



RYAN WALTERS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Ryan Walters
DATE: July 25, 2024
SUBJECT: Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship

Redbud Farm School (RFS) request approval to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities program. They are accredited through Cognia.

Redbud Farm School collaborates closely with families to create individualized learning plans for students with disabilities. They provide accommodations such as curriculum modifications, tailored teaching strategies, adjustments to the classroom environment, specialized assessments, and access to assistive technology and additional resources as required. RFS also partners with professionals to assess and support students both during and outside of class time.

Included is compliance documentation that meets certain criteria in the application.

- Criteria 1: Fiscal Soundness – RFS Staff Handbook
- Criteria 2: Non-Discrimination – RFS Staff Handbook
- Criteria 3: Health and Safety – RFS Family Handbook
- Criteria 4: Academic Accountability – RFS Assessment Guidebook
- Criteria 5: Teacher Requirements – RFS Staff Handbook
- Criteria 6: State laws and disciplinary procedures – RFS Behavior & Guidance Expect.
- Criteria 7: Accreditation – Cognia Email and website screenshot

RW/se



OKLAHOMA
Education

LINDSEY NICOLE HENRY SCHOLARSHIP PRIVATE SCHOOL APPLICATION

Redbud Farm School

PK - 6

NAME OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

GRADE LEVELS

15700 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

Oklahoma City

OK

73170

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

405-885-2777

www.RedbudFarmSchool.com

PHONE NUMBER

WEBSITE ADDRESS

Erin Dulle

SUPERINTENDENT, HEADMASTER OR PRINCIPAL NAME

Erin Dulle

erin@redbudfarmschool.com

LNH CONTACT PERSON

CONTACT EMAIL

The Lindsey Nicole Henry (LNH) Scholarship Act requires, in part, that participating schools are located in Oklahoma and meet certain criteria prior to being approved. The school must provide supporting documentation that demonstrates compliance that will be reviewed by the State Board of Education (SBE) during the approval process. In many cases, the required documentation can be found in the school policies and/or school handbook.

The SBE shall approve a private school as eligible to participate in the scholarship program upon determination that the private school meets the following:

1. The private school must demonstrate fiscal soundness by having been in operation for one (1) year or providing the SBE with a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that the private school desiring to participate is insured and the owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate the school for the upcoming year by serving the number of students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter may be filed with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. **Proof of compliance required.** *Staff Handbook, pg 4*
2. The private school must comply with the antidiscrimination provision of 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. **Proof of compliance required.** *Staff Handbook, pg. 7, 40*
3. The private school must meet state and local health and safety laws and codes. **Proof of compliance required.** *Family Handbook, pg. 31-35*
4. The private school must be academically accountable to the parent or legal guardian for meeting the educational needs of the student. **Proof of compliance required.**

Assessment Guidebook

5. The private school must employ or contract with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, or have at least three (3) years of teaching experience in public instruction in subjects taught. *Proof of compliance required. A statement or excerpt from the school policies or handbook stating the educational requirement for the teaching staff is acceptable documentation.*
6. The private school must comply with all state laws relating to general regulation of private schools and adhere to the tenets of all published disciplinary procedures prior to the expulsion of a scholarship student. *Proof of compliance required. Behavior & Guidance Expect.*
7. The private school must meet the accreditation requirements set by the SBE or another accrediting association approved by the SBE. *Submit proof of accreditation and list accreditation information in the box below.*

Redbud Farm School is fully accredited through Cognia effective 6/27/24.

8. The private school must be able to provide services and/or accommodations for students with disabilities. *Please describe in detail the services, programs and support you offer to students with disabilities in the box below.*

Redbud Farm School works closely with families to develop individual learning plans for students with disabilities. Depending on the student's individual needs, accommodations are then made in the classroom to help support the learning process. Accommodations depend on each student's individual needs and can include, but are not limited to, modifications to curriculum, teaching strategies, classroom environment, assessments, and the provision of assistive technology or additional resources. Redbud works closely with professionals to evaluate and support students both inside and outside of class time. A complete list of policies used to support students with special needs, can be found in the Staff Handbook on pg. 40-42.

I verify that Redbud Farm School complies with all the criteria listed
NAME OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

above and will provide documentation for each as proof. The information I have provided to the SBE is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Elin Dulle

SIGNATURE

7/10/24

DATE

Complete application and required documents may be emailed to stacy.eden@sde.ok.gov.

Contact Stacy Eden at (405) 521-4876 for additional Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship information.

Redbud Farm School
15700 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK. 73170
Contact: Erin Dulle
erin@redbudfarmschool.com

Criteria 1: Fiscal Soundness

Evidence of Eligibility for LNH Scholarship

Screenshots of our written policies and evidence have been included below when possible. Full documents can be accessed at the links below:

[Staff Handbook](#)
[Family Handbook](#)
[Assessment Guidebook](#)
[Behavior and Guidance Policy](#)

1. We have been operating at our current location since August 2018, which meets the minimum of one year of operation. (Staff Handbook, pg. 4)

INTRODUCTION

History of Redbud Farm School

Redbud Farm School began with a small Pre-K and Kindergarten class in August 2018. It has since grown to provide a unique learning environment for students in grades Pre-K through 6th grade and is on track to open a middle school program in 2025/26. Redbud Farm School achieved accreditation through COGNIA in June of 2024. Accreditation affirms a level of quality that is substantially higher than required by state standards. We take pride in providing a high-quality, nature-based education for students in the South metro area, including OKC, Moore, Norman, Newcastle, Blanchard, and Mustang.

Mission Statement

Redbud Farm School cultivates academic excellence and spiritual development while stepping outside the traditional classroom setting. Our farm provides unique opportunities for creative, hands-on learning, problem-solving, and basic life skills development, while students tend to animals and gardens in an outdoor classroom experience.

Vision Statement

As a nature-based school on a farm campus, we envision a transformative educational experience that shapes well-rounded individuals equipped with academic excellence, emotional intelligence,

Criteria 2: Non-Discrimination Policy

2. We have antidiscrimination statements for both the acceptance of students and employees. (Staff Handbook, pg. 7, 40)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Equal Opportunity and Anti-Bias Statement

RFS believes that each employee deserves to be treated with respect and in a fair and just manner. As a result, all persons will be considered for employment, promotion or training on the basis of qualifications without regard to race, age, physical disability, color, creed, sex, or national origin.

All employment decisions will be based on merit, qualification and ability. This policy covers all aspects of employment, including selection, job assignment, compensation, discipline, termination and access to benefits and training.

RFS guarantees fair treatment of all employees. We strive to maintain a work environment in which all staff are free from harassment, and expressly prohibits any form of unlawful harassment of employees and co-workers on race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or the presence of handicaps or disabilities. However, all employees must be physically able to safely supervise children on the farm campus.

Questions or concerns about any type of discrimination in the workplace are to be brought to the attention of the Head of School. Employees can raise concerns and make reports without fear of reprisal. Anyone engaging in any unlawful acts and/or discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Classroom Inclusion and equal opportunity

RFS is proud to welcome children with special needs into the program. Children with special needs are included in everyday school activities. RFS will use developmentally appropriate practices and consider the unique needs of all children when planning. Staff will make every attempt to make any adaptations or modifications necessary to meet the needs of the children. Schedules, routines and activities are flexible when possible. Educators will work with therapists, special educators and other professionals to integrate individual accommodations, modifications and strategies into classroom routines and activities. Any adaptations will be reviewed with families and other professionals supporting the child.

RFS admits children and of any racial, national, religious, ethnic origin, or ability level from all backgrounds, belief systems, family dynamics, and orientations. In short, we recognize and invite the participation of all people, not discriminating on any basis in the administration of our programs. We are committed to a diverse and inclusive educational environment where children can respect each person's diversity. We are committed to supporting children as they explore, celebrate, and understand differences.

Criteria 3: Health & Safety

3. We follow all state and local health and safety laws and codes including following procedures for contagious disease prevention, immunizations, and more. (Family Handbook, pg. 31-35)
- 4.

Daily Health Checks

As children arrive for the day they will be given a health check for symptoms such as cough, fever, contagious illnesses, etc. Children will also be monitored during the day for such symptoms.

Illness on Field Trips

If your child becomes ill while away from the school on a field trip the parent will be contacted immediately and will be required to meet the group at the field trip location or other area as designated by the supervising teacher within one hour.

Medication

All medications must be current and provided in the original container with the child's full name and dosage information clearly labeled by the pharmacy. All medications, including over-the-counter medications, must be accompanied by a physician's note stating the required dosage to be given. Parents must fill out a daily written request form for medication to be administered and the medication must be given to the Head of School or Site Director to be placed in a special location. At no time will a child be allowed to carry medication on their person. The only exception to this is for school-aged children who require a rescue inhaler or other emergency device and have a doctor's statement on file. At no time should medications be left in backpacks. Parents are responsible for requesting their child's medication at the end of the day. Redbud Farm School does not accept responsibility for medication which is left at the school overnight.

All medications will be administered by a designated staff member trained in health and safety.

RFS staff cannot dispense medication without required signed permission. If the medication is to be given only once or twice a day, please give it to your child at home, before or after school, if possible. Please note: We are not able to give a child medication which has been prescribed to a sibling or other family member. Redbud Farm School will not give first doses of medication. Children should be kept at home for a minimum of two hours after administering the first dose of any medication to ensure that the child does not have an allergic reaction.

RFS will not give your child Tylenol or other fever-reducing medications which could mask an illness. Likewise, giving your child these medications before bringing him or her to school will be grounds for immediate expulsion.

Immunizations

All children must be current on all immunizations required by the State of Oklahoma and County Health Department. According to state law we are not able to accept students who have not received required immunizations.

If you choose not to have your child immunized, you will need to supply us a copy of the request for an immunization waiver from the Cleveland County Health Department. We will require that your immunization waiver be approved and on file before assuming care for your child. A doctor's note may NOT be accepted in place of a waiver.

A list of the current immunizations that are required for school can be found on the Cleveland County Health Department Website.

It is your responsibility to keep your child's immunizations up-to-date and to provide the school with a copy for your child's file. Each time you take your child to the doctor for an immunization, please remember to ask for a copy for school. It is best to get immunizations on Fridays. If your child has a reaction to the immunization you will be able to stay home with him or her.

Outdoor Activities

Redbud Farm School has an outdoor classroom curriculum and believes that it is very important that children get lots of fresh air and exercise to keep health bodies. Our students will outside daily when weather permits (temperatures between 25 and 95 degrees, (not stormy). Students will be outside even in rainy, snowy, or muddy weather. Please help your student to dress appropriately for this environment.

Parents/Guardians should put sunscreen and bug spray on your child each morning prior to arriving for school. Teachers will reapply sunscreen only throughout the day.

Food and Nutrition

Redbud Farm School believes that children perform best when they are provided with nutritious foods. Students are required to supply their own nutritious food for meals including breakfast, lunch, and snacks. All foods must meet the USDA suggestions for healthy eating. When a student forgets to bring his or her lunch, a parent or guardian will be contacted to bring one.

Please notify the front office and your child's teacher if your child has any known food allergies.

To protect our children and staff members with food allergies, Redbud Farm School has a very strict NO NUT policy. Please do not bring food with nuts for your child.

Child's Emergency Information

Please list on your child's enrollment form the phone numbers where parents and other adults can be reached in case of emergency. If you have a change in schedule or a phone number change, please notify office staff immediately so that we are able to contact you in an emergency. If there is a medical emergency and we are not able to contact you or another adult listed on your child's enrollment form we will call your child's doctor or the local police department to locate you.

Emergency Evacuations

We will conduct fire and tornado drills and test fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly. In case of a fire, students will be evacuated and meet in the front field or at the church directly across Pennsylvania. If possible, the children will be evacuated to one of the emergency meeting locations to ensure they are safely out of the way of emergency personnel. In case of a tornado the children will take shelter in the safe room located off the front porch.

If an emergency situation arises and we are not able to stay in our current structure, we will evacuate to one of the following emergency locations. Teachers will contact all families by telephone after ensuring that all children have been safely evacuated.

Emergency Closings

Whenever possible, families will be notified of unexpected school closings through our Facebook page or school communication app. Depending on the situation, staff may contact the family by telephone.

Loss of Power or Water

According to Oklahoma state law our school must be closed if there is a loss of power or water to our facility. Staff will contact parents as soon as possible if this situation exists.

If there is a loss of power or water that occurs during school hours and the problem persists for more than one hour staff will contact parents to pick up the children. In the event that this occurs overnight, and the power or water has not been restored by 7 am our facility will be closed for the remainder of the day.

Winter Weather

RFS will typically be closed any time the Moore Public Schools are closed due to inclement winter weather such as snow or ice. If the school is forced to close in any other circumstance, you will be notified via our school communication app.

Tornados or Severe Storms

In the event of a tornado, we have established the following procedures to ensure a swift and organized response. Please familiarize yourself with these procedures.

Tornado Watch Announcement:

- When a tornado watch is issued for the area, staff members will be informed by the administration.
- Teachers will be alerted and will monitor weather updates.

Tornado Warning Announcement:

- When a tornado warning is issued, the school's alarm system will be activated.
- Teachers will guide students to remain calm and proceed quickly to the school saferoom located off the front porch.

Assembly and Accountability:

- Once in the safe area or saferoom, students will be directed to sit or crouch down and face the interior walls.
- Teachers will account for all students to ensure everyone is present.

Comfort and Reassurance:

- Teachers will provide comfort and reassurance to students, addressing any concerns they may have.
- Calming activities, such as reading stories or engaging in quiet conversation, may be used to maintain a sense of calm.

Wait for All Clear:

- Students and staff will remain in the safe area or saferoom until an official "all clear" announcement is given by school administration or emergency personnel.
- Once the threat has passed and an "all clear" announcement is made, students and

INTRODUCTION

Redbud Farm School Grading Key

1 – Emerging 2 – Developing 3 – Mastery 4 – Advanced

What is a Standard Based Report Card?

A Standards-Based Report Card is a method of assessing and communicating a student's progress in school based on specific academic standards rather than traditional letter grades. It provides a more detailed and comprehensive understanding of a student's performance by breaking down their skills and knowledge across different subject areas into specific learning objectives or standards.

Redbud Farm School uses the Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS) which describe what a student should be able to do academically in each grade level. Standards help teachers to plan, instruct, and assess students appropriately. A standards-based report card indicates a student's progress in meeting grade-level standards.

Here are some key points to help new teachers and parents understand Standards-Based Report Cards:

1. Focus on Standards:

- Instead of assigning a single letter grade for a subject, a Standards-Based Report Card breaks down the curriculum into specific learning standards or objectives.
- Each standard represents a particular skill or piece of knowledge that students are expected to master.

2. Detailed Assessment:

- Teachers assess students based on their performance on each standard rather than providing an overall grade for a subject.
- This approach offers a more detailed picture of a student's strengths and areas for improvement.

3. Clear Communication:

- Parents and teachers can easily identify specific areas where a student excels and areas where they may need additional support.
- The report card provides clear feedback on what the student has achieved and where they may need to focus their efforts.

4. Ongoing Feedback:

- Standards-Based Report Cards often involve ongoing assessment and feedback throughout the grading period, allowing for continuous monitoring of a student's progress.

5. Student-Centered:

- The focus is on the student's mastery of content and skills rather than simply comparing them to their peers.
- Students, parents, and teachers can collaboratively set goals for improvement based on the specific standards.

6. Holistic Development:

- Beyond academic subjects, Standards-Based Report Cards may also include assessments of other skills such as social and emotional development, work habits, and behavior.

7. Preparation for Future Learning:

- By providing a detailed breakdown of a student's strengths and weaknesses, Standards-Based Report Cards can inform future lesson planning and help tailor instruction to individual student needs.

For both teachers and parents at Redbud Farm School, this approach to reporting progress can offer a more insightful and individualized perspective on a student's learning journey. It encourages a partnership between teachers and parents to support students in reaching their full potential.

5. We are academically accountable to families through continuous assessment, report cards four times per year, progress reports, and family conferences at least 2 times per year. (Assessment Guidebook)

See our Assessment Guidebook for more information.

6. Teachers meet the requirements for employment as described below. (Staff Handbook, pg. 49)

JOB DESCRIPTION

TEACHER

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Lead Teacher

- Pre-K: Must have a minimum of a Master Teacher Certification or higher with a minimum of 5 years teaching experience in a public or Head Start Pre-K setting.
- Kindergarten: Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Education OR a Bachelor's Degree in any field with a minimum of 2 year's elementary teaching experience, OR an Associate Degree or higher in ECE or related field with a minimum of 5 year's teaching experience in a public Kindergarten setting.
- 1st – 6th Grade: Teachers must have a Bachelor's Degree in Education or a related field OR a Bachelor's Degree in any area with a minimum of 2 year of teaching experience.

Assistant Teacher

- Preferred 2 years of experience in an education setting with students in grades Pre-K through 6th.
- Preferred CDA certificate or higher in ECE or related field OR paraprofessional certificate.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Meet education requirements for individual position being held
- Willing and able to pursue higher education in accordance with Cognia guidelines
- Current First-Aid and CPR certification (within 90 days of employment)
- Completion of 15 hours of annual continuing education

Criteria 6: Disciplinary Procedures

7. We comply with all state laws regarding private school and follow a strict behavior and guidance policy prior to the expulsion of any student, including those on scholarship. (Behavior and Guidance Expectations)

Behavior and Guidance Expectations:

Please review the following behavior guidelines with your student.

One of the goals at Redbud Farm School is to help children control their own behavior. This includes promoting self-control, self-confidence, and respect in addition to teaching guidelines for acceptable behavior. Behavior and guidance used by each teacher will, at all times, be constructive, positive, and suited to the age of the student.

Students at Redbud Farm School are expected to follow basic behavior guidelines during all school activities and events. We ask that all students follow our basic guidelines of **Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect the Environment**.

Unacceptable behavior will include, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Refusing to follow behavior guidelines or school rules
- ✓ Using profanity, vulgarity, or obscenity
- ✓ Stealing or damaging property (personal or school property)
- ✓ Refusal to participate in activities or cooperate with staff
- ✓ Disrupting the learning environment of a program or classroom
- ✓ Leaving a program or classroom without permission
- ✓ Endangering the health and safety of students and/or staff
- ✓ Use of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or sexual conduct of any kind
- ✓ Teasing, making fun or bullying other students or staff
- ✓ Fighting of any kind

When a student's behavior is unsatisfactory, including repeated or consistent disruptive or serious behaviors, as described above, the school will deal with them in the following way:

Warning: The student will receive a verbal warning and will be asked to resolve the situation with the help of his or her teacher. The student will receive a written warning home, and the parent or guardian will be notified either through the Seesaw app or verbally at the end of the day with a "Serious Behavior Incident Report."

Suspension: In severe cases of misbehavior, a suspension may be a necessary step. The Administration staff will determine a suspension period of 1-3 days. Extended periods of suspension may be applied when circumstances warrant. A parent conference may be scheduled to discuss the student's behavior. If the student receives a second suspension in a school year, he or she will be suspended for a period of 1 week (5 days), and the student will be placed on probation.

Probation: A student who receives 2 or more suspensions in a school year may be placed on probation and a final notice issued. The probation period will be set for a certain period, with specific behavior goals to be met. If the student fails to make behavior corrections while on probation, he or she may be recommended for immediate expulsion from the program.

Expulsion: A student will be expelled when previous attempts have not been successful at modifying the behavior. *Students with serious behavior that is harmful to other people, animals, or school property or substantially disrupts the learning environment may be subject to immediate dismissal as deemed necessary by the school administration.

 The full year's tuition and fees will still be due as contracted if a student is suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Criteria 7: Accreditation

8. Redbud Farm School is accredited through Cognia with an effective date of 6/27/24. Our certification can be view at www.Cognia.org.

cognia

Accreditation Registry

Institution Summary

Overview

Name:

Institution Type:

Public/Non-Public:

System Name:

Address:

Head Of Institution:

Grades:

Accredited:

Initial Accreditation Date:

Redbud Farm School

School

Non-Public

15700 S. Pennsylvania Ave
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
73170
<http://www.RedbudFarmSchool.com>
Erin Dulle

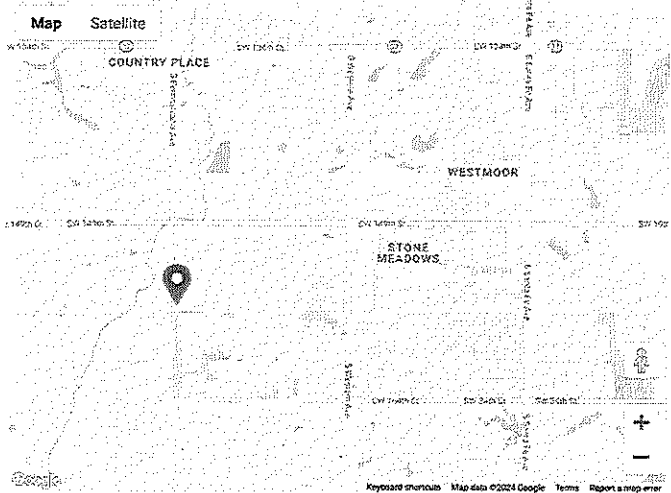
PK, Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth

Yes

2024-06-27

Map

Map Satellite



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Accreditation Services

Redbud Farm School: Congratulations on your Cognia accreditation

To: Erin Dulle, Cc: Erin Dulle, Christina McCreary

inbox - erin@redbudfarm.school.com July 2, 2024 at 11:36 AM

Details

Greetings from Cognia!

We hope this email finds you and your family, your students, parents, and staff in good health. We are delighted to inform you that your institution has been awarded Accredited status by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The three listed regional agencies provide your institution with a highly regarded accreditation that is recognized throughout the world. This action was conferred by the Cognia Global Commission on June 27, 2024.

Within 4-6 weeks of this email, you will receive an official certificate and letter of accreditation via post. In the meantime, we welcome you to verify your institution's status by visiting www.cognia.org. Please click on FIND AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL (located at the top of the page in the black bar) and enter the name of your institution as recorded with Cognia (the other fields (city and postal code) may be left blank).

To further support your celebration, we are providing you with access to the [Cognia Accreditation and Certification Recognition Kit](#), which includes a press release you may share with your local media, access to the Cognia Accreditation Seal (use of the Cognia logo is prohibited), usage guidelines, and other promotional items to display your pride and commitment to continuous improvement. Please use your Cognia login credentials for access. If you need assistance with login or access, please contact clientcare@cognia.org.

For support with your Engagement Review Report and next steps with your continuous improvement journey, please contact your [Regional Director](#). We look forward to partnering with you for many years to come.

Congratulations again and very best wishes for an enjoyable summer holiday,
Cognia Accreditation Services