

September 9, 2022

Dear Staff, Communities and Families of RSU 16,

The school year is finally underway and we are thrilled to have staff and students back in the classroom, on the buses, on the athletic fields, and in the cafeterias. This year's theme is “joy” and we would like to offer that same theme to all our students, families, and community members. The RSU 16 staff are here to help, guide, and assist our students through their public education experiences. If we all assume positive intent with school issues, then our theme of joy is more likely to be realized for all involved. Enjoy the 2022-2023 school year and help us all make it a joyful experience and one our students will never forget.

Tip Line

Our Tip Line represents one approach our schools and communities may use to share the responsibility of school and student safety and well-being. This Tip Line provides students, staff or other members of the public with a safe and confidential way to report a threat or potential threat to student or school safety. Call 911 in cases of immediate emergency. It is located on our website: rsu16.org and scroll down.

Two Types of Threats

RSU 16 follows a 5-step decision tree to determine if a threat is transient or substantive.

Transient Threats: can be quickly and easily resolved, often jokes or figures of speech, no intent to carry out the threat, sometimes the results of frustration or expression of anger.

Substantive Threats: cannot be easily classified as transient and use protective action so the threat cannot be carried out.

Assessment Policy

Our District receives federal funds for education programs that are part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended (2015).

This law requires that all States adopt challenging academic standards and tests based on those standards. There must be at least three levels of scores for students who take these tests. This includes tests in mathematics, reading or language arts, science, and any other subject chosen by the State. States are required to develop English language proficiency tests for students who are English learners. Furthermore, States must develop alternate tests for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. A school district may also request State approval to use a locally selected test for high school students that is different from the State test.

These academic tests provide important information that help teachers, schools, school districts and states identify students' strengths and weaknesses. Test results and other information are used to improve academic and language instruction for students. These tests are also used to identify schools that may be in need of extra support to improve student achievement. It is the goal of the district to have all students participate in state and local testing.

You have the right to request to receive any State or District policy about student participation in any of these tests required by the ESEA. If you request this information, the district must provide it to you.

If you have decided you do not want your child to participate in the State testing, please contact the building principal to request the Test Refusal Form. Please note that a new Test Refusal Form must be submitted each school year.

ESSA Data Dashboard

Each year, RSU 16 must share with families, under the Title I statute, our dashboard distributed by the Maine Department of Education. To access the dashboard, go to <https://www.maine.gov/doe/dashboard>

Transportation Update

Thanks to everyone who submitted transportation request forms within the requested time frame! As of today, 1,474 students are listed as riding our buses and vans this year. Preliminary estimates indicate that our ridership is at or above pre-pandemic levels, but it appears that not all of these 1,474 students may actually be riding. Please let Fred Barlow know at FBarlow@rsu16.org, if your student is listed as a bus rider and will not actually ride a bus this year, and please include the student's name and address in your email? This will help our transportation team members as they endeavor to transport our precious cargo safely, and also efficiently.

Sincerely,
Amy and Ken