, depending on the circumstances. If a parent/legal guardian does not show up or refuses to attend an attendance meeting when ample time has been provided, an intervention plan may still be enacted. A copy of the contract will be sent or delivered to the student's home on file.

**Truancy Procedures**

The chart below describes the procedures for responding to truancy in accordance with state law.

<p><b>Truant Student</b>  (any unexcused absence or tardy, under Wis. Stat. § 118.16(1)(c))</p>	<p>Within two school days of an unexcused absence or tardy, Rocketship will notify the parent/guardian of any student who has been truant of the student's truancy and direct the parent/guardian to return the student to school no later than the next school day or to provide a valid excuse for the absence. The notice may be made by personal contact or telephone call; if those attempts fail, notice may be made by certified mail.</p>
<p><b>Habitual Truant</b>  (five unexcused absences or tardies per school semester)</p>	<p>When a student becomes habitually truant, Rocketship will notify the parent/guardian through registered or certified mail, first-class mail and/or electronic communication. The notice must include a statement of the parent/guardian's legal responsibility under Wis. Stat. § 118/15(1)(a) to cause the student to attend school regularly; a statement that the parent/guardian may request curriculum modifications under Wis.Stat. §118.15(1)(d); and a request that the parent/guardian meets with school personnel within five days after the notice is sent; and a statement of the penalties under Wis.Stat.§118.15(5 that may be imposed on the parent/guardian for failure to comply. Under Wis. Stat. §118.16(2)(c)(3), the meeting can be extended by an additional five days if the parent/guardian requests.</p>

If a student accumulates 15 or more consecutive unexcused absences without notifying the school of the reason for the absence, and Rocketship is unable to get in touch with the student's parent/guardian after

reasonable and good faith efforts, Rocketship will drop the student from the school’s roster and their space will be given to a student on the waitlist.

**Process for Students Who Are Not in Attendance at the Beginning of the School Year**

If a student fails to show up to school during the entire first week of the instructional school year, and the family does not notify Rocketship in advance, the student may forfeit their seat at the school and be placed on the waitlist.

**COMMUNICATION**

This year, all Rocketship schools will be using a system called Parent Square to send messages to families. These messages may include information about upcoming school events, emergency notifications, attendance issues, or other things that the school feels are important for families to be aware of. The messages will be sent via text message, email, or phone calls using the contact information that you provide upon registration. Please contact your child’s school if you wish to opt out of receiving such communications.

**SCHOOL CANCELLATION, LATE START, AND EARLY DISMISSAL**

On rare occasions, Rocketship may decide to alter the regular schedule of the school day by closing school for a day, starting the school day late, or releasing students early at one or several campuses due to snow, rain, severe weather, natural disasters, or other emergency conditions. Rocketship recognizes that closing school or shortening the instructional day is disruptive for students, staff, and families and will only make this decision when it is necessary for the safety of our school community. Whenever possible, Rocketship will provide families and staff with advance notice of the decision or possible decision to shorten the instructional day or close school.

**CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND SECURITY**

**ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

**Transportation**

All parents/guardians are responsible for securing the transportation of their child to and from school. In addition, parents must provide contact information for any person authorized to pick up their student.

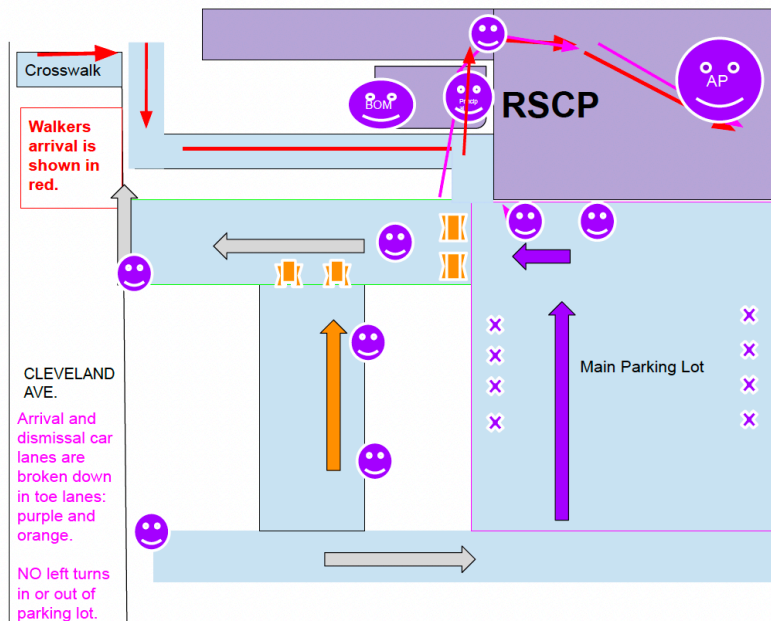
**Drop-Off/Pick Up**

Students may be dropped off as early as **7:15 am** at Rocketship Southside Community Prep and as early as 7:30 am at Rocketship Transformation Prep. Students may not be dropped off outside of the drop-off time period and without a Rocketship staff member present.

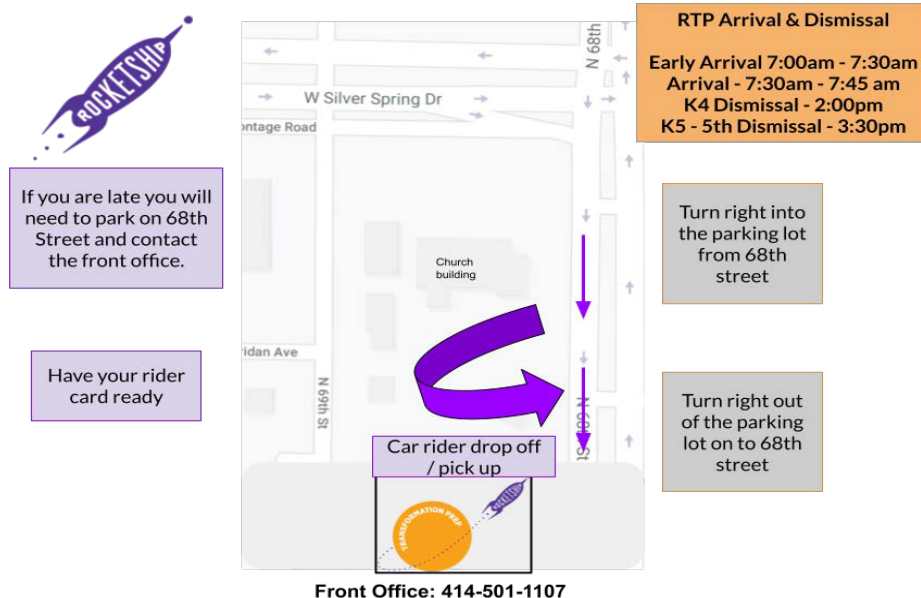
If your child is dropped off after 8:00 AM, you will need to park and walk your student to the front door and check in with the Office Manager. Your student will be marked late in our records if the student arrives after 8:10 AM and will receive a Late Slip from the Office Manager before heading to class.

If your child arrives 30 minutes after the start of school, your child will be marked tardy. If your child is marked tardy, you may be subject to disciplinary procedures for tardy students. Please see the Attendance and Truancy Policy in this document for more details.

### Rocketship Southside Community Prep



### Rocketship Transformation Prep



## Reminders to Parents/Guardians for Arrival and Dismissal

- Please remember to treat all other Rocketship families, students, and staff members with courtesy and respect at all times. Do not take any actions that may endanger the health or safety of anyone on campus. Disruptive, disrespectful and/or unsafe behavior during arrival and dismissal may result in parents/guardians losing privileges to be on the school campus.
- Do not conference with teachers or school leaders during arrival and dismissal time; make an appointment instead.
- Do not let your child out on the sidewalk outside or near our campus. YOU MUST enter our campus and let your child out in the designated drop-off zone.
- With very limited exceptions, animals are not allowed on campus during drop-off or pick-up. If you have an animal in your car, it must remain completely inside the vehicle at all times while on campus.
- Students may only exit cars on the passengers' side.
- Display your Rocketship Dismissal Card when picking up your child.
- Please remember to leave adequate space between cars to avoid collisions.
- DO NOT block driveways while waiting to enter the roundabout.
- If you need to park your vehicle, please only park in designated Rocketship Parking or in legally permissible public parking spots. Avoid parking in or obstructing any private residential or commercial properties.
- Please DO NOT talk or text on your phone during this time. We need to be able to communicate with you for the safety of the children.

## STUDENT RELEASE

Rocketship will make every effort to ensure that student dismissal proceeds in a safe manner when students leave school each day. At the beginning of the year, parents/guardians must:

- Ensure that they have accurately filled out their enrollment and registration forms entering all required information to PowerSchool regarding the adults who are parents, guardians, and who are authorized to pick up their students.
- Complete a Rocketship Dismissal Card that they must display.
- Present a government ID when picking up their child.
- Complete an Emergency Contact Card that includes the names of individuals to be contacted in case of an emergency if attempts to contact the parent/guardian fail.

If a parent/guardian or other authorized individual forgets to bring Rocketship Dismissal Card to dismissal, they will need to check-in with the front office and get a new card or a temporary pass.

### Rocketship Dismissal Card

At the beginning of the school year, parents/guardians are given a Rocketship Dismissal Card with the student's dismissal number. During dismissal, the child's parent/guardian (or other authorized individual) must present this card to school staff along with a current government ID to pick up the child. If you lose

your Rocketship Dismissal Card, authorized individuals will be required to know the student's dismissal number and show ID in the front office to obtain a temporary pickup pass.

### **Emergency Contact Cards**

At the beginning of the school year, parents/guardians shall complete and submit an Emergency Contact Card to be kept on file at the school. Parents/guardians will be asked to include the names of individuals to be contacted in case of an emergency if attempts to contact the parent/guardian fail. Any person listed as an Emergency Contact also will be considered to be authorized by the child's parent/guardian to regularly pick them up from school unless the parent/guardian indicates otherwise. At any time during the year, parents/guardians may request to update the Emergency Contact Card. Upon updating the Emergency Contact Card, all previous versions become void.

### **Authorizing Individuals to Pick Up a Child**

Parents/guardians may authorize Rocketship to release their child to other people by completing the Authorization to Pick Up section of the Emergency Contact Card.

Parents/guardians are asked to include the name, phone number and relationship to the child for each person they wish to allow their child to be released to. This section of the Authorization to Pick Up may be updated by the parent/guardian at any time by visiting the school front office. Rocketship staff may ask the authorized individuals for identification when they pick the child up from school.

Rocketship's general policy prohibits releasing students to minors. The only exception is that parents/guardians may authorize Rocketship to release their child to a relative who is a minor (between the ages of 14-18 years old) by completing the Authorization to Pick Up form and a Release to Minor waiver form. A duplicate Dismissal Card with printed authorization for the release to the minor relative must be printed for the minor relative, and the minor relative must bring this authorization each day they will pick up the Rocketeer. Proper identification will also be required.

Rocketship recognizes that there will be situations in which a person not listed on the Emergency Contact Card will need to pick the student up from school. In these rare instances, the parent/guardian should call the school to inform school staff that they authorize school staff to release the student to another person that day. If a person that is not listed on the Emergency Contact Card form comes to pick the student up and the school has not already been contacted by the parent/guardian, the school will need to speak to the parent/guardian by phone prior to releasing the student. In addition, whenever feasible, parents/guardians should provide the authorized person with a signed note indicating their desire to have the person pick the child up on the day in question.

### **Emergency Dismissal**

In case of an emergency dismissal, parents/guardians must wait for instructions from school leaders before coming to campus to pick up their child. School leaders will provide parents/guardians with updated

information on the dismissal process using the automated calling system. Parents/guardians should expect that the dismissal location and procedures could be different than on a regular day. Parents/guardians should be prepared to present photo identification when picking up a child after an emergency on campus.

### **Protection of Students**

Rocketship is responsible for protecting the health and safety of Rocketship students while the students are on Rocketship premises. If Rocketship has any reason to suspect that the health or safety of any Rocketship student would be endangered by releasing the student to an individual who is not a parent or guardian, even if that individual is authorized to pick up the student, Rocketship has the right to hold the student on campus and contact the parent/guardian or other valid emergency contact.

## **LATE PICK-UP**

Rocketship's goal is to dismiss our students safely, efficiently, and responsibly. We understand that occasional family emergencies may cause a child to be picked up late from school, but consistently failing to pick up students on time places undue burden on school staff, is costly to the school, and disruptive to our students' daily routines.

### **Notifying the School**

Parents/guardians are expected to make arrangements for their children to be picked up during their designated dismissal time every day. That said, we do understand that there may be unpredictable situations that could cause a parent/guardian to pick up a student late on a given day (i.e., car problems, traffic, issue at work). In these cases, we ask that a child's parent/guardian contact the school by phone to let the staff know that their child will be picked up late that day. The parent/guardian will still be required to complete a Late Pick-Up Incident Report when they come to pick up their child.

### **Late Pick-up**

If a student is left on campus after dismissal ends and the parent has not notified the school, school staff will attempt to call the student's parent/guardian. If the school cannot reach the parent/guardian they may also contact individuals listed on the student's Emergency Contact Card.

A parent/guardian (or otherwise authorized individual) who comes to pick up a student after the end of dismissal, will need to complete a Late Pick-Up Incident Report before leaving campus. These reports will be kept on file at the school as a record of why the student was picked up late on that day.

### **Extremely Late Pick-up**

If a student is still on campus more than an hour after the end of dismissal and staff members have not been able to contact the student's parent/guardian, Rocketship staff will contact, if they have not done so already, the individuals on the student's emergency contact card. If the staff are unable to make contact with the parent/guardian or individuals on the emergency contact card, the Principal or designee may



contact the local authorities (i.e. police or local child protective service agencies).The Principal or designee may release the child to an authorized individual from the local Child Protective Service Agency or the police department.

**Recurring, Frequent, and Chronic Late Pick-Up**

If a child is frequently picked up late, school staff will request a meeting with the parent/guardian to determine the cause and implement supportive interventions.

Rocketship will follow a tiered series of interventions for families who persistently pick up their child/children late, as described below:

<p><b>Late Pick-Up</b> (each occurrence)</p>	<p>The parent/guardian (or otherwise authorized individual) who picks up the child must complete a Late Pick-Up Incident Report before leaving campus</p>
<p><b>Recurring Late Pick-Up</b> (three occurrences)</p>	<p>Parent/guardian must attend a meeting with a School Leader to review Late Pick-Up Incident Reports and create a verbal agreement and plan to prevent late pick-ups in the future. The School Leader may refer the family to local counseling or truancy resources.</p>
<p><b>Frequent Late Pick-Up</b> (six occurrences)</p>	<p>A letter will be sent home to the student’s parent/guardian specifying the date, time, and location of a meeting with a school leader. The parent/guardian must attend a meeting with a School Leader and sign an agreement to pick up their child on time.</p>
<p><b>Chronic Late Pick-Up</b> (more than six occurrences)</p>	<p>Parent/guardian may become subject to an intervention workshop with school staff, including at least the Principal, Business Operations Manager, and Office Manager. In certain circumstances, Rocketship may also contact Child Protective Services, at the discretion of the Principal.</p>

The above referenced tiered series of interventions does not replace or delay any required reporting to the local child protective service agencies. In certain circumstances, Rocketship may also contact local child protective service agencies, at the discretion of the Principal or designee.

**CAMPUS ACCESS AND VISITORS**

Rocketship strives to create campuses that are welcoming to families, volunteers, and community members while maintaining a safe and secure environment for students and staff. “Campus” in this policy is defined

as the entire indoor and outdoor premises, including the school building(s), sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, playgrounds, and courtyards.

Rocketship prohibits the following items in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at off campus school-related or school sponsored activities, except for use by law enforcement and authorized personnel. This is not an all-inclusive list and Rocketship reserves the right to prohibit any items staff deems unsafe or otherwise inappropriate.

- Weapons, including but not limited to:
  - Firearms
  - Imitation firearms
  - Knives
  - Razor blades
  - Taser/Stun guns
  - Mace or Bear Spray
- Tobacco/Alcohol
- Illegal Drugs
- Fireworks or explosives
- Other items that may be determined dangerous by school staff

### **Campus Access Points and Visitor Registration Procedures**

Whenever students are in the building, the front office, and controlled access points to each Rocketship campus will be supervised by a Rocketship staff member. All doors leading into school buildings should remain closed and locked at all times and only opened by authorized staff members.

All visitors must use the main entrance to enter and exit the school building, except in cases of fire or emergency. Every visitor must adhere to the following visitor registration process.

Before being granted access to the school building, all visitors must report to the security desk and will be required to undergo an ID check, a registered sex offender check, and adhere to any other security measures (i.e., sign-in/sign-out sheets) that the school has implemented. The school will inform visitors of any specific follow-up that may be required for visitors who are not able to provide proper identification or who are flagged with a sex offender offense.

### **Visitation – General Guidelines**

- All visitors (including Rocketship regional and national staff members) must be registered and checked in via VisitU with their current government issued ID with the security guard

immediately upon entering any school building or grounds at any time that students are in the building. Schools will be required to provide a sign-in sheet for any event held on campus.

- If visitors are flagged with a sex offender offense, they will be denied entry and referred to school administrators. This will not prohibit an individual from picking up a student if that individual is listed as an allowed pick-up person. ***Any family member who is a registered sex offender and is designated to enter the school for pick up must notify the school of the family member's status and the specific dates and times the person will be visiting the school.***
- The Principal, or designee, may refuse to register a visitor if he or she has a reasonable basis for concluding that the visitor is in possession of a firearm; or the visitor's presence or acts would disrupt the school, its students, its teachers, or its other employees; would result in damage to property; or would result in the distribution or use of unlawful or controlled substance.
- Visitors in disguise or costume will not be allowed entrance onto campus without prior agreement with the school administration.
- After registering with the front office, visitors who are not Rocketship employees will be issued a VisitU badge that they must display at all times while on campus. Network Support staff must display their badge on their persons at all times while at a school site. If a Network Support staff member forgets their badge, they will need to register with VisitU and obtain a Visitor's Pass from the front office.
- All visitors must also sign out when leaving the campus.
- The Principal or designee may withdraw consent for an individual to be on campus, even if the visitor has a right to be on campus, whenever there is reasonable basis for concluding that the visitor presence on school grounds would interfere or is interfering with the peaceful conduct of the activities of the school, or would disrupt or is disrupting the school, its students, its teachers, or its other employees.
- The Principal or designee may request that a visitor who has failed to register, or whose registration privileges have been denied or revoked, promptly leave school grounds. When a visitor is directed to leave, the Principal or designee shall inform the visitor that if they reenter the school without following the posted requirements, law enforcement may be notified and they may be guilty of a misdemeanor.

### **Arranging for a Campus Visit**

All visits during school hours should be arranged with the teacher and Principal or designee in advance.

Rocketship welcomes family partners in our schools. Parents/guardians are welcome to participate in school sponsored activities by invitation. In addition, parents/guardians may meet with their student's teacher/other school staff and attend meetings related to their student(s) by appointment during non-instructional time. Rocketship reserves the right to limit classroom visits by parents/guardians to maintain the integrity of the instructional environment and support the developmental needs of all students.

Parent/Guardian requests for classroom observations should be arranged in advance and are approved at the Principal or designee's discretion. Observations for the purpose of special education or related services will be arranged in accordance with the policies in the Student Support and Special Education section of this handbook.

### **Visitor Conduct**

All visitors, regardless of their reason for being on campus, are expected to act in accordance with all Rocketship rules, policies, standards of conduct, and norms while on the school premises. During school visits, Rocketship expects all parents/guardians and other visitors to exclusively engage in activities directly related to the purpose of their visit. If a visitor is disruptive or displays threatening or inappropriate behavior towards any person when on the Rocketship campus, the school Principal or designee, at their discretion may:

- Request the visitor leave campus,
- Withdraw consent for the visitor to be on campus, and/or
- Call the local police department.

Examples of disruptive, threatening or inappropriate behavior can include, but are not limited to:

- Disturbing the school environment or operations in all spaces on the school campus.
- Compromising or threatening to compromise the health, safety, security, or welfare of students and/or staff.
- Using intimidation, profanity, or expressing threats towards staff, students or other members of the school community.
- Carrying a weapon on campus, even if licensed or authorized to carry.
- Inappropriately engaging with a student who is not their own child.
- Recording (i.e., video, audio, AI enabled notetaking of any sort) or photographing students, staff and school community members without their prior knowledge or consent.
- Refusing to comply with school policies.
- Failure to model and support Rocketship values and community norms

This policy also applies to conduct during virtual programming (i.e., virtual instruction, events, etc.). Individuals who appear at a virtual event with a Rocketship student and whose conduct violates this policy will receive consequences in accordance with Rocketship policies.

### **Loitering**

Visitors, including parents/guardians and children who are not students at the school, are not permitted to loiter on school grounds, including in the parking lot and outside school buildings. This applies to children

of staff members who attend a different school. The parking lot is only to be used for dropping off and picking up students, and for participating in official school business.

All visitors, including parents/guardians and students are expected to leave the campus once they've finished their business.

### **Refusal to Leave Campus**

Anyone who refuses to leave after being asked by the Principal or designee, or who enters the school campus (including the school building(s), sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, playgrounds, and courtyards) without proper authorization in accordance with the Visitor Registration Procedures, may become subject to the local criminal laws regarding trespass and unlawful entry.

Continued refusal to comply may lead to Rocketship withdrawing consent for the individual to be on campus. The Principal or designee may seek the assistance of the police in enforcing a request to leave any Rocketship campus or in pursuing any additional legal action.

### **Withdrawing Consent for Individuals to be on Campus**

Rocketship recognizes that situations could arise where it may become necessary to deny an individual access to a Rocketship campus. In such circumstances, the school Principal, or their supervisor(s) may issue a Withdrawal Notice. Withdrawal Notices will comply with any relevant state law requirements, but at a minimum will include:

- The name of the restricted individual.
- The school campus(es) from which the individual is restricted.
- The reasons for which the individual is being restricted.
- Date on which the restriction is removed.
- The name of the school Principal/designee issuing the notice/letter.

Throughout the entirety of a withdrawal period it is the responsibility of the restricted individual to follow the terms of the issued Withdrawal Notice. Rocketship reserves the right to seek legal enforcement of a Barring Notice.

It is the responsibility of the Principal, Business Operations Manager, Office Manager, and school security to:

- Enforce photo identification verification 100% of the time to ensure no restricted individuals enter the building.
- Document and maintain procedures for pick-up, drop-off and any documentation related to the Withdrawal Notice at the front desk.

- Contact the local police department in the event that an individual becomes confrontational or refuses to comply with school policies and protocols.

## ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

Electronic surveillance may be used at Rocketship campuses where deemed necessary by Rocketship administration. The use of electronic surveillance at our schools is solely for the purposes of controlling theft, ensuring the safety of Rocketship students and staff, and facilitating the identification of individuals who behave in a disruptive manner or commit a crime. Rocketship will abide by applicable laws regarding electronic recording. Electronic surveillance records are the property of Rocketship, and are not considered a student record. Rocketship's electronic surveillance records will not be provided to parents, guardians, or any other third-parties with the exception of law enforcement during an active emergency or critical situation, or in response to a valid subpoena or warrant.

Rocketship requests that other than during designated school events (such as school plays, graduation, and other events open to the Rocketship community) parents and other visitors to campus refrain from taking photographs and or making audio/video recording of students and staff without first obtaining written consent from the parent of the student. In the event that a parent or campus visitor does capture an image of a student, Rocketship requests that the individual refrain from posting any such image to a personal social media account. Such photography and audio recording are intrusive and may be in violation of state privacy laws.

## FAMILY CUSTODY

Rocketship will make best efforts to ensure compliance, on the part of school staff with legal custody arrangements.

For the purposes of this policy, Rocketship will adhere to the following definitions:

***Court Order.*** An order issued by a court following a judicial proceeding to determine the custody rights of the parties or entered as part of a judicial proceeding related to the enforcement or adjudication of custody rights of the parties. A court order will typically state the legal and/or physical custodial rights that the court has granted to each parent.

***Joint physical custody.*** Means that each of the parents shall have significant periods of physical custody. Joint physical custody shall be shared by the parents in such a way so as to assure a child of frequent and continuing contact with both parents.

**Sole physical custody.** Means that a child shall reside with and be under the supervision of one parent, subject to the power of the court to order visitation.

**Joint legal custody.** Means that both parents shall share the right and the responsibility to make the decisions relating to the health, education, and welfare of a child.

**Sole legal custody.** Means that one parent shall have the right and the responsibility to make the decisions relating to the health, education, and welfare of a child.

**Noncustodial parent.** Is a parent who does not have physical custody (joint nor sole) of the child, pursuant to a court order.

**Educational rights holder.** Means any one of the following:

- Natural (i.e. biological) Parent
- Legal Guardian
- Foster Parent
- Other court-appointed adult
- Any adult to whom educational rights are assigned via a signed, dated, and notarized assignment by an educational rights-holder (not court-appointed)

### **Custody Records**

Rocketship seeks to maintain accurate and updated custody records for all students. ***It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of a student to provide the Rocketship Office Manager with accurate and current court order and/or legally binding agreements involving the custody rights of their children.*** Updated Court Orders must be provided to the Office Manager as soon as possible. All documentation provided to the school will be kept confidential and will only be accessed by members of the staff when necessary.

In the absence of a valid, signed and dated court order indicating otherwise, Rocketship will assume that separated or divorced natural (i.e. biological) parents of a child have joint legal and physical custody of their child.

Step-parents, foster parents, guardians, court appointed caregivers, and non-court appointed advocates or caregivers who are not a natural parent must provide proof of legal guardianship, court order, or legally enforceable evidence of their rights before they can be permitted to make educationally-based decisions for a student.

### **Student Release**

Any parent or guardian who has Physical Custody of a child or retains specific custody rights granted via a Court Order that extends to after-school hours, may pick the student up from school as well as authorize

Rocketship to release the student to any other person; provided that, such arrangements are consistent with the terms of Rocketship policy and the Court Order.

Should the terms of a Court Order change during the course of the school year, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to provide the Office Manager with a copy of the most recent Court Order as soon as possible.

At any time, either parent/guardian that has Physical Custody has the ability to add individuals to the Authorization to Pick Up section of the Emergency Contact Card.

Rocketship will not deny a parent any of any of their parental rights without being provided a valid court order. If one parent does not wish to allow the other parent/guardian the right to remove the child from school or visit the child in school, Rocketship must be provided with a valid Court Order limiting the other parent's rights.

## **Rights of Non-Custodial Parents**

### Inspection of Records

All parents, regardless of custodial rights, have the right to inspect, though not make changes to, copies of their child's educational records, unless a Court Order specifically limits the parent's rights in this regard. Any inspection of records must be in accordance with Rocketship's FERPA Student Records policies as set forth in the Notification of Rights and Assurances.

### School Visitation

Parents without Physical Custody **may not** remove their children from class or visit them in school without the consent of the parent with the custodial rights or a Court Order. Rocketship does not facilitate court ordered visitation at school.

## **Rocketship's Neutrality in Custody Disputes**

It is the policy of Rocketship schools to remain impartial during custody disputes between family members of a Rocketship student. For this reason, Rocketship teachers, administrators, and school staff should refrain from taking any action which may be considered adverse to one parent or family member. These actions include, but are not limited to, writing letters of support for any adversarial proceeding, testifying in a custodial proceeding and serving any person with court documents.

Furthermore, Rocketship shall take steps to abide by court orders and/or legally binding agreements that are presented by parents/guardians. Rocketship shall not be responsible for, nor participate in, the monitoring or enforcement of any parental obligations or duties under a court order (i.e., sending a message to remind a parent of their designated pick-up days).



## STUDENT RECORDS

### **Viewing Student Records**

To view student records, parents/guardians must submit a written request to the school Principal/designee. The school will then schedule an appointment to provide the parent/guardian access to the records. Copies may be provided upon request.

### **Releasing Student Records to Third-Parties**

Third-parties are prohibited from accessing confidential student records absent current written consent from the student's parent/guardian, an applicable FERPA exception, or a valid court order. Signed consent from the student's parent/guardian must be dated within one year of the request to release student records.

For more information about federal and state laws regarding student privacy please see the Notification of Rights under FERPA (Access to Student Records) which is included in the Policies, Notifications of Rights, and Assurances section of this handbook.

## VOLUNTEERS AND CHAPERONES

Rocketship welcomes family and community partners in our schools. We are always grateful for volunteers and chaperones who can spend time assisting and chaperoning school-sponsored activities. In order to maintain a safe environment for all students, staff and our community, and comply with local laws, Rocketship conducts background checks on volunteers and chaperons as described below.

Volunteers and/or chaperones are expected to follow the directions of Rocketship staff while volunteering. Volunteers and chaperones are expected to follow all Rocketship policies and to conduct themselves as role models for our Rocketeers (including but not limited to using appropriate language, dressing appropriately for a student audience, respecting student privacy rights). Volunteers and/or chaperones who are either disruptive or violate Rocketship policies and expectations will be excluded from volunteering or chaperoning in the future.

Volunteers and chaperones must also sign the Volunteer Code of Conduct.

### **Mandatory Criminal Background Checks**

All prospective volunteers and/or chaperones who may interact with students in an unsupervised capacity and/or who will serve on a regular and ongoing basis for more than ten hours per week must undergo a criminal background check. This includes individuals who plan to volunteer in classrooms on a regular basis and individuals who wish to chaperone a field trip. All prospective volunteers and/or chaperones who may interact with students in an unsupervised capacity and/or who will serve on a regular and ongoing basis for

more than five hours per week must undergo a criminal background check. This includes individuals who plan to volunteer in classrooms on a regular basis and individuals who wish to chaperone a field trip. Any volunteer and/or chaperone that must undergo a criminal background check must do so through the Wisconsin Department of Justice that includes fingerprinting technology and a national criminal background check. Prospective volunteers who will have direct contact with children will not be allowed to begin volunteering in an unsupervised setting until the results of the criminal background check have been received by Rocketship and deemed to be satisfactory in accordance with this policy.

Individuals who will have only supervised contact with students are not required to undergo a full background check. For the purposes of this policy, “supervised” means under the direct supervision, at all times, of a Rocketship staff member.

### **Disqualification of Prospective and Current Volunteers and/or Chaperones**

Rocketship will review the results of completed background checks and make a decision as to whether to qualify an individual to serve as a volunteer or chaperone.

Among other reasons, individuals will be disqualified from volunteering or chaperoning if they have been convicted of a violent or serious felony as defined in state law or have been required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law. Rocketship reserves the right to disqualify current and/or prospective volunteers and/or chaperone in its reasonable discretion.

If a volunteer or chaperone is convicted of a disqualifying offense after the criminal history record check is conducted, the individual must notify Rocketship within seven days of the conviction.

### **Minor Volunteer Requirements**

Minor Volunteers CAN ONLY serve in supervised roles that do not allow them to be alone with or supervise Rocketship students. Minor Volunteers cannot chaperone or attend field trips. The Principal at the school where the Minor Volunteer wishes to volunteer has total discretion to accept or reject a prospective Minor Volunteer. Minor Volunteers will need to complete the following requirements:

- A Volunteer Application signed by the Minor Volunteer and the Minor Volunteer’s parent/guardian.
- A behavior contract (available from the Office Manager) signed by the Minor Volunteer, the Minor Volunteer’s parent/guardian, and the school leader at the school where the Minor Volunteer will be volunteering.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are off-campus excursions designed by Rocketship staff to supplement the curriculum and to provide enrichment experiences for students. We value these enrichment opportunities and strive to

ensure that these experiences are safe, organized, and efficient from beginning to end.

### **Permission Slips**

A student must submit a field trip permission slip signed by their parent or guardian to participate in a field trip.

The Principal, Assistant Principal, or designee overseeing the field trip will review field trip permission slips in advance to confirm that they follow the appropriate official template and are signed by the child's parent/guardian. Verbal permission for field trip participation is not permitted.

Only Rocketship students who have submitted a valid field trip permission slip will be allowed to attend the field trip. Teachers must bring along all permission slips during the trip and keep the permission slips on file after the conclusion of the field trip.

Rocketship will provide alternative educational activities to those students who choose not to attend a specific field trip or excursion. Parents/guardians will have advance notice of any upcoming field trip or excursion and have the option to withdraw their permission for their child to attend that field trip or excursion.

### **Chaperones**

Chaperones must be approved in advance per the Rocketship's Volunteer and Chaperone Policy. Chaperones may not bring along other children (i.e., siblings of students attending the field trip) without advance permission from the Principal. Chaperones may not bring other family members, friends, or pets on field trips.

### **Transportation**

All Rocketship staff members (teachers and/or School Leaders) and parent chaperones are expected to be present with students on all transportation provided for a field trip unless they receive prior written approval from the school Principal to make an alternative transportation arrangement. If transportation is required for a field trip, Rocketship will provide this transportation. Should staff members and/or parents drive a vehicle in conjunction with a field trip, they will do so in accordance with Rocketship's Staff and Parent Driver Policy.

### **Dismissal from Field Trips**

After a field trip, students will be returned to the school site and will be dismissed according to regular dismissal procedures. All chaperones and students are expected to return to school and participate in dismissal. In exceptional cases, students may be dismissed from a field trip location with a parent/guardian chaperone, but this is subject to the discretion of the Principal or Assistant Principal supervising the field trip. If a student needs to be picked up early from a field trip due to illness or another exceptional circumstance, they may be dismissed from the field trip site provided that the staff supervisors get in

contact with the students' parent/guardian and the parent/guardian picks the student up or designates an authorized individual over the age of 18 to do so. Any authorized individual must provide proper identification prior to leaving with the student. The staff members supervising the field trip should contact the school's Office Manager to ensure that the child is appropriately signed out for the day.

### **Student Behavior**

Students are under the jurisdiction of Rocketship at all times during the field trip or excursion and all Rocketship expectations and policies continue to be enforced during field trips and excursions.

Students may be excluded from a field trip as a disciplinary measure in accordance with Rocketship's Student Discipline Policy.

### **Medication on Field Trips**

The Principal, Assistant Principal or designee will also review the roster for the field trip with appropriate school personnel to identify any students attending the trip who regularly take medication or require access to medication while on the field trip. The Principal, Assistant Principal or designee will ensure that a staff member attending the field trip brings along the student medication and is properly trained on how to assist in administering the medication and record the administration of that medication in accordance with Rocketship's Medication Administration policy.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

Rocketship participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program which extends eligibility to all students attending Rocketship schools. Our participation in this program depends upon our certification of the low-income percentage of families. CEP program allows all our students to eat free breakfast and lunch daily.

### **Breakfast**

Our school participates in universal breakfast, meaning that every student present at school will receive a meal. Studies have shown that students who eat breakfast have more energy, do better in school, and eat healthier throughout the day. Students are *not* required to eat the breakfast provided by the school.

### **Food Allergies**

If your child has a known food allergy or dietary restriction, parents/guardians should let school staff know. In some cases, it may be possible to accommodate a child's dietary needs in Rocketship lunch orders, but a doctor's note will be required. Parents/guardians should work with the school's Business Operations Manager to make arrangements.

### **Food Brought From Home and Outside Food**

Rocketship partners with our local food vendor to provide our Rocketeers with healthy meals every day. Students are allowed to bring their own food from home for lunch or snack, but junk food is not allowed on campus. Rocketship does not have facilities to heat or cool food brought from home, so please plan accordingly. Additionally, Rocketship cannot receive and disseminate food delivered to students on campus by third-party delivery services.

### **Foods that are NOT ALLOWED (and may be confiscated):**

- Chips (unless included in a complete lunch, i.e., along with a sandwich, fruits, vegetables, etc.)
- Cookies
- Gum
- Candy
- Fast Food
- Soda

### **Foods that are encouraged:**

- Salads
- Carrots and celery sticks
- Apple slices and peanut butter
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Whole Grains
- Healthy snack packs

### **Birthday Parties/Celebrations**

Rocketship is committed to ensuring the safety of all of our students, staff, and families. As such, we are typically unable to allow outside food on campus for birthday parties or on-campus celebrations. If you are interested in celebrating your child's birthday, reach out to school leadership ahead of time for advanced approval.

## **ACADEMICS**

### **CURRICULUM**

Students will be exposed to a well-rounded curriculum that includes reading, writing, English language development, mathematics, science and technology, and social studies. Students will also take physical education and enrichment courses in areas such as art, music, theater, or gardening.

The Rocketship curriculum follows all required state performance standards for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. This includes the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts, English Language Development, and Mathematics.

Teachers will use regular assessments to measure how well students are progressing toward mastery. Rocketship will administer required state testing to the applicable grades.

We use knowledge about student skills to shape whole class instruction, small group work, and small group tutoring. Using individual student data, instruction can be targeted to better meet individual student needs.

Teachers will give students and parents ongoing feedback about student performance. Teachers will often send work home for parents/guardians to sign, and teachers will contact parents/guardians if they see a significant slip in academic performance or a special skill that needs extra practice at school and home. Parents/guardians will also regularly receive progress reports and report cards. You should feel free to contact any of your child's teachers regarding their progress at any time.

## **HOMEWORK**

Parents and students may expect homework most weekday evenings. Homework can be an important way for students to practice skills that are part of the curriculum, and also builds the habit of responsibility. Research has shown that students who consistently do their homework are more likely to be successful when they go to college. In order to set our students up for success, when assigned, homework will be checked for completion.

## **RETENTION, PROMOTION, AND ACCELERATION**

Rocketship's instructional model is organized so that each student's learning plan is individualized in order to account for individual differences and promote academic and social growth. Upon a student's enrollment at Rocketship, schools will typically not make decisions to allow a new Rocketship student to repeat or skip a grade. Schools are expected to enroll all students in the next consecutive grade level and then assess students objectively as needed. Rocketship believes that retention should only be used in rare and exceptional circumstances.

## **TEACHER QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

As Rocketship receives Title I federal funds through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA"), as reauthorized and amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"), all parents/guardians of students attending Rocketship may request information regarding the professional qualifications of

classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals, including at a minimum:

- Whether the student’s teacher:
  - Has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
  
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Upon request, Rocketship will provide the information to the parents/guardians in a timely manner. Parents/guardians may contact the Executive Director to obtain this information.

## STUDENT SUPPORT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

### SPECIAL EDUCATION AND CHILD FIND ACTIVITIES

We are dedicated to the belief that all students can learn and must be guaranteed equal opportunity to become contributing members of the academic environment and society. Rocketship provides a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities according to state and federal mandates. Rocketship provides special education instruction and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act (“IDEA”), Education Code requirements, and applicable policies and procedures. Services are available for special education students enrolled at Rocketship. We offer high quality educational programs and services for all our students in accordance with the assessed needs of each student. Rocketship collaborates with parents, the student, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each student.

Pursuant to the IDEA and relevant state law, Rocketship is responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating children enrolled at Rocketship with known or suspected disabilities to determine whether a need for special education and related services exists. This includes children with disabilities who are homeless or foster youth.

Rocketship has systems in place that assist the school in determining whether a student may have a disability. These include a specific “Child Find” form that is completed by parents upon enrollment in a Rocketship school. This also includes a Student Study Team (SST), or pre-referral, process in which school teams analyze data to identify students who are struggling academically, socially, or behaviorally and develop interventions to support the student. Rocketship has additional evidence-based interventions that are made available to students who require it; these include both differentiated instruction in the

classroom and supplemental interventions in the learning lab and classroom. School teams monitor the progress of every child who receives intervention services in order to be able to identify any student who is not responding to interventions. Students who don't respond adequately to pre-referral interventions are referred for a more intensive level of support, which may include a formal evaluation to determine if the student is eligible to receive special education services as a child with a disability.

Rocketship will not deny nor discourage any student from enrollment solely due to a disability. If you believe your child may be eligible for special education services, please contact their classroom teacher, or a school leader at your school site.

## **STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AND SECTION 504**

Rocketship recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of Rocketship. Any student who has been identified with a disability which substantially limits a major life activity, is eligible for accommodations by Rocketship. The parent/guardian of any student suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodations under Section 504 may ask the school Principal to make a referral for an evaluation.

## **ENGLISH LEARNERS**

Rocketship is committed to the success of its English Learners and support will be offered both within academic classes and in supplemental settings for students who need additional support for English language learning. Rocketship will meet all applicable legal requirements for English Learners as they pertain to annual notification to parents, student identification, placement, program options, English Learners and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. Rocketship will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding English Learners and the rights of students and parents.

## **STUDENT RECORD REQUESTS**

Third-parties are prohibited from accessing confidential student records absent current written consent from the student's parent/guardian, an applicable FERPA exception, or a valid court order. Signed consent from the student's parent/guardian must be dated within one year of the request to release student records.



If an educational advocate, attorney, social worker, guardian ad litem, or observer/evaluator wishes to review and/or copy student special education records, the school Principal/designee must first contact a member of Rocketship Education's legal team for guidance on whether or not to release educational records or other student data. For more information regarding student record requests, see the Notifications of Rights and Assurances.

## **OUTSIDE PROVIDERS**

Rocketship is responsible for providing all Rocketship students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education and are committed to providing all students a FAPE based upon their individual needs. Rocketship schools provide special education and related services through the use of qualified personnel either employed by or contracted by Rocketship.

At times families may choose to provide services outside of the school through a clinical model. At Rocketship we welcome collaboration with external providers in the forms of: observations, data collection, team partnership and collaboration such as team meetings with internal (RSED) and external providers so that all providers can discuss student support.

Any visits to campus by an outside provider must be in compliance with Rocketship's visitor policy and subject to reasonable limits therein. Rocketship does not allow external providers to provide direct services to students on campus during the school day/at any time which includes before/after school hours. This ensures the safety and confidentiality of all students as well as the supervision of quality services provided in alignment to the student's operative IEP.

Deviations from this policy may be requested in writing to the Executive Director and may be granted in special circumstances in the sole discretion of the Executive Director.

## **SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS**

All visitors shall adhere to Rocketship Campus Access and Visitors Policy.

Parents/guardians, parent-appointed designees, and/or professional evaluators can conduct evaluations in school. Evaluators will be asked for a letter that indicates what assessment the evaluator is conducting and includes the parent/guardian's written consent to conduct the assessment of the student at school. Attorneys have no legal right to observe any class and will not be permitted to do so.

All observations/evaluations must be scheduled prior to the day of arrival at the school. Please make an appointment with the school Principal/designee and the ISE Team. All observers/evaluators must sign the

Confidentiality Agreement and give it to the school Principal/designee and the ISE Team before the start of the observation/evaluation.

School staff may accompany an individual during a classroom observation/evaluation, at Rocketship Education’s discretion. Observers/evaluators shall have no direct interaction with students, including the student who is the subject of the classroom observation/evaluation, and must refrain from engaging the attention of the teacher or other students. Not more than three individuals shall be allowed in a classroom during the observation/evaluation and shall be two hours or less. Any request for an extension beyond two hours must be made in advance and granted at Rocketship Education’s discretion.

## BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE

### ROCKETEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Safety, order, and student discipline are fundamental to learning at Rocketship. Rocketship expects all students to behave in a way that fosters a safe and welcoming environment for other students, Rocketship staff, and community members.

The Rocketship Code of Conduct includes the following non-negotiable expectations for our Rocketeers:

- Adherence to the Rocketship Commitment to Excellence.
- Adherence to the Rocketship **Core Virtues**: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, and Persistence
- Adherence to the **Rocketship Creed**.
  - I am a Rocketship Rocketeer, at home, at school, and in my community.
  - I am respectful of myself, others, and the environment.
  - I am responsible for my learning, actions, and achievement.
  - I am empathetic to my world, and I am persistent in attaining excellence.
  - Together we are all Rocketship Rocketeers.

### COMMITMENT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

#### Statement of Non-Discrimination

Rocketship is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. Harassment, intimidation, bullying, and sexual harassment are all forms of discrimination and are disruptive behaviors that interfere with students’ ability to learn, negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. Rocketship prohibits discrimination in all forms, inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in the Rocketship’s programs or activities.

Rocketship does not discriminate against any student or employee. Rocketship does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including bullying, discrimination, or intimidation, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which the Rocketship does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender.

To the extent possible, Rocketship will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, and/or bullied, and will take action to respond to such behaviors in a timely manner. Rocketship school staff who witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Rocketship will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of discrimination or harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

Rocketship prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates or refuses to participate in a complaint investigation.

This Non-Discrimination Statement can also be found on the school's website.

### **Prohibited Harassment and Retaliation**

Harassment is a form of discrimination and Rocketship is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from harassment. Rocketship prohibits harassment based on an individual's membership in a protected class by a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, by any other person who is participating in, observing, or otherwise engaged in school activities, including sexual harassment and harassment consistent with Title IX, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. and state law. It prohibits harassment based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, personal appearance, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, physical or mental disability, source of income, status as a complainant of an intrafamily offense, place of business or residence, credit information, gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth, reproductive health decisions, or related medical conditions, or any other basis protected by applicable law.

Prohibited Harassment includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Any unwelcome physical, verbal, nonverbal, or electronic conduct based on the aforementioned protected traits.
- Prohibited stalking involves a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Prohibited Sex-based Harassment is quid pro quo or hostile environment harassment that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances of a student by another student; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication (including electronic communication) of a sexual nature (including sexual assault) that adversely affects the student in the ways set forth above.
- Abusive or coercive behavior or dating violence against one student by another student where a dating partner uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, emotional, economic, technological, or sexual abuse to exert power or control over a current or former dating partner.
- Welcome AND unwelcome sexual advances towards a student by a school employee; requests for sexual favors of a student by a school employee; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct by a school employee directed at a student; or other conduct or communication (including electronic communication) of a sexual nature directed to a student by a school employee.

Quid pro quo harassment exists when a school employee, agent or other person authorized by Rocketship explicitly or impliedly conditions the provision of aid, benefit, or service to a student on the student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

A hostile environment exists if the unwelcome sex-based conduct is subjectively and objectively offensive and so severe or pervasive that it denies or limits the complainant's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's program or activity (e.g., skipping class, dropping out of an activity, having trouble concentrating in class).

Retaliation includes any adverse action taken against an individual because they reported sexual harassment, dating violence, or discrimination; provided information or witnesses; or, assisted, participated, or refused to participate in an investigation or proceedings in relation to any of those acts. Rocketship prohibits retaliation against any individual who has made a complaint pursuant to this Policy in good faith, assisted in an investigation, or otherwise exercised rights protected by law. Rocketship also prohibits taking any adverse action against an individual based on an unsubstantiated allegation or rumor of harassment. Any student who is subject to retaliation in violation of this Policy or who knows of another student who has been subject to retaliation is urged to report it as soon as possible to school staff or the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer.

## **Reporting Process**

### Reports of Discrimination or Harassment - General

Students, parents or staff should report a claim of discrimination or harassment and the alleged acts promptly to a teacher, counselor, or school administrator. Reports do not have to be made by the complainant. Reports can be made verbally or in writing and can be made in person, by telephone, by mail,

by email or in writing, using the General Complaint Form available in every school's front office. A school employee who receives a report of discrimination that may be considered harassment, sex-based harassment, dating violence, stalking, or retaliation under Title IX, who has knowledge of, or who should reasonably know about, the aforementioned violations, should promptly notify Rocketship's Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer for next steps.

#### Reports of a Title IX Violation

Reports of alleged acts that may be considered discrimination, sex-based harassment, dating violence, stalking, or retaliation subject to review under Title IX should be made to the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer:

Renita Thukral  
Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer  
2001 Gateway Place, Ste. 230E  
San Jose, CA 95110  
rthukral@rsed.org

The Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer is the Rocketship staff member designated by Rocketship to coordinate its responsibilities under Title IX. Upon receipt of a complaint, Rocketship will provide information to the complainant about the investigation process, about their rights under Title IX and other relevant laws.

#### **Confidentiality**

To the greatest extent possible, Rocketship shall respect the privacy of individuals who report potential violations of this Policy, individual(s) against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Rocketship will notify individuals/agencies of incidents of discrimination only to the extent allowed by law. Any notifications to other parties will be made only to ensure that services are provided to the complainant(s) and respondent(s) and to protect the complainant(s) from further or sustained victimization. The Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer/designee conducting the investigation will be responsible for making determinations about confidentiality. Rocketship will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant(s) or respondent(s), to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of Rocketship to provide the supportive measures.

#### **Process for Investigating Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment**

##### General Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment

Complaints of discrimination or harassment that do not involve allegations of Title IX violations should be made under the General Complaint Procedures described under the Notification of Rights and Assurances section of this Handbook.

### Complaints under Title IX

Complaints governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 are reported to the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer, and an investigation of those complaints is conducted promptly and impartially pursuant to related Title IX Complaint Procedures outlined under the Notification of Rights and Assurances section of this Handbook. The Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures also may be found on Rocketship’s website.

## **BULLYING PREVENTION**

Bullying can have a harmful social, physical, psychological, and academic impact on victims, bystanders, and bullies. Bullying at Rocketship is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

“Bullying” is deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, intimidation, or harm. Bullying may be repeated behavior and involves an imbalance of power. The behavior may be motivated by an actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic, such as, but not limited to: age; national origin; race; ethnicity; religion; gender; gender identity; sexual orientation; physical attributes; physical or mental ability or disability; and social, economic, or family status.

Bullying behavior can be:

- Physical (e.g., assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
- Verbal (e.g., threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (e.g., spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion, and sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using the internet – also known as cyber bullying)

Alleged incidents of bullying will be promptly investigated by designated Rocketship staff members. Rocketship’s policy and procedures for addressing bullying complaints through either the general complaint procedures or the Title IX procedures (as appropriate) which are included in the Policies, Notifications of Rights, and Assurances section of this handbook.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE - GENERAL OVERVIEW**

Rocketship promotes positive behavior at school and aims to create learning environments that are more consistent, predictable, positive, and safe. We clearly define behavioral expectations and consequences, create systems for recognizing and reinforcing positive behaviors, and provide our students with social-emotional learning.

Rocketship classrooms also use a variety of management systems to address behavioral issues. These may include color-coded card chart systems and other tiered consequences.

If students do not respond to our positive behavior supports or classroom management systems, Rocketship may take alternative in-school disciplinary action.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE - IN-SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Rocketship relies on proactive, preventive support to promote positive behavior at school. Rocketship has implemented a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework in all schools. The fundamental purpose of PBIS is to create learning environments that are more consistent, predictable, positive, and safe. Key PBIS practices include clearly defined behavioral expectations and consequences, systems for recognizing and reinforcing positive behaviors, data-based decision making, multi-tiered systems of support, and the implementation of core social-emotional learning curricula.

Rocketship classrooms also use a variety of management systems to address behavioral issues. These may include color-coded card chart systems and other tiered consequences.

In the event that Rocketship's PBIS infrastructure and classroom management systems are insufficient to prevent disciplinary infraction, or a disciplinary infraction is serious enough to immediately warrant additional discipline, Rocketship may take alternative in-school disciplinary action. These actions depend on the circumstances of the offense and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sending the student to the Principal's office.
- Time Out or temporary placement in another classroom.
- Calling or writing/emailing the student's parent/guardian.
- Arranging a conference with the student, parent, teacher and/or administrator.
- Implementing a temporary individualized behavior plan for the student.
- Implementing counseling sessions with a designated staff member.
- Peer mediation.
- Requiring that the student complete a reflective essay or assignment.
- Community Restoration, including requiring that the student take actions to counteract/ameliorate a problem (i.e., fixing something the student broke).
- Referring the student to a Student Support Team.
- Restricting the student's participation in after-school/extra-curricular activities or field trips.
- Holding the student for detention or additional instructional time during lunch or before/after school.

- Confiscating inappropriate items related to the disciplinary infraction.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. “Corporal punishment” includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, “corporal punishment” does not include an employee’s use of force, restraint and/or seclusion that is used only when a student’s behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of the student or others.

As described above, severe infractions that threaten the safety or health of students, staff or others, may be cause for suspension or expulsion.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE - SUSPENSIONS, AND EXPULSIONS

### Overview - Suspensions and Expulsions

We believe that our students are best served when they are present at school every day. However, we recognize that situations may occur when a student commits a behavioral offense that is so severe that the student may become subject to discipline, suspension, or expulsion.

A student may be disciplined, suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the offending act is on school grounds at any school-sponsored activity or supervised activity and off school grounds, and outside of school hours *if* in the school’s sole discretion, such conduct creates a substantial disruption to the school environment and/or interferes with another student’s ability to participate in the school program and/or benefit from the school’s program while on school property and/or at any school-sponsored or supervised activity. This may include misconduct occurring outside of school hours such as activity on digital media, applications, online platforms, through telephone, cellular phone or text messages and other communication devices and methods.

### In-School Suspension

In-school suspension (“ISS”) is the temporary removal of a student from one or more of their classes for a period of time. While in ISS a student remains in school, is counted present, and provides an in-school opportunity for them to complete and receive credit for class assignments. During ISS, students will complete schoolwork in a location separate from their class. ISS is not intended to be an alternative to or long-term replacement of the student’s regularly scheduled class.

ISS may be used in the event that a student is engaging in prohibited conduct that is making the classroom environment physically or emotionally unsafe for other students or that severely disrupts a class or school-sponsored activity.



Only the Principal or Assistant Principal, with prior approval from their supervisor, shall assign a student to ISS. Students assigned to ISS must have written notification of the date and duration of the ISS assignment. Assignment to ISS and the scheduling of the days assigned are at the Principal's discretion.

Principals should assign a student to ISS as soon as possible after the infraction is reported.

The principal will ensure that students assigned to ISS are:

- provided a safe, positive environment with proper supervision.
- provided appropriate coursework or activities of academic value and allowed to complete that work during their assignment to ISS.
- provided any required classroom supports and services to complete the coursework during their assignment to ISS.

Additionally, classroom teachers will:

- provide classwork commensurate to the work missed for a student assigned to ISS.
- record the student as present while assigned to ISS. There will be no attendance-related penalty for assignment to ISS.
- evaluate and give credit for work that is completed while assigned to ISS.

The student's parent/guardian must be notified of a student's assignment to ISS at the time that the ISS placement is scheduled. The Principal should contact a parent/guardian by phone or in-person meeting. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached in this manner, the Principal or their designee may make contact through email.

### **Out of School Suspensions and Expulsion**

When disciplinary infractions occur on campus, our Principals are expected to respond in accordance with our Student Discipline Policy, which encourages positive behavioral interventions and supports and outlines available in-school disciplinary actions. The decision to pursue a suspension is, in most circumstances, largely at the discretion of the school leadership team in accordance with state law and should only be considered in cases of egregious behavioral infractions – and, even then, should be viewed as a last resort—as we believe that our students are best served when they are present at school every day. Recommendations for expulsion should not be pursued except in the most extreme cases, as our policy is to do whatever it takes to serve every student who enrolls in a Rocketship school.

If a situation does arise where a Principal feels that the student should be suspended or recommended for expulsion, this policy applies and will guide the process.

#### Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion

In Wisconsin, students may, at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with their manager, be given an Out of School Suspension for any of the following reasons, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 120.13(1)(b):

- Disobeying school rules.
- Conveying any threat or false information concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made to destroy school property by explosives.
- Conduct while at school, or under the supervision of a school authority, which endangers the property, health, or safety of others.
- Conduct while not at school, or while not under the supervision of a school authority, which endangers the property, health, or safety of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority or endangers the property, health, or safety of any Rocketship employee. Conduct that endangers a person or property includes making a threat to the health or safety of a person or making a threat to damage property.

Students may be expelled for any of the following reasons:

- If the Board finds the student guilty of repeated refusal or neglect to obey school rules.
- For threatening to destroy school property by explosives.
- For engaging in conduct while at school or under the supervision of a school authority which endangered the property, health or safety of others.
- For conduct while not at school or while not under the supervision of school authority which endangered the property, health or safety of others at school or under the supervision of a school authority or endangered the property, health or safety of any Rocketship employee.
- For conduct that endangers a person or property, including making a threat to the health or safety of a person or making a threat to damage property.

### **Suspension Procedures**

A suspension is a temporary dismissal of a student from the regular school program and school-sponsored events for the allotted time assigned by a school administrator. Suspensions at Rocketship will adhere to the following procedures:

#### Conference

When feasible, suspension will be preceded by a conference conducted by the Principal or designee with the student and their parent.

#### Notice to Parents/Guardians

Whenever possible a student will not be suspended until that student and parent have been notified of the nature of the student's misconduct, the student has been questioned about it and allowed to give an explanation.

At the time of suspension, the Principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the student's parent/guardian by telephone or in person. The parent/guardian shall also be notified in writing of the suspension, the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension, the student's right to return to school at the end of the suspension, and the date of return following suspension. The Principal or designee shall also provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the suspension notice. A copy of this notice will also be filed in the student's cumulative folder in the school.

A student's return to school from an issued suspension will not be contingent upon a parent/guardian's ability to attend a conference or meeting with school staff.

#### Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion

A student may be suspended for a period of no longer than three consecutive school days. However, if a notice of an expulsion hearing has been sent, the student may be suspended for up to 15 consecutive school days.

#### Rights During Suspension

The suspended student shall not be denied the opportunity to take any quarterly, semester or grading period examinations or to complete coursework missed during the suspension period.

#### Suspension Appeals

The parent/guardian of a student shall have the right to appeal any out-of-school suspension decision to the direct supervisor of the school Principal. The request to appeal must be made in writing and shall be submitted to the supervisor within one business day of the parent being made aware of the decision to suspend the student. The appeal shall be considered by the Supervisor in a timely manner. Any decision made on appeal shall be final.

### **Expulsion Procedures**

An expulsion is the permanent dismissal of a student from the Rocketship program. If an expulsion is approved, the parent/guardian has the responsibility to place the student in another school. The Rocketship Wisconsin Board ("the Board") shall appoint an independent hearing panel ("Panel") or independent hearing officer ("Officer") to hear and conduct expulsions. The Panel or Officer may expel any student found to have committed an expellable offense.

#### Hearing

Prior to expelling a Rocketship student in Wisconsin, the Panel /Officer shall hold a hearing. Upon request of the student's parent or guardian, the hearing shall be closed to the public. The student may be represented at the hearing by counsel. The board shall keep written minutes of the hearing. Upon the ordering by the Panel /Officer of the expulsion of a student, Rocketship shall mail a copy of the order to the student's parent or guardian.

No less than five days prior to the hearing, written notice of the hearing shall be sent to the student and, if the student is a minor, to the student's parent or guardian. The notice shall state all of the following:

- The specific grounds and the particulars of the student's alleged conduct upon which the expulsion proceeding is based.
- The time and place of the hearing.
- That the hearing may result in the student's expulsion. That, upon request of the student and, if the student is a minor, the student's parent or guardian, the hearing shall be closed.
- That the student and, if the student is a minor, the student's parent or guardian may be represented at the hearing by counsel.
- That the Committee shall keep written minutes of the hearing.
- If the Committee orders the expulsion of the student the school district clerk shall mail a copy of the order to the student and, if the student is a minor, to the student's parent or guardian.
- That if the student is expelled by the Committee the expelled student or, if the student is a minor, the student's parent or guardian may appeal the school board's decision to the Board.
- That the state statutes related to student expulsion are §§ 119.25 and 120.13 (1).

If the Panel or Officer orders an expulsion of the student, within 30 days after the date on which the order is issued, the Board shall review the expulsion order and shall approve, reverse or modify the order. The order of the hearing officer or panel shall be enforced while the Board reviews the order.

#### Record of Hearing

The Officer or Panel shall keep a full record of the hearing. Each party shall be informed of the right to a complete record of the proceeding. Upon request, the Officer or Panel shall direct that a transcript of the record be prepared and that a copy of the transcript be given to the pupil's parent or guardian.

#### Written Notice to Expel

The Principal or designee following a decision of the Officer or Panel to expel shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Officer or Panel's adopted findings of fact, to the student and parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following:

- Notice of the specific offense committed by the student
- Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with Rocketship.

#### Right to Appeal

The student's parent/guardian shall have the right to appeal the decision to expel the student to the Board. The request to appeal must be made in writing and shall be submitted to the Board within fifteen

business days of being made aware of the decision to expel the student. The appeal shall be heard by the Board within thirty days of receipt of the appeal.

#### Post-Expulsion- Possibility for Readmission of Expelled Students

The decision to readmit a student who has been expelled from a Rocketship school shall be in the sole discretion of the Board.

### **Special Procedures for Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities**

#### Services During Suspension

Students with disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (“IDEA”) suspended for more than ten (10) school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment or functional analysis, and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

#### Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination

Within 10 school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, a manifestation determination shall take place. “Change of Placement” includes a recommendation for expulsion or a cumulative removal of more than 10 school days in a school year. Rocketship, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP Team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

- If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child’s disability; or
- If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency’s failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If the IEP Team determines that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child’s disability and:

- Conduct a functional behavioral assessment or a functional analysis assessment, and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that the school had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and

- Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and the school agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan and a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If the school, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a result of the failure to implement the IEP or Section 504 Plan, then the school may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

#### Due Process Appeals

If the parent of a child with a disability disagrees with any decision regarding a disciplinary change in placement, or the manifestation determination, or the school believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, the parent or school may request an expedited administrative hearing through the regional administrative hearing office.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent or the school, the student will remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer in accordance with state and federal law, including 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k), until the expiration of the 45 day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, unless the parent and the school agree otherwise. Rocketship shall comply with 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(2), which states that interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP team.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(3), if a parent/guardian disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or if the School believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, the parent/guardian or School may request a hearing.

In such an appeal, a hearing officer may: (1) return a child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed; or (2) order a change in placement of a child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

#### Special Circumstances

Rocketship personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

The Principal or designee may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's

disability in cases where a student:

- carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

#### Interim Alternative Educational Setting

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP team.

#### Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has violated the Rocketship's behavioral policies may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if Rocketship had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

Rocketship shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists prior to the behavior at issue:

- The parent of the child expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of Rocketship, or a teacher of the child, that the child is in need of special education and related services;
- The parent of the child requested an evaluation of the child pursuant to §§ 300.300 through 300.311; or
- The teacher of the child, or other Rocketship personnel, expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child directly to the director of special education of the agency or to other supervisory personnel of the agency.

Rocketship shall not be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if the parent has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible. If the school had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed discipline.

The school shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents; however, the student shall remain in the education placement determined by Rocketship pending the results of the evaluation.

#### **Disciplinary Records**

Rocketship shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at Rocketship. Such records shall be made available to the chartering authority upon request.

## LOST OR DAMAGED SCHOOL PROPERTY

If a student willfully damages Rocketship's property or the personal property of a Rocketship employee, or fails to return a textbook, library book, computer/tablet or other Rocketship property that has been loaned to the student, the student's parents/guardians may be liable for all damages caused by the student's misconduct. After notifying the student's parent or guardian in writing of the student's alleged misconduct and affording the student's family due process, the school reserves the right to implement enforcement measures available to it under law.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Rocketship's dress code seeks to maximize learning, and minimize disruptions during the school day and foster school/community spirit. Rocketship wants to ensure all students are prepared each day to comfortably participate in and focus on all school activities. Accordingly, students are expected to wear the Rocketship uniform to school every day.

The Rocketship uniform consists of:

- any appropriately sized khaki bottom including pants, shorts, dress, skirt, or skorts,
- a Rocketship uniform shirt or a dark green or dark purple shirt.
- any sweaters and jackets must be solid colored gray, black, or purple when worn inside the school building.
- comfortable closed toe shoes that do not restrict a student's ability to participate in physical education or other activities. Shoes without laces and/or sandals are not considered to be safe or appropriate for school.

Rocketship branded uniform shirts can be purchased from the school Office Manager. Families are not required to purchase this item as long as the student otherwise complies with the dress code by wearing a dark purple shirt (without the Rocketship logo).

The following clothing, accessories, or markings on clothing and/or skin are NOT permitted on any Rocketship campus.

- Any article of clothing, accessory, or markings on clothing that exhibits curse words, slurs, or hate speech.
- Clothing with logos, slogans, words, or pictures promoting or depicting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, vandalism, bigotry, violence, sexual connotations, or profanity. This includes clothing with phrases or pictures that have double meanings.



- Does not reasonably fit.
- Could be dangerous when playing, participating in physical education, or participating in school activities.
- Is headgear including hats, hoodies, and caps unless permitted for religious, medical or other reasons by school administration.

Rocketship reserves the right to determine what constitutes a violation of this dress code policy. Parent's will be called if appropriate clothing is not available or if the student refuses dress-code appropriate clothing. Rocketship may contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss the dress code violation.

Rocketship respects and protects students' religious, ethnic, and cultural expression. Students may wear any religiously, ethnically, or culturally specific head coverings or hairstyles, including but not limited to hijabs, yarmulkes, and head/hair wraps.

## **PERSONAL BELONGING**

Students are not allowed to have the following items at school:

- Gum and Gummy Candy
- Weapons and toy weapons
- Matches or any flammable item
- Any illegal substance
- Toys, games, cards, stuffed animals, dolls and fidget spinners
- Electronic devices and toys.

## **STUDENT CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL DEVICES**

Students should not bring cell phones or personal electronic devices to school. If a student does bring a cell phone or device to school, they will be required to keep it turned off and, in their backpack, and out of sight during the school day.

Students who possess any personal electronic device(s) shall assume sole responsibility for the maintenance and care of any such private device(s) in accordance with this Policy, students who use a phone without permission from a teacher will be subject to disciplinary procedures. Rocketship in no way assumes any responsibility for and will not replace any damaged, lost, or stolen cell phones or personal devices.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Rocketship is committed to supporting the health of its students and meeting the needs of students with medical conditions, in compliance with state laws and regulations.

Rocketship strongly encourages families to administer temporary and/or maintenance medications outside of school hours. If this is not possible, medication can be administered at school.

Rocketship staff will administer all medication in accordance with applicable law, the Medication Authorization Form on file, and established guidelines. Before medication can be kept or administered at Rocketship, a student's parent/guardian must complete and submit a Medication Authorization Form among other required documents. Parents/guardians should contact the Office Manager for a copy of the Medication Authorization Forms and for a copy of Rocketship's full Medication Administration Policy.

The Medication Administration Form must include:

- Written medical authorization, signed by a licensed health practitioner, that states:
  - The name of the student;
  - Emergency contact information for the student's parent/guardian;
  - Contact information for the student's licensed health practitioner;
  - The name, purpose, and prescribed dosage of the medication and route of administration;
  - The frequency that the medication is to be administered;
  - The possible side effects of the medication as listed on the label;
  - The circumstances under which the medication may or must be administered;
  - Other medication the student may be receiving at home;
  - Special instructions or emergency procedures;
  - In the case of self-administered medication, confirmation that the student has been instructed in the proper technique for self-administration of the medication and has demonstrated the ability to self-administer the medication effectively.
  
- Written authorization, signed by the student's parent/guardian, that states:
  - That a trained employee or agent of the school may administer medication to the student in accordance with all applicable state laws and regulations; or
  - in the case of self-administration, the student may possess and self-administer the medication at Rocketship, at Rocketship-sponsored activities, and while on Rocketship-sponsored transportation; and
  - that the name of the student may be distributed to appropriate school staff, as

determined by the Principal.

- Written acknowledgment that any person assisting in the self-administration of medications to students or performing health care procedures, including administration of medication, shall not be liable in any court of law for any injury resulting from the reasonable and prudent assistance in the self-administration of medication or the reasonable performance of health care procedures, including administration of medications, if performed pursuant to this Policy.

Immediately following any changes regarding the health or treatment of the student, the parent/guardian must submit an amended Medication Authorization Form to Rocketship. All Medication Authorization Forms must be updated at least annually.

A student who self-administers medication while at school, at a school-sponsored activity, or while on school-sponsored transportation for a purpose other than their own treatment will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Rocketship's Student Discipline Policy. Such disciplinary action shall not limit or restrict the access of a student to their prescribed medication. Rocketship will promptly notify the student's parent/guardian of any disciplinary action imposed.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

To promote the health and well-being of all students, and to comply with state laws and regulations, Rocketship requires all students to present proof of certain immunizations prior to beginning school at a Rocketship campus.

### Required Immunization Records and Reports

In accordance with DHS 144.07, no student shall be admitted to a Rocketship school unless the school has certification of immunization for that student, or unless the student is exempted pursuant to this policy.

The Wisconsin Department of Health requires that all students receive the following immunizations:

- diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis;
- polio;
- varicella (chickenpox, if no history of disease reported by parent or guardian);
- measles, mumps, and rubella;
- hepatitis B.

### Timing and Notification

As required by DHS 144.07, by the 15<sup>th</sup> day after a student is admitted to Rocketship, and again by the 25<sup>th</sup> day, Rocketship will notify parents/guardians of any students who have not submitted written evidence of immunization or a waiver form. Notification will include instructions for complying with Wisconsin

immunization requirements, including the 30<sup>th</sup> school day deadline; a list of missing immunizations; the availability of waivers; and an explanation of the penalty for noncompliance.

Rocketship may exclude a student from attending school if they have not provided the required certification by thirty (30) school days after admission.

For any student who has received the first dose of each immunization required for that student's age or grade, but who has not received all of the required doses, Rocketship must obtain written evidence that the student has received the required subsequent doses of immunization as they are administered in accordance with the deadlines set forth by the Department of Health in DHS 144.03.

### **Certification**

The certification of immunization must be submitted by either a private physician, their representative, or the public health authorities that the student is immunized. Certifications must be updated each year that a student enrolls in Rocketship.

### **Exemptions**

Pursuant to DHS 144.04-05, a Rocketship student may be exempted from the certification of immunization requirements if:

- a licensed physician provides written certification that a required immunization is or may be harmful to the health of the student.
- the student's parent/guardian provides a signed statement declaring an objection to the immunization on religious or personal conviction grounds.

In addition, the parent/guardian must submit written evidence of any required immunization that the student has previously received.

## **HEAD LICE**

If a student is suspected of having head lice (i.e., constant itching or tickling feeling in the hair), the school nurse or other trained school employee may examine the hair of the suspected student for lice or nits (lice eggs). In certain circumstances, the employee may also examine other members of that student's household who are students at the school. If a student is positive for live head lice, the student is to be sent home at the end of the school day with information to the parents regarding treatment and control measures. Students with head lice do not need to be sent home early, they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Any absences related to head lice will be documented and counted as an excused absence in accordance with Rocketship's Attendance and Truancy Policy.

### **Exposure Notice**

If there are two or more students affected in any class, Rocketship will send home an exposure notice with information about head lice to all parents/guardians in that class. Rocketship will maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

### **Returning to School**

Rocketship will provide parents/guardians of affected students with instructions on how to conduct post-treatment examinations on their children. Parents/guardians may send their child back to school when they believe that the child's hair is no longer infested with head lice. Parents should not withhold the child from school for any days longer than necessary; typically, no more than three days. Any absences longer than three days require a doctor's note. If the family is unable to obtain a doctor's note, the family should arrange to have a meeting with the school to discuss the length of absence. The school has the discretion to excuse additional days if school staff determine this is necessary. The school nurse or other trained staff members may reexamine the student's hair upon return. If the student shows no trace of live head lice, the student may return to school.

## **SAFETY PLANS**

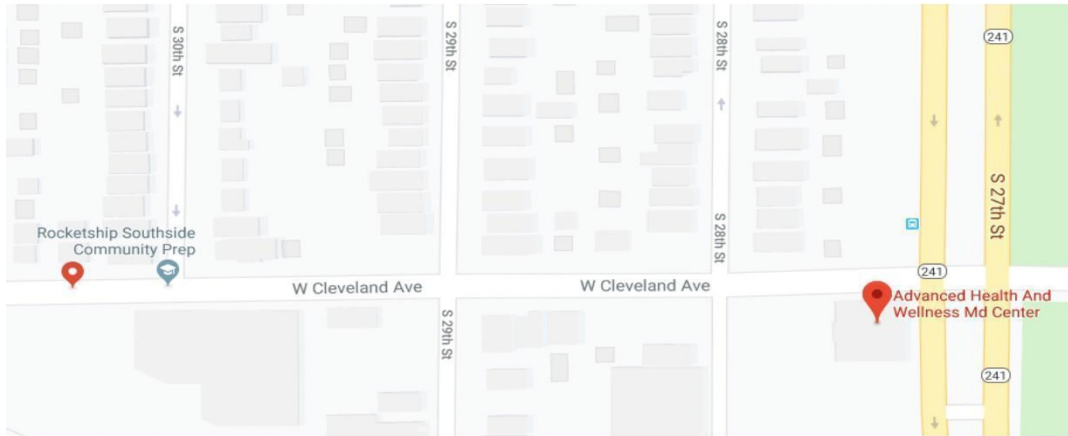
Safety is our first priority. To make sure our staff and students know what to do in case of an emergency, we follow a rigorous calendar of staff training, safety team meetings, campus walkthroughs, and safety drills. Every school is equipped with a detailed Health and Safety Plan that contains our emergency response plans, including plans for earthquakes, fire, severe weather, and lockdowns.

### **Primary and Secondary Evacuation Sites**

#### Rocketship Southside Community Prep

**Primary Evacuation:** Rocketship Southside Community Prep's primary evacuation site is located on campus in the parking lot outside the building and in the back alley. We will use this evacuation site when it is safe to remain on campus.

**Secondary Evacuation Site:** Rocketship Southside Community Prep's secondary evacuation site is located off campus at 2727 W. Cleveland Ave. in the parking lot of the Advanced Health and Wellness (see map below). If there is a disaster at the school site or the campus is unsafe for some reason, we will evacuate to this site.



**Rocketship Transformation Prep**

Primary Evacuation: Rocketship Transformation Prep’s primary evacuation site is located on campus in the parking lot north of the school building and west of the school building. We will use this evacuation site when it is safe to remain on campus.

Secondary Evacuation: Rocketship Transformation Prep’s secondary evacuation site is located off campus at Carmen Middle/High School of Science and Technology, Northwest Campus located at 5496 N 72nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53218. If there is a disaster at the school site or the campus is unsafe for some reason, we will evacuate to this site.



*During an emergency dismissal, we may ask parents to meet us at this secondary evacuation site. Please be familiar with this location so you know where to go in case of an emergency dismissal.*

## **Emergencies**

In order for us to keep our campus safe during an emergency, we need our families to understand the following:

- In the event of an emergency, we will share information with families via our automated calling system. Please make sure your updated contact information is in our system.
- If there is an incident on or near our campus, please stay at home and wait for instructions from our school leaders. We need the public to stay away while we secure our campus and account for all students. When it is safe to come to the school, you will be contacted.
- After an emergency incident, we may need to change the way we dismiss students. You may be asked to present a photo ID in addition to your child's Walker/Rider card. Please wait for instructions from school leaders before coming to campus.
- If the school campus is not safe, we may need to dismiss students from our secondary (off-campus) evacuation sites. It is important that you know where this secondary evacuation site is located.

## **WEAPONS AND FIREARMS**

Rocketship prohibits any weapons, imitation firearms or dangerous objects of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at off campus school-related or school sponsored activities, with the exception of weapons and/or firearms in the possession and/or control of law enforcement officers and security officers.

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO**

Rocketship is committed to maintaining campuses free of alcohol, smoke, and illegal drugs. No one may smoke on campus and may not bring alcohol or illegal substances of any kind to our school. If a student is found in possession of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, they will be subject to discipline and possible suspension or expulsion under Rocketship's discipline policies.

## **CAMPUS SEARCHES AND SEIZURES**

To protect the safety of all students, staff and the community, Rocketship reserves the right to search a student's personal property, and school property assigned to the student when there is reasonable suspicion that the student violated a Rocketship policy and/or state/federal law. All searches shall be authorized and conducted by a member of the school leadership team in the presence of an adult witness.

Student desks, cubbies and lockers, are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. Student desks, cubbies, and lockers may not be used to store unauthorized, illegal, or contraband materials. The acceptance and use of school facilities and/or the presence on school campus by any student, shall constitute consent by the student to the search of such school facilities, student property, student use areas, by authorized school personnel and/or law enforcement.

Similarly, at their discretion and where they deem appropriate, Rocketship school leaders may confiscate a student's mobile/smartphone/ personal electronic device.

To ensure the safety of the school community, when there is reasonable suspicion, an individual is in violation of Rocketship's Campus Access and Visitors Policy and/or local or federal laws, Rocketship retains the right to require a property search as a condition to enter campus.

## INTERNET SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE USE

Rocketship uses advanced education technology to support personalized instruction for all students and facilitate comprehensive data analysis. Rocketship adheres to the federal requirements and guidelines set forth in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (47 U.S.C. § 254(h)). Visit <http://www.ifea.net/cipa.html> to view CIPA in its entirety.

### Definitions

"Minor" means any individual under 18 years of age.

"Technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

- Obscene, as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1460;
- Child Pornography, as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256; or
- Harmful to minors, as that term is defined below.

"Harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors. "Sexual act"



and “sexual contact” have the meanings defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2246.

An authorized person must be able to disable the blocking or filtering measure during any use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Educational Purpose**

Rocketship’s Internet system is limited to educational purposes. Acceptable activities include classroom activities and high-quality research. Rocketship computers are not to be used for entertainment purposes unless specifically authorized by a staff member in accordance with this policy.

### **Technology Protection Measures**

To the extent practicable, Rocketship will use technology protection measures to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. The selected technological filter will be designed to prevent a user from sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading materials that are harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Inappropriate Network Usage**

In accordance with CIPA, the following uses of Rocketship Internet system are considered unacceptable:

- Unauthorized access, including “hacking.” This includes logging in through another person’s account and accessing another person’s files; making deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system; destroying data by spreading computer viruses; and downloading software without the explicit consent of a staff member. Rocketship students shall immediately notify a teacher if they have identified a possible security problem.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors. This includes posting a student’s personal contact information (i.e., name, email address, home address, telephone number, school address) through email or through websites that solicit personal information, social networking websites, and Internet chat rooms.
- Illegal activities. This includes using the Internet to engage in any illegal act, including, but not limited to, arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, or threatening the safety of another person.
- Inappropriate online behavior. This includes using obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language while online; engaging in personal attacks or cyberbullying, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; and knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization on any websites.
- Plagiarism.

- Accessing inappropriate material. This includes material that is designated for adults only or is profane or obscene (i.e., pornography), or harmful to minors, material that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or material that advocates violence or discrimination.

### **Supervising and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Rocketship Schools team to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the access to the Internet, including electronic mail by and within the Charter School. Procedures for disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of Rocketship's Executive Director or their designated representatives.

Staff shall monitor students while they are using Rocketship computers, laptops, or tablets to access the internet or online services on a Rocketship campus and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this monitoring. Parents/guardians are required to supervise and monitor their child's use of Rocketship equipment including but not limited to their child's access to the internet and any online services through such equipment any and all times during which any Charter School equipment is being used by their child outside school facilities or school hours to ensure compliance with this policy. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to discuss internet safety with their children.

### **Training**

Rocketship will provide age- appropriate training for students and staff who use Rocketship computers and network. The training provided will be designed to promote Rocketship's commitment to:

- The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in this policy.
- Student safety with regard to Safety on the Internet; appropriate behavior while online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and cyberbullying awareness and response.
- Appropriate communication between staff and students via the internet, social media, and text messages or phone calls.
- Compliance with the E-Rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

### **Disciplinary Action**

Students should expect only limited privacy in the contents of their personal files or record of web research activities. Record maintenance and network monitoring may lead to the discovery that a student has violated this Policy and/or the law. If there is reasonable suspicion of violation of law or school policy, Rocketship will conduct a search of the student's files and/or internet activities. A student's parent/guardian may request to see the content of a student's files or emails.

Student use of Charter School's computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Compliance with the Charter School's policies and rules concerning computer use is mandatory. Students who are found to have violated this policy or any relevant laws will be disciplined in accordance with Rocketship's Discipline Policy.

Rocketship will cooperate fully with local or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted on the school computers or through the school internet network.

### **Liability**

Rocketship Public Schools is not responsible for any financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of its computers and/or internet system. A student's parent/guardian can be held financially responsible for any harm to Rocketship's Internet system arising from a student's intentional misuse.

## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

All school personnel are mandated reporters of suspected abuse and/or neglect. Mandated reporters are required to report when they know or suspect that a student has been or is in danger of being subjected to any of the following: mental injury; physical abuse; physical assault; neglect; sexual abuse; sexual exploitation; sexual assault; exposure to illegal drug-related activity, including ingestion of an illegal drug due to parent/guardian neglect; or exposure to domestic violence in the student's home. Additionally, mandated reporters must make a report when they suspect or know that a student has been injured by a bullet, knife, or other sharp object.

No one in the workplace, even a supervisor, is permitted to suppress, change, or edit a report of abuse. A mandated reporter who fails to report suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect is subject to punishment under state law.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

### **ROCKETSHIP'S COMMITMENT**

***Rocketship Commitment*** – At Rocketship, we fully commit to our families and students in the following ways:

- We will create a safe place to learn.
- We will respect the background, culture, and individuality of each child.
- We will communicate regularly with you about your child's progress and special needs.
- We will hold high expectations for all students.
- We will work hard to help your child feel successful and increase their sense of self-worth.
- We will provide your child with the academic base and moral compass they need to be successful through college and the rest of their lives.
- We will provide support to you and your child as you determine the best educational path upon graduating from Rocketship.

## PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' COMMITMENT

*Parents'/Guardians' Commitment*- We fully commit to Rocketship in the following ways:

- We will always help our child in the best way we know how, and we will do whatever it takes for him/her to learn and prepare for college and life by supporting him/her and encouraging him/her to adhere to their “commitment to excellence.”
- We will make sure our child arrives at school on time every school day.
- We will make arrangements so our child can remain at school until the end of the school day each day and be picked up when school ends.
- We will follow all arrival and dismissal regulations and parking and busing procedures.
- We will make sure our child follows the Rocketship dress code.
- We will ensure that our child is reading or being read to every night.
- We will check our child’s homework every night, sign their agenda, and we will carefully read and sign (if requested) all the papers our school sends home to us.
- We will meet regularly with teachers to discuss our child’s progress and support their work to help our child excel.
- We will participate in as many school activities including parent/family meetings, exhibition nights, community meetings, open house nights, conferences, etc. as reasonably possible.
- We will strive to contribute as many partnership hours to the school community as reasonably possible.
- We, not the school, are responsible for the behavior of our child.

## PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Engaged parents are a core pillar of Rocketship’s model and critical to our Rocketeers and their long-term success. By actively being included and involved in our schools and their Rocketeers’ learning, parents become integrated into the fabric of the school community. An active partnership between families and Rocketship faculty and staff benefits our Rocketeers as they see their parents on campus, and families as they gain a deeper understanding of Rocketship’s model and are positioned to reinforce Rocketship’s core values at home.

Rocketship asks that families participate in 20 Parent Partnership Hours each year per family by supporting or participating in various school activities. Participating in Parent Partnership Hours is encouraged, but NOT required. If families do not realize 20 Parent Partnership Hours annually, there is no consequence or penalty.

## HOME VISITS

Studies have shown that meaningful parental involvement in the education of their children can have dramatic effects on student achievement. Home visits help parents and teachers come together as equal partners to form a trusting relationship centered on student learning, establish goals for the individual child and the parent-teacher relationship, and invest families in the Rocketship community.

Each Rocketship student will receive a home visit from their core classroom teachers during the beginning of each school year. Teachers will reach out to families to schedule the home visit in advance. Home visits typically last for about one hour.

What happens during home visits may vary according to both parent and teacher preference, but typically home visits include:

- Collaborative academic and personal goal-setting for the student
- Discussion of the student's (and the family's) hopes and dreams
- Discussion of the student's interests both inside and outside of the classroom
- Discussion about communication preferences during the school year
- Explanation about Rocketship's policies and procedures that parents have questions about
- Talking about the history of Rocketship and the mission of the network and school
- Conversations about why the family chose Rocketship, how long they have lived in their community, etc.
- Invitation to an upcoming event at the school (i.e., Back to School Night, community meeting)
- Conversation about the teacher's background

## PARENT OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS

We provide many different opportunities for you to stay involved with your child's education. These include (but are not limited to):

- **Family Orientation.** Before school begins each year, parents will receive an invitation to an Orientation. All parents must attend this event.
- **Conferences.** A parent/guardian must attend conferences to meet with teachers to go over a student's progress report and/or report card.
- **Community Meetings.** All parents/guardians are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the scheduled Community Meetings. These meetings will help you stay informed regarding your school procedures and policies and become actively involved in further developing the school's mission.

- **Parent/Family Meetings.** All parents/guardians are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the scheduled Parent/Family Meetings to maintain an active role in their child's learning. These meetings are open to the entire family and typically take place on the weekends or on a weeknight.
- **Leadership groups at the school.** This may include a Parent Leadership group or other parent groups organized at the school.

## OPEN MEETING POLICY

All meetings of the Rocketship Education Wisconsin Board of Directors will comply with state open meetings law. Agendas will be posted publicly in advance and Rocketship shall also make meeting minutes publicly available upon approval.

## NOTIFICATIONS OF RIGHTS AND ASSURANCES

### NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA (ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 business days after the day the School receives a request for access. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the School Principal or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The School Principal or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardians or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents/guardians or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write to the School principal or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. If the School decides to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the School Principal must order the correction or the

removal and destruction of the information and inform the parent or eligible student of the amendment in writing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the School discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to School officials with legitimate educational interests. A School official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the School board. A School official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the School who performs an institutional service of function for which the School would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another School official in performing their tasks. A School official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Note that Rocketship will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Rocketship to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:
  - Family Policy Compliance Office
  - U.S. Department of Education
  - 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202
5. The right to request that Rocketship not release student names, addresses and telephone listings to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent.

**Disclosures that Rocketship may make without consent.**

FERPA permits the disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from a student's education records, without prior consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations.

Rocketship may disclose PII from the education records of a student to the following parties without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student:

1. Rocketship officials who have a legitimate educational interest as defined by 34 C.F.R. Part 99. This can include contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions.
2. Other schools or school systems to which a student seeks or intends to enroll so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.
3. Certain government officials listed in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1) in order to carry out lawful functions.
4. Appropriate parties in connection with a student's application for, or receipt of, financial aid if it is necessary to determine eligibility, amount of aid, conditions for aid or enforcing the terms and conditions of the aid.
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for Rocketship in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(F).
6. Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions.
7. Parents of a dependent student as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
8. Individuals or entities, in compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Subject to the exceptions found in 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(9)(i), reasonable effort must be made to notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent or eligible student may seek a protective order.
9. Persons who need to know in cases of health and safety emergencies.
10. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.
11. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former student, a short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student, and a caregiver (regardless of whether the caregiver has been appointed as the student's educational rights holder) who has direct responsibility for the care of the student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or non-related extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, and online communication on platforms established by Rocketship for student and parents, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by Rocketship.
12. A victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by Rocketship with respect to that alleged crime or offense. Rocketship discloses the final results of the disciplinary proceeding regardless of whether Rocketship concluded a violation was committed.



Except for disclosures to School officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the School to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

### **Notice for FERPA Directory Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the School, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the School may disclose PII that is appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the School to the contrary in accordance with the School's procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll or other recognition lists
- Graduation programs
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

"Directory Information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Rocketship may disclose the PII that it has designated as directory information without a parent's prior written consent. "Directory information," which is defined as set forth below, may be released to requestors in limited circumstances by Rocketship, without additional notice to parents/guardians, unless the parent/guardian timely "opts out" of such disclosures, in writing.

Directory Information at Rocketship includes:

- Student name, mailing address(es), telephone listing and email address
- Parent/guardian name, mailing address(es), telephone listing and email address
- Student birth date
- Dates of attendance, Grade Level, and Enrollment Status
- Degrees, honors, and awards received

If you do not want the School to disclose directory information without your prior written consent, you must submit a completed Directory Information Opt-Out Form. A Directory Information Opt-Out Form is included in annual enrollment documentation or a copy is available upon request at the main office.

### **Contract for Digital Storage, Management, and Retrieval of Student Records**

Rocketship may enter into a contract with a third party for the digital storage, management, and retrieval of student records and/or to authorize a third party provider of digital software to access, store, and use student records, provided that the contract meets the requirements of Education Code section 49073.1 and other applicable state and federal laws.

This complete policy, included within this handbook, serves as annual notice of the policy.

## **EDUCATION OF FOSTER YOUTH POLICY**

The Governing Board of Rocketship recognizes that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption to their educational program, and their emotional, social, and other health needs. In accordance with Section 1112(c)(5)(B) of ESEA (20 U.S.C. §6312(c)(5)(B)), all LEAs, in collaboration with the state Child and Family Services Agency, must ensure the implementation of the foster care provisions under ESEA.

### **Rocketship Liaison**

In order to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth to Rocketship, the Governing Board shall designate a Rocketship foster youth liaison. The Governing Board designates the following position as Rocketship's liaison for foster youth:

Sara Escamilla -Guerra  
2001 Gateway Place Ste. 230E  
San Jose, CA 95110  
sescamilla@rsed.org  
408-726-1999

### **Educational/School Stability Protections**

Taking into account the child's best interest, a child in foster care should remain in the same school that they attended before placement (the "school of origin"). CFSA is tasked with making the best interest determination and will seek input from the school serving as the child's school of origin.

When a determination is made that it is NOT in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child must immediately be enrolled in the new school, regardless of whether the child's records or other documentation typically needed for school enrollment can be produced. The enrolling school must immediately contact the previous school to obtain academic and other records. When there is a discrepancy over the best interest, the decision will be made in consultation with Rocketship, the local child welfare agency, and the Commission.

## **Transportation**

Rocketship and the CFSA shall complete a student-level transportation agreement for every foster child who requires school stability transportation services in order to get to and from their school of origin. The transportation agreement must identify all the resources, including no-cost and low-cost options such as public transportation; foster parent or other family members who may be willing and able to transport the student; special education services if the student is eligible; and any other public or private transportation resources either agency has at their disposal to provide transportation to the student. Upon identifying these resources, Rocketship and the CFSA POCs must weigh the options identified to determine which mode of transportation is most immediately available, cost-effective, and appropriate to meet the child's needs given their developmental age and individual capacity.

If additional costs are incurred in providing transportation, Rocketship shall provide such transportation if the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse Rocketship for such costs; Rocketship agrees to pay for the cost; or Rocketship and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost. In D.C., Local Education Agencies can use Title I funding to support additional costs of school stability transportation.

## **Effect of Absences on Grades**

The grades of a student in foster care shall not be lowered for any absence from school that is due to either of the following circumstances:

- A decision by a court or placement agency to change the student's placement, in which case the student's grades shall be calculated as of the date they left school.
- A verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity.

## **Definitions**

"Children awaiting foster placement" means children who have been removed from their homes by CFSA and who are in emergency or interim placement but for whom a decision to secure formal foster care placement has not been made. Usually, this is a very temporary (i.e., 24-48 hour) circumstance.

"Foster care" means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from parents or guardians and for whom CFSA has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placement in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, childcare institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

"School of origin" means the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child's foster placement changes, the school of origin will be the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.

This complete policy, included within this handbook, serves as annual notice of the policy.

## EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (“the McKinney-Vento Act”) is a federal law that ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) This policy is written in compliance with the requirements under the McKinney-Vento Act. It addresses relevant definitions; Rocketship’s Designated Homeless Liaison; general assurances regarding the education of homeless children and youth; procedures for identification and reporting; school selection; enrollment and records; transportation rights; and the enrollment dispute resolution process.

### Definitions

“Homeless children and youth” mean children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Living in a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, such as cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings or substandard housing (for example, condemned buildings or garages), bus or train stations, or other similar settings. In determining whether a housing arrangement may be deemed “substandard, the school may consider whether the setting lacks one of the fundamental utilities such as water, electricity, or heat; is infested with vermin or mold; lacks a basic functional part such as a working kitchen or toilet; presents unreasonable dangers to adults, children, or persons with disabilities. or is otherwise defined as “substandard” under local housing codes.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (does not include trailers or mobile homes in a mobile home park) or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- Unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- A child or unaccompanied youth shall be considered homeless for as long as they are in a living situation described above.

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by Rocketship’s Liaison.

## Designated Homeless Liaisons

The Rocketship Homeless Liaison serves Rocketship students in the designated region(s) below.

Sara Escamilla -Guerra  
2001 Gateway Place Ste. 230E  
San Jose, CA 95110  
sescamilla@rsed.org  
408-726-1999

The Homeless Liaison is required to:

- Ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies.
- Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, Rocketship schools.
- Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible.
- Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive referrals to health, dental, mental health, and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.
- Ensure that parents and guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions.
- Ensure that the parent/guardian of a homeless child or youth, or any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services and is assisted in accessing transportation services, if available and feasible.
- Ensure that school personnel receive professional development and other support.
- Assist unaccompanied youth in placement/enrollment decisions.
- Ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.
- Assist homeless children and youth who do not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, to obtain necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records
- Collaborate and coordinate with state coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

Rocketship provides the following general assurances:

- Homeless children and youth shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way.
- Homeless children and youth shall be provided services comparable to those received by other students in the school, including transportation services, and education programs for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title 1 or similar state and local programs; programs for students with disabilities; programs for students with limited English proficiency; vocational or technical programs; gifted and talented programs; and school nutrition programs.
- Homeless children and youth will have access to district administrative level reservation of funds (set-asides) for serving homeless students.
- Rocketship shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for these students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.
- Rocketship shall provide and post notices of the educational rights of homeless children and youth.

### **Identification and Reporting**

Rocketship will include the identification of homeless students and their unique educational needs in its targeted work to raise achievement for all students. Homeless children and youth will be identified through:

- The application process for enrollment (self-identification)
- School personnel recommendations
- Coordinated activities with other entities and agencies

Rocketship will comply with all federal, state, county, and other data collections and reporting requirements regarding homeless children and youth. Materials will be provided for students and parents in a language easily understood by families and students. If students or families are unable to read, additional support should be provided to explain student rights.

### **School Selection**

Homeless students have a right to select from the following schools:

- The school they attended when permanently housed (School of Origin)
- The school in which they was last enrolled (School of Origin)
- The school in the attendance area in which the student currently resides (School of Residency)

A homeless child or youth's right to attend their school of origin extends for the duration of homelessness. If a child or youth becomes permanently housed during the academic year, they are entitled to stay in the school of origin for the remainder of the academic year.

### **Enrollment and Records**

Homeless students may be identified at the time of enrollment (through self-reports). As all Rocketship schools are independent charter schools, and therefore schools of choice rather than assigned district schools, placement decisions are based solely on parent request through the application process. In order to provide equal access to its schools, the Rocketship annual student recruitment plan shall include efforts to reach homeless families, children, and youth via free public events, community centers, and local homeless service providers.

Homeless youth will not be discriminated against in the application process. Homeless children and youth will be immediately enrolled, if the student otherwise be eligible to attend, and subject to Rocketship's capacity and pursuant to the procedures in the charter document and board policies, even if the parent/guardian is unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment such as previous academic records, birth certificate, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. The Rocketship designee shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain the relevant records. If the student needs to obtain immunizations or does not possess immunization or other medical records, the designee shall refer the parent/guardian to the homeless liaison. The liaison shall assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the necessary immunizations or records for the student.

In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Designated Homeless Liaison shall assist in the enrollment process. Unaccompanied youth shall be immediately enrolled if space is available even if unable to provide the school with the records normally required for enrollment (as above), and despite lack of parent or legal guardian's supervision or permissions, or "power of attorney" by supervising adults.

In accordance with current Rocketship enrollment policies and state regulations regarding charter schools, if the grade level for which a homeless child or youth has applied has more applicants than spaces available, a random public lottery will take place in order to determine enrollment for the following school year. An "in-district" or "in-county" (depending on the type of school the student has applied to) priority will apply during the lottery to homeless youth who self-identify as homeless during the application process so as to not discriminate against homeless children or youth due to lack of permanent housing. If a homeless child or youth applies for admission after the annual random public lottery, they will be placed on the waitlist in the order in which the application was received, even if the application is incomplete at the time of submission.

Any confidential record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, of each homeless child or youth will be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district.

Information about a student's living situation that is maintained by Rocketship is part of the student's record, subject to the protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In general, FERPA prohibits a school from disclosing personally identifiable information ("PII") from students'

educational records without parental consent. One exception to this general consent rule is for information that the school has designated as “directory information,” which is information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. However, information regarding a student’s living situation is not considered directory information and must be provided the same protections as other non-directory PII.

### **Transportation**

Per the McKinney-Vento Act, Rocketship must provide services to homeless children and youth that are comparable to those received by other students in the school selected, including transportation. In addition, schools must provide transportation for homeless students to and from their school of origin, if feasible.

Rocketship, where feasible, at the request of the parent/guardian and/or in the best interest of the homeless child or youth, shall provide transportation to students experiencing homelessness to ensure the students are able to stay at the Rocketship school of their choice for the duration of their homelessness. Rocketship may work with the youth’s district of residence or other agencies to provide transportation services.

### **Enrollment Dispute Resolution Process**

As required by 42 USC § 11432(g)(1)(C), schools must develop and implement written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law with regards to enrollment and school placement as covered by the McKinney-Vento Act. The State Coordinator for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program will provide technical assistance to interested parties as requested and as necessary.

If a dispute arises over enrollment or school placement:

- the child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the school requested by the individual or organization submitting the complaint;
- the parent/guardian of the affected student(s) must be provided a written explanation of the school’s decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision;
- the child, youth, parent, or guardian must be referred to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison for the corporation, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
- in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Education Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

### **Rocketship Dispute Resolution Process**



Disputes may arise between a Rocketship school and a homeless student or homeless parent/guardian regarding, among other things, enrollment or transportation. At such a time, the Homeless Education Liaison immediately becomes involved, and Rocketship must follow a procedure that includes these steps:

- A student must be allowed to attend or enroll in the school that is challenging the student's right to attend until a final decision is made regarding the dispute. The challenging school must provide transportation and other school services as needed to the student until the dispute is resolved.
- The dispute resolution process begins at the time a school challenges the right of either a parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, to enroll a child or youth in school, to continue enrollment in school, or to receive services such as transportation assistance.
- When Rocketship challenges the enrollment or services of the child or unaccompanied youth, Rocketship must:
  - Provide notice of the challenge to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, through the Homeless Education, on the day of the challenge.
  - Provide notice of the right to appeal the challenge to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth. This notice must include a form to be completed by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth should they decide to appeal Rocketship's decision.
- The Homeless Education Liaison will provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with written notice in clear, easy-to-understand language detailing the dispute resolution process.
- Rocketship will have three working days to review its initial decision and make a final decision as to the position taken (i.e., whether it will continue to challenge the right of the student to be enrolled). The decision must state all factual information upon which it is based and the legal basis in support thereof.

### **Pregnant and Parenting Students**

Rocketship recognizes that pregnant and parenting students are entitled to accommodations that provide them with the opportunity to succeed academically while protecting their health and the health of their children. A pregnant or parenting student is entitled to eight (8) weeks of parental leave, or more if deemed medically necessary by the student's physician, which the student may take before the birth of the student's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the student who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting student to care for and bond with the infant. Rocketship will ensure that absences from the student's regular school program are excused until the student is able to return to the regular school program.

Upon return to school after taking parental leave, a pregnant or parenting student will be able to make up work missed during the pregnant or parenting student's leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and re enrollment in courses. Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting student may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in Rocketship if it is necessary in order for the student to be able to complete any graduation requirements, unless Rocketship determines that the student is

reasonably able to complete the graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pregnant or parenting students may be filed under the General Complaint Process.

This complete policy, included within this handbook, serves as annual notice of the policy.

## SCHOOL MEALS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, institution participating in or administering USDA programs are Rocketship Charter School is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or  
fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or  
email: [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

Rocketship is an equal opportunity provider of student meals.

## GENERAL COMPLAINT PROCESS

Rocketship values the concerns of our parents, staff, students, and community and takes all concerns and complaints seriously. The following general complaint procedure should be employed to ensure complaints receive full consideration.

### Informal Complaints

Because most difficulties can be resolved by communicating a concern to someone, complainants are encouraged to discuss their concern or complaint promptly and candidly with their student's teacher, the school Principal or the school Principal's designee. However, a complainant is not required to discuss his/her complaint in any manner or for any reason prior to initiating a formal complaint.

### Use of General Complaint Process

Rocketship's general complaint process should be used as follows:

- To deal with complaints and concerns pertaining to the educational environment or interpersonal conflicts.
- To allege violations of state or federal law, including Title IX, or of the school's charter.

### Who May File a Complaint

The procedures set forth below may be used by complainants who are students, parents, or visitors. Employees should refer to the Employee Handbook for procedures specific to filing employee complaints.

### Confidentiality

All documentation and information related to an investigation conducted as a result of a complaint are considered confidential and are not revealed or discussed with persons not involved with the complaint or decision-making process.

### Filing a Complaint

Complainants may file complaints verbally or in writing, and complaints may be made in person, by phone, via email or in writing using the General Complaint Form.

Complainants should follow the process outlined below when they wish to file a formal written complaint regarding school policies, procedures and/or practices. The school will respond as outlined below.

1. Fill out a General Complaint Form, available at the school's front office. The General Complaint Form should be submitted to the school Principal within ninety (90) days of encountering the issue that is the subject of the complaint.
2. Upon receiving a completed General Complaint Form, the school Principal will notify the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer. The Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer, in

consultation with Legal, Compliance and others, will notify state authorities of the complaint, if appropriate and/or legally required.

3. The Principal, or his/her designee, will conduct an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of the complaint. This will include interviewing witnesses, obtaining any relevant documents, and allowing parties to provide evidence. The investigation will aim to be concluded within twenty (20) school days of receiving the General Complaint Form unless exceptional circumstances justify a more extended period within which to complete the investigation. The amount of additional time granted for an exceptional circumstance will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
4. The person who conducted the investigation (either the Principal or his/her designee) will prepare a final written report with a recommendation for resolving the complaint and will provide the final report to the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer. The final report will name the party bringing the complaint, describe the nature of the complaint, summarize the investigation, recommend one or more resolutions, and provide reasons for the recommended resolutions.
5. The complainant will be informed once the investigation is complete. If required by law, the complainant will be provided a copy of the final written report. If the complainant is not satisfied with the school's response, he/she may appeal to the Executive Director and/or may pursue any other appeals provided by law. Appeals to the Executive Director must be submitted in writing by the complainant within ten (10) school days of the complainant's notification of the end of the investigation.

### **Prohibition Against Retaliation**

Rocketship will not retaliate against any person who files a complaint in accordance with this Policy or against any person who participates in proceedings related to this Policy. In addition, Rocketship will not tolerate any form of retaliation against any person who makes a good faith report or complaint about perceived acts of harassment, discrimination, bullying, intimidation or other concern, or who cooperates in an investigation of such a complaint. Any person who is found to be engaging in any kind of retaliation will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Modification**

Rocketship may approve modification of the foregoing procedures in a particular case if the modification is for good cause and does not violate the due process rights of the parties involved or any policies of Rocketship.

### **Contact Information**

The contact information for the school Principal can be found on the school's website.

Complainants also have the right to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights by: (1) mailing the complaint to Director, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20202-1475; (2) faxing it to 202-453-6021; or (3) filing electronically at [www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html](http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html).

### **Other Remedies**

This complaint process does not bar complainants from filing claims in other forums to the extent permitted by state and federal law.

## **TITLE IX COMPLAINT PROCESS**

Rocketship values the concerns of our parents, staff, students, and community and takes all concerns and complaints seriously. Rocketship's comprehensive Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures may be found on Rocketship's website. The below offers a brief overview.

### **Complaints under Title IX**

Complaints governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 are reported to the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer, and an investigation of those complaints is conducted promptly and impartially.

### **Supportive Measures**

Once an allegation of Title IX discrimination, sex-based harassment, or retaliation has been received, the school designee and/or Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer/designee will offer individualized supportive measures to ensure the safety of the parties involved and the safety of the educational environment, to restore or preserve equal access to Rocketship's education program or activity, and to provide support during the investigation and resolution process.

Examples of supportive measures include, but are not limited to, designating a staff member to serve as that complainant's "safe" person, altering the respondent/complainant's seating or schedule to reduce access between the respondent and the complainant, creating individual safety plans, and possible consultation with the school's professional mental health service providers.

### **Investigation, Determination of Responsibility and Remedies**

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. The investigation will be conducted by the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer/designee in a prompt and equitable manner to remedy the alleged violation. Rocketship will use a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not that harassment occurred) when resolving complaints. If the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights Officer/designee determines an incident of discrimination, sex-based harassment or retaliation has occurred,

prompt and effective steps will be taken to end the unlawful conduct, eliminate its effects, prevent recurrence of an incident, and restore the safety of the complainant.

For additional information, please see Rocketship's Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures available on Rocketship's website.

## TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is one of the three pillars of Rocketship. We work directly with parents, helping them become leaders at home, in the school, and in their communities. Our commitment to parent engagement is reinforced through our Title I Parent Involvement Initiatives.

### **Development and Review of Policy**

Rocketship will take the following actions to engage parents in the joint development and review of its Title I Parent Involvement Policy:

- Gather and disseminate to parents for review the following materials: the Title I Parental Involvement Policy and the Title I school-parent compact. These materials will be disseminated to parents during one of the school's fall community meetings or at fall parent/teacher conferences.
- Written and oral input from parents will be solicited through regularly scheduled community meetings, parent/teacher conference feedback and regular written communications with parents.

Schools will distribute the Title I policy through the Parent/Student Handbook and/or at community meetings throughout the school year.

### **Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program**

To involve parents in the Title I program at Rocketship, the following practices have been established:

- All parents are invited to participate in the annual review of the school's Title I programs. All flyers and notices about the meetings are disseminated by classroom and school newsletters, email, calls and posted on the website. Each year the school holds at least two meetings to review, elaborate, edit, and add goals to school programs and plans. The plan may also be discussed at meetings of the School Site Council.
- Rocketship schools provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, flexibility, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school Performance. The school will offer monthly community meetings, workshops, and additional activities for parents. The parents will vote at community meetings held either at the end of the school year (for the following year) or at the beginning of the year (for current year) to give input on the content of community meetings and any additional workshops they would like to have. Parents who cannot attend the meetings

will be invited to give input through a survey, letter, email or call to their Title I teacher.

- If the schoolwide plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Rocketship shall submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available.
- Rocketship schools involve 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 using the measures described above.
- Rocketship schools provide parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs through school and classroom newsletters, parent-teacher home visits, parent- teacher conferences, family events and exhibition nights, and community meetings and leadership training.
- Rocketship schools build the capacity of parents/guardians for strong parent involvement. Each 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. Schools will also provide parents/guardians with assistance on how to monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. The school shall ensure that this information is communicated to parents/guardians in a format and, to the extent practicable, language that the parent/guardian can understand.
- Rocketship schools provide opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. This happens through community meetings, parent-teacher conferences, home visits, and school and classroom newsletters.
- If requested by parents, and to the extent not covered by any of the above options, Rocketship will provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- Rocketship, with the assistance of its parents, will educate its teachers, school leaders and other school staff how to reach out to, communicate with and value parents as equal partners in their children's education. The school shall inform parents/guardians of the existence of parent resource centers in the state that provide training, information, and support to parent/guardians.

This policy will be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the school.

### **School-Parent Compact**

Rocketship distributes to parents of all 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.

The compact will permit parents to communicate obstacles to parental involvement and Rocketship will consider discussing available resources with parents as required and appropriate.

### **Building Capacity for Involvement**

As described above, Rocketship schools engage Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school.

Our schools support 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 which are undertaken during regular community meetings, home visits, parent-teacher conferences, and special school events.

- Rocketship 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.
- Rocketship provides Title I parents with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
- Rocketship educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and how to work with parents as equal partners. Rocketship has a Parent Leadership team, which is tasked with building parental capacity for leadership and parent involvement.
- Rocketship involves parents of all backgrounds, including those with limited English proficiency, those with disabilities, and parents of migratory students.
- Rocketship coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- Rocketship distributes Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand.
- Rocketship provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents.

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this policy, Rocketship shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members, including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and families who have disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children. This includes providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

Rocketship has a responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to achieve the state’s student academic achievement standards.

Parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the following:

- monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television viewing;
- volunteering in the classroom, at the school, or at a school-sponsored event (not required, but



Rocketship strongly encourages the completion of 20 Parent Participation hours);

- attending school community meetings and other school events;
- participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their children's education and the positive use of extracurricular time.

Rocketship believes in the importance of communication between teachers and parents/guardians on an ongoing basis. This shall be established by:

- Parent-teacher conferences, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the student's achievement.
- Frequent reports to parents/guardians on their children's progress.
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's classroom, and observation of classroom activities.
- Ensuring regular two-way communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.
- Regular opportunities to attend school community meetings and other school-sponsored events.

## **ESSA PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW**

Pursuant to Section 1112(e)(1)(A-B) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, a student's parent may request, and Rocketship will provide the parents upon request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualifications for grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other professional status that the State has waived;
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher;
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so their qualifications.

## **COPPA**

Rocketship schools use several computer software applications and web-based services, operated not by schools in our network, but by third-party vendors. We use these tools to provide students with the most effective software and web-based services for learning. In accordance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Rocketship consents to the vendors' collection, use, and disclosure of information obtained directly from students. Rocketship gives this consent on behalf of parents.

Under COPPA, each software provider or website operator is bound to maintain the confidentiality of the information collected, and must provide parental notification and obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children under the age of 13. The law permits schools such as ours to consent to the collection of personal information on behalf of all of its students, thereby eliminating the need for individual parental consent given directly to the web site operator. For more information on COPPA, please visit <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions>.

A list of the software and services used by RSED, with the privacy policy for each, can be found on our network website at: <https://www.rocketshipschools.org>.

Upon request from Rocketship, vendors must provide the school a description of the types of personal information collected; an opportunity to review a child's personal information and/or have the information deleted; and the opportunity to prevent further use or online collection of a child's personal information.

Parents retain the right to request review of their child's personal information and/or have information deleted. Parents also have the right to opt their child out of participating in educational activities that involve the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information collected from their child.