



GOODHUE COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT

PARTNERS IN THE JOURNEY

Welcome to the 2026-27 School Year!

Before the first day of school arrives, I wanted to take a moment to welcome you to a new school year! I hope your family has had opportunities this summer to relax, make memories, and enjoy time together.

Our staff has been busy preparing for another exciting year of learning, growth, and new experiences. We are looking forward to welcoming both returning and new students into classrooms where they are known, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

At GCED, we believe every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. We are committed to providing individualized instruction, specialized services, and supportive learning environments that help each child grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We know that the strongest outcomes happen when schools and families work together, and we value the partnership we share with you.

As we begin this new school year, we look forward to celebrating successes, navigating challenges together, and helping every student build the skills and confidence they need for school and for life.

Thank you for trusting us to be part of your child's educational journey. We are excited for all that this school year will bring. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we'll see you soon!

Cheryl Johnson

Cherie Johnson, Executive
Director

SCHOOL CLOSURES

For students in our brick and mortar sites, there are many factors are taken into consideration when deciding to close schools, but the safety of students and staff is the number one consideration.

We will make the decision to close or delay the starting of school by 6:00 am, when possible. The [ReachMyTeach System](#) will be used to inform parents and guardians. GCED will also post information on our [website](#).

To update your contact information, call 651-388-4441 or use ReachMyTeach.

395 Guernsey Lane,
Red Wing, MN 55066
gced.k12.mn.us
651-388-4441

**In this newsletter you
can expect:**

[School Closure
Information](#)

[Information from the
School Nurse](#)

[K-12 Education
Savings Related
Information](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Directory
Information](#)

[And more...](#)





NOTES FROM THE NURSE



Medications

Does your child need medications at school? Please complete the [Medication Request Form](#). If it is a prescription medication it will also need to be signed by your child's provider.



Vaccines

Wondering about what vaccines your child needs to start school? All the requirements for school can be found [at the MN Department of Health](#). Updates are required for student's kindergarten, 7th grade and at age 16, pay close attention to those.

The MN School Immunization Law requires all students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 to show they have received certain immunizations or an exemption. Schools are required to report immunization data to MDH each school year.

Per the MN Immunization Law, Kindergarten students are required to have Hepatitis B, DTaP/DT, Polio, MMR and Varicella vaccines. Seventh graders are required to also have Meningococcal vaccines. HPV vaccine is recommended for 7th graders. Any questions regarding this information please call our School Nurse at 651-388-4441.

Students taking medication must bring a doctor's order and the medication to the Nurse's Office. These medications must be delivered to the Nurse's Office by an adult; please do not send medication with your child.

Medication must be brought in its original container. No baggies or envelopes of medication will be accepted.

Administration of over-the-counter medication (including acetaminophen and ibuprofen) requires written authorization from a parent or legal guardian.

Students will not be allowed to start school if their immunization record is not current. Any students participating in a sport starting in 7th grade need a physical on file at school to participate. The student then needs a physical every 3 years. Parents will need to file a medical exemption or conscientious objection signed by the parent and notarized if they are not having their child immunized.

Goodhue County Education District 2026-27 School Calendar

GCED Board Approved on 1.29.26

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Staff Days 7				
September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
Student 21 / Staff 21						
October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Student 20 / Staff 20						
November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
Student 18 / Staff 18						
December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
Student 16 / Staff 16						
January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Student 19 / Staff 20						

August 17-18	New Staff Academy
August 20	All County SpEd Wkshp (GCED Day)
August 19-31	Staff Wkshp (select days)
August 26	Open House 3:30-5:30
September 1	First Student Day
September 7	No School Labor Day
September 11	PLC Early Release 12:45
October 9	PLC Early Release 12:45
October 15-16	No School
October 30	End of 1st Qtr
November 2	1st Day 2nd Qtr
November 5	Parent Tchr Conferences 3:30-6:30
November 13	PLC Early Release 12:45
November 25-27	No School
December 11	PLC Early Release 12:45
December 23-Jan 1	No School
January 15	PLC Early Release 12:45/End of Qtr 2
January 18	Teacher Workshop (No Students)
January 19	1st Day 3rd Qtr
February 12	PLC Early Release 12:45
February 15	Teacher Workshop (No Students)
March 11	Parent Tchr Conferences 3:30-6:30
March 12	PLC Early Release 12:45
March 22-29	No School
April 2	End of 3rd Qtr
April 5	1st Day 4th Qtr
April 16	PLC Early Release 12:45
April 26	No School
May 14	PLC Early Release 12:45
May 31	No School
June 3	Last Student Day
June 4	Teacher Workshop
June 5	Graduation 10:30 a.m.

This calendar reflects 174 scheduled student days and 185 Staff Days + 8 hrs (Conferences/Open House)

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
Student 19/ Staff 20						
March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Student 17 / Staff 18						
April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Student 21 / Staff 21						
May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
Student 20 / Staff 20						
June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
Student 3 / Staff 4						

Q1 = 41, Qtr 2 = 44, Q3 = 47, Q4 = 42
Semester 1 = 85, Semester 2 = 89

- No School
- Early Release
- Tchr Wkshp - No Students
- 1st/Last Day of Quarter
- PT Conferences



Maximize your Minnesota K-12 education savings!

Did you know that Minnesota offers a [K-12 Education Subtraction and a K-12 Education Credit](#) to help families offset the cost of K-12 education experiences? These programs can lead to significant tax savings. Knowing which expenses qualify is crucial.

Follow these links for more information.

[K-12 Informational handout in English](#)

[K-12 informational handout in Spanish](#)

Apply for Educational Benefits

Why is this so important to fill out every year???

Although no application is required to receive school meals free of charge, we highly recommend and ask that all families complete an Application for Educational Benefits for the 2026-27 school year. Links are included below. Educational benefits include more than just free/reduced-price meals! Qualifying families may receive reduced prices on the following items:

- ACT/SAT/AP fees
- Activities and athletics fees
- Home internet
- College application fees
- And more!

Families who qualify for Educational Benefits (Free/Reduced-price meals) should still plan to fill out an application for next school year, beginning July 1, 2026. This ensures that you will still receive discounts on other programs/fees and ensures the district doesn't lose critical funding for students.

The district also benefits from additional state and federal funding when families complete this form to ensure students receive the support they need for a comprehensive education.

[Application for Educational Benefits – English](#)

[Application for Educational Benefits – Spanish](#)



Annual Notification of Potassium Iodide (KI) Distribution Procedures

River Bluff Education Center (RBEC) is located in the Emergency Planning Zone that surrounds the nuclear power plant in Red Wing. While many safety measures are in place to prevent problems at the nuclear plant, it is important that we at school do our best to prepare for every possible situation. The first priority in a major nuclear disaster is to immediately evacuate everyone. The importance of quickly leaving the area cannot be over emphasized. If, for some unknown reason, evacuation were delayed, people could be exposed to radioactive material from the power plant. Exposure to radioactivity can cause health problems such as high rates of thyroid cancer later in life. There is an easy way to offer protection from at least this one problem.

Potassium Iodide (KI) is a substance that, if taken just before or within 4 hours after exposure to nuclear material, can protect the thyroid gland. The thyroid gland, important for normal growth in childhood and early adolescence, absorbs KI, shielding the gland from absorbing radioactive matter. KI is an over-the-counter medication that comes in pill or liquid form.

It is similar to iodized table salt. Our school district has worked with the state Homeland Security and Emergency Management office to obtain doses of KI for all students and staff. Taking KI is safe for most people. It is possible to experience an upset stomach, rash, or allergic reaction when taking KI. KI should not be taken if someone is allergic to iodine, has Graves Disease, has any other thyroid illness, or takes thyroid medication. PLEASE CONSULT WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT TAKING KI.

KI will only be given in the case of a radiological emergency, if it is recommended by public health officials, and if a parent/guardian signs a consent form for a child. All students entering RBEC programs need to have a consent form on file in their cumulative file. The consent form is valid for the duration of a child's attendance at RBEC.





DIRECTORY INFORMATION

School districts are required by state and federal law to notify parents and students that certain information contained in a student's education record may be made public without prior written consent. The GCED designates the following as "directory information" and may, in accordance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act, release the following directory information without permission unless the district has been notified that it should not be released.

"Directory information" means information contained in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to:



- Student's name
- Parent's name
- Student's date of birth
- Student's major field of study
- Student's dates of school attendance, grade level completed, enrollment status
- Student's participation in officially recognized activities/sports
- Student's height and weight, if a member of an athletic team
- Student's degrees, honors and awards received
- Student's most recent educational agency or institution attended

GCED considers all of the above to be Directory Information. A parent/guardian of a student or an eligible student (18 years of age or older) may object to the listed directory information being disclosed without the parent/guardian or eligible student's prior written consent except to school officials as provided under federal law.

In order to make all directory information private, the parent/guardian or eligible student must submit a completed Denial of Release of Directory Information (Appendix C to Policy 515-Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records) to your student's building principal or the GCED Executive Director. This designation will remain in effect for the current school year.

Federal and state laws require all school districts to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the name, address and telephone number of all 11 and 12 grade students within 60 days after the date of the request unless the parent or eligible student (students over 18 years old and not a dependent) requests that the information not be provided without written permission. Data released to military recruiting officers under this provision may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military and cannot be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces.

If you do not want GCED to release your student's name, address, electronic mail address (which shall be the electronic mail addresses provided by the school district, if available, that may be released to military recruiters only), and telephone number to a military recruiter, you must complete Appendix D (Denial of Release of Information to Military Recruiters) to Policy 515-Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records. Please note that if you previously submitted a Denial of Release of Directory Information (Appendix C), it alone will not be sufficient. The law requires that a specific denial of access to military recruiters be made. In order to make all directory information about a student private to the public in general, including military recruiting officers, the parent/guardian or eligible student must complete Appendix C and Appendix D.



Public Notice: Education Rights of Children and Youth That Are Experiencing Homelessness

This public notice provides information about the rights of children, youth, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to attend a public school. An unaccompanied youth is a youth that does not live with a parent or guardian. This notice includes information to help you know if you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness and is eligible for services from a school district. Children or youth experiencing homelessness have rights that include the right to attend public schools. If you need assistance understanding this letter, please contact:

Name: Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director

Email: cjohnson@gced.k12.mn.us

Phone: 651-398-6355

Do you need an interpreter? Please tell us and we will make sure one is available.

Our school district actively enrolls and provides services for children and youth experiencing homelessness. If you are experiencing homelessness or know of a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth that may be experiencing homelessness, please contact the person listed here.

District Homeless Liaison: Shelly Angell

Phone: 651-388-4441

Address: 395 Guernsey Lane, Red Wing, MN 55066

Email: sangell@gced.k12.mn.us

Who is “homeless”? Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are experiencing homelessness. Fixed means the home is connected to the ground and is not easy to move. Regular means a place where the child sleeps every night. Adequate means the home meets modern standards of living. Children who are sharing someone else’s housing because they lost theirs or because they cannot afford their own housing are experiencing homelessness.

What are the education rights of children and youth that are experiencing homelessness?

Schools provide the same educational services to all students without regard to their living situation. Children and youth who are experiencing homelessness also have rights that include:

- access to “school of origin”
- immediate enrollment in any public school where the student now lives; this includes any school that students who are not homeless attend that is in the area where the child or youth now lives
- services without delay
- other appropriate services and programs, such as programs for: gifted children, children with disabilities, multilingual learners, career and technical education and preschool.
- help in school through the district’s federally funded Title I program
- school activities for parents/guardians
- participation in athletics, fine arts, or other extra-curricular activities
- being treated the same as students who are not homes by school personnel

What is the “school of origin”?

‘School of origin’ means the school the child or youth attended before experiencing homelessness or the school the child or youth last attended, including a preschool. Districts must consider what is best for the child or youth when deciding which school the student will attend. Placement at the school of origin must be a choice unless doing so is not what is best for the student or is against the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.

What if there is disagreement about school placement?

If a district places a student in a school that is not the school of origin or a school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, then the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth may appeal the placement decision. The student will be immediately enrolled in the school that the student or parent asked for while an appeal is being considered. The district homeless liaison listed on this notice will provide information and assistance to appeal a placement decision.



Notification of Rights under FERPA and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act give parents/guardians 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 10 days after the day GCED receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit to the Executive Director a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Executive Director will make arrangements for access and notify the parent 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 or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the GCED to amend their child's or their education record should write to the Executive Director to clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, it will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.
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 the law permits disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the GCED 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. applicable requirements under § 99.37 are met. (§ 99.31(a)(11)).

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. 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. The following are a few common circumstances under which PII may be disclosed without consent: To other school officials, including school district officials, teachers, and support staff, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in § 99.31(a)(1)(i) (B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(3) are met. (§ 99.31(a)(1)); To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of § 99.34. (§ 99.31(a)(2)); To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to § 99.38. (§ 99.31(a)(5)); To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction, if applicable requirements are met. (§ 99.31(a)(6)); To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena if applicable requirements are met. (§99.31(a)(9)); To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§ 99.31(a) (10); To an agency caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency or tribal organization who is authorized to access a student's case plan when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with State or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student in foster care placement. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(L)); To the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to find out if your child is on Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare if your child is evaluated and found to be eligible for special education services; and Information the school has designated as "directory information" if applicable requirements under § 99.37 are met. (§ 99.31(a)(11)).

Thank you for reading!