

RESILIENCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Student & Parent Handbook

Academic Year 2025-2026

Our Mission

The Resilience Leadership Academy is committed to nurturing the academic, emotional, and spiritual growth of students who have faced challenges, including those expelled for drug-related offenses. We provide a safe, faith-centered environment enriched by high-quality curriculum and education, empowering students to rebuild their lives, regain their confidence, and develop the skills necessary for a successful future.

Contact Information

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PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook serves as a comprehensive guide to the policies, procedures, and expectations at Resilience Leadership Academy (RLA). It is designed to help students, parents, guardians, and family members understand our unique educational approach and community standards.

Important Note

Please review this handbook as a complete family unit, including parents, guardians, case workers, and any other significant support persons. Understanding these policies and procedures is essential for student success at RLA.

How to Use This Handbook

- Read through all sections carefully with your student
- Discuss expectations and policies as a family
- Keep this handbook accessible for reference throughout the school year
- Contact RLA administration at (832) 292-5864 with any questions
- Visit our website at www.resilienceleadershipacademy.org for updates

Our Commitment

RLA is committed to providing clear expectations and consistent support to help every student succeed academically, emotionally, and spiritually. This handbook outlines the framework within which we accomplish this mission.

SCHOOL PROFILE & MISSION

About Resilience Leadership Academy

Resilience Leadership Academy was established to meet the unique educational needs of students who have faced significant challenges, particularly those related to substance use. We serve students in grades 6-12 across Montgomery, Liberty, Polk, San Jacinto, and Walker counties.

Our Core Values

- **Faith and Integrity:** Living out Christian beliefs with honesty and moral courage
- **Resilience and Growth:** Embracing challenges as opportunities for learning
- **Empathy and Compassion:** Creating a nurturing environment for all
- **Collaboration and Community:** Working together for student success
- **Innovation and Purpose:** Encouraging entrepreneurial thinking and creativity

Educational Philosophy

RLA employs a transformative educational approach that blends academic rigor with recovery-focused methodologies. Our curriculum is designed to:

- Empower students to take ownership of their education and recovery
- Integrate faith and learning through Christian values
- Focus on practical skills through leadership development and vocational training
- Encourage peer support and collaboration

Non-Discrimination Policy

RLA is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, or national origin. We do not condone discrimination based on any factors prohibited by law.

DAILY SCHEDULE & CALENDAR

Regular Schedule (Monday - Thursday)

Time	Period	Activity
8:00 - 8:54 AM	Wellness/Check-In	Daily community meeting and support
8:54 - 9:44 AM	Second Period	Academic instruction
9:44 - 10:38 AM	Third Period	Academic instruction
10:38 - 11:32 AM	Fourth Period	Academic instruction
11:32 AM - 12:24 PM	Lunch	Meal and recovery support (as applicable)
12:24 - 1:18 PM	Fifth Period	Academic instruction
1:18 - 2:12 PM	Sixth Period	Academic instruction
2:12 - 3:02 PM	Seventh Period	Academic instruction
3:02 - 3:05 PM	Closing	Daily wrap-up and dismissal

Friday Schedule (Special Programming)

Fridays feature abbreviated periods to allow for extended wellness activities, community service projects, and special programming that supports our recovery-focused mission.

Attendance Reminder

Students must arrive by 8:00 AM daily. The wellness/check-in period is foundational to our program and provides essential support for student success.

ADMISSION & ENROLLMENT

Admission Eligibility

RLA serves students in grades 6-12 who can benefit from our specialized recovery-focused education. We welcome students from diverse backgrounds who are committed to their educational and recovery journey.

Service Area

RLA primarily serves students from Montgomery, Liberty, Polk, San Jacinto, and Walker counties, specifically zip codes: 77301, 77302, 77303, 77306, 77327, 77331, 77320, 77351, 77357, 77372, 77575.

Program Options

Therapeutic Boarding School

Residential program providing 24/7 support for students in early recovery who need intensive structure and supervision.

Transition Private School

Day program for students with more sustained recovery who are ready for increased independence while maintaining recovery support.

Application Process

- Complete and submit RLA student application
- Provide academic records from previous schools
- Submit documentation of any special education services
- Participate in family interview with admissions team
- Complete student assessment as determined by administration

Financial Information

Financial aid may be available for qualifying families. Applications and required documentation can be found on our website. Financial aid does not cover drug testing fees or other specialized program costs.

Withdrawal and Re-enrollment

Students withdrawing from RLA must complete the withdrawal process through the Executive Director. Under Texas Education Code 25.0951, students must be enrolled in another educational setting within 10 school days of withdrawal.

Re-enrollment Policy

Students withdrawn for behavioral issues may be eligible for re-enrollment based on compliance with enrollment criteria and a meeting with all involved parties. Some expulsions are final and re-enrollment will not be an option.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Grading System

Academic Grades

- A: 90-100 (Excellent)
- B: 80-89 (Good)
- C: 75-79 (Satisfactory)
- D: 70-74 (Below Average)
- F: 0-69 (Failing)
- I: Incomplete

Conduct Grades

- E: Excellent
- S: Satisfactory
- N: Needs Improvement
- U: Unsatisfactory

Grade Calculation

Teachers will use the following weighting system:

- Major grades (tests, projects, exams): 35%
- Minor grades (daily work, classwork): 55%
- Enrichment/Practice (homework, participation): 10%

Progress Reports and Report Cards

- Progress reports distributed every 3 weeks
- Report cards distributed every 6 weeks
- Self-paced programs may show "in progress" rather than numerical grades
- Parents will receive completion reports for computer-based courses

Make-Up Work Policy

Students have one class day per absence day to complete make-up assignments, not to exceed five days. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed assignments from teachers.

Extended Absences

Students absent for three or more consecutive days may request assignments in advance. Medical documentation is required for absences of three or more days.

Homework Policy

RLA believes in maintaining balance between education and recovery. Students receive weekly homework in core subjects and occasional projects. We assign manageable homework loads to respect students' need for family time and recovery activities.

Special Education Services

RLA is committed to serving students with special needs. Parents may request evaluation for special education services at any time. We implement Response to Intervention (RTI) strategies and provide appropriate accommodations as determined by evaluation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Diploma Plans

Subject Area	Foundation Diploma	Recommended Diploma
English (I, II, III, IV)	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits	4 credits
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
Foreign Language	2 credits	2 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit
Speech	0.5 credits	0.5 credits
Electives/Endorsements	5 credits	5.5 credits
TOTAL CREDITS	22.5 credits	26 credits

Student Classification

Grade Levels by Credits

- 9th Grade (Freshman): 0-6 credits
- 10th Grade (Sophomore): 6.5-12 credits
- 11th Grade (Junior): 12.5-18 credits
- 12th Grade (Senior): 18.5+ credits

Class Rank & GPA

Class ranking is determined by averaging semester grade points from all high school semesters. All courses within the regular school day carry grade points for ranking calculations.

Graduation Checklist

- Track high school credits to ensure meeting all requirements

- Maintain record of awards, honors, and extracurricular activities
- Research college and university requirements early
- Take PSAT/SAT/ACT tests as appropriate
- Apply for scholarships and financial aid
- Complete all required coursework and examinations

College and Career Preparation

RLA is committed to preparing students for post-secondary success through rigorous academics, leadership development, and practical life skills. Our graduates are equipped to pursue higher education, skilled trades, or direct entry into the workforce.

ATTENDANCE POLICY**Compulsory Attendance**

Under Texas Education Code, students must attend school each day for the entire instructional program. Students must be in attendance at least 90% of the time each semester to receive credit, regardless of grades earned.

Credit Recovery

Students exceeding nine absences per semester will not receive credit unless they complete the "Buy Back Program" - an hour-for-hour tutorial and community service program to make up missed instruction time.