

Water Safety Information for Families

New York Education Law § 926

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the **2026–2027 school year**, we want to remind families about the importance of water safety and drowning prevention.

New York Education Law § 926 requires school districts to provide parents and guardians with information regarding **drowning prevention, water safety, and safe and healthy swimming**. This information may be provided electronically or in written form and is intended to help families keep children safe in and around swimming pools, lakes, rivers, beaches, and other bodies of water.

Important Water Safety Tips

- **Always supervise children around water.** Young children should be within close reach of an adult whenever they are in or near water.
- **Learn to swim.** Swimming lessons and age-appropriate water safety education can help children develop important skills and confidence around water.
- **Use life jackets when appropriate.** Children and adults should wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets when participating in activities where they may be at risk of falling into the water.
- **Never swim alone.** Children and adults should swim with a buddy and use designated swimming areas whenever possible.
- **Pay attention around pools and other bodies of water.** Avoid distractions such as phones when supervising children.
- **Know the water conditions.** Be aware of depth, currents, weather conditions, and other potential hazards before entering the water.
- **Avoid diving into shallow or unfamiliar water.**
- **Learn CPR and basic water-emergency response.** Knowing what to do in an emergency can save a life.
- **Keep pools and other water areas secure.** When possible, use barriers, alarms, and other safety measures to prevent unsupervised access.

Swimming and Water Safety Education

Families are encouraged to consider age-appropriate swimming lessons and water safety programs for their children. Swimming skills are an important part of water safety, but even children who can swim should always be supervised around water.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to review water safety practices with their children before participating in swimming or other water-related activities.

For additional information about drowning prevention, water safety, and safe and healthy swimming, please visit the resources provided by the **New York State Department of Health**.

Translation Services

In accordance with Education Law § 926, translated water safety information will be provided upon request in the applicable languages identified by New York State. Parents or guardians who need translated information should contact the school district.

Please take a few minutes to review this information with your child. Working together, families and schools can help prevent drowning and promote safe and healthy swimming.

Thank you for helping keep our students safe.

Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School