

Raleigh Educational Association of Christian Homeschoolers (REACH)

Policies, Guidelines, Considerations, and Explanations

(Amended and Restated July 2022))

Purpose Statement

REACH exists to support, encourage, and promote Christian Home Educators in excellence by providing activities, opportunities, information, and guidance.

Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God, and of supreme authority in faith and life. We believe that there is one living and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence but eternally subsistent in three Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the fall of man; although originally created in the image of God, through the disobedience of Adam, man fell into a sinfully and spiritually impotent state, totally unable to justify himself before God. We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, yet without sin, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; that he died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin; that He arose from the dead in the body in which He was crucified; that He ascended into heaven in that body glorified, where He is now, our interceding High Priest; and that He will return again personally, visibly, and gloriously. We believe that salvation is wholly of God, by grace; that God in love gave His only Son to die on the cross for sin, thus procuring the redemption of those who come to Him; that this salvation is not merited in any way by man; that God commands men everywhere to repent of sin and believe in Christ; and that this salvation is eternal in its duration and results in good works. We believe it is God's desire for every believer to enter into a personal, daily, dependent relationship with Jesus Christ and to admonish and instruct their child(ren) to do the same.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the governing body of REACH. They purpose to serve the group in humility, maintain Christian integrity and seek what is most glorifying to God and what is best for REACH. The Steering Committee will maintain final authority for all decisions affecting REACH in accordance with the purpose statement and statement of faith and such matters as are required to protect the integrity of the group.

The steering committee's responsibility is to serve the group in humility, maintain Christian integrity and seek what is most glorifying to God and what is best for REACH.

Qualifications for Steering Committee Members

- Members must be experienced and proven home educators
- Members must be members in good standing of a local body of believers
- Members must have been active or supportive members of REACH for at least one year
- Members must profess clear, consistent, evident testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ

Selection of Steering Committee Members

- Nomination and selection of new steering committee members rests with the current steering committee

Steering Committee Meetings

- The Steering Committee will meet a minimum of once per month or at their discretion.
- Quorum - To have an official meeting, a minimum of one more than half of the total current members must be present.
- Voting – The majority rules when voting on any decision. Voting by absentee ballot, whether in writing or by telephone, by any director shall be considered equivalent to representation by proxy for purposes of quorum.

Responsibilities of Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee will have final approval on any REACH function with regard to content and leadership.
- The Steering Committee will have the right to screen any and all printed materials that are sent out in REACH's name for approval and disapproval.
- Steering Committee members will function under designated roles as outlined in the REACH By-Laws.
- REACH will always respect the privacy of its members to the highest degree possible, as outlined in the REACH By-Laws and Privacy Policy in this document. Discussions concerning the support and guidance of sensitive issues within the group will be respected and maintained within the steering committee.

Membership Policy

Membership is on an annual basis with open enrollment throughout the year. Membership is for a calendar year from August 1st to July 31st. A family may join at any time during the year. New members joining after April 15th will be grandfathered into the next year. All activities provided by the group are in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose of REACH By-Laws.

Requirements of Membership

- A prerequisite for membership is to have at least one child being traditionally educated at home under exemption-c or educated at home under exemption-m, IIP Hope Scholars, and are in grades K4 through 12, with a minimum age of 4 by September 1st and a maximum of age 18, with that child still being actively educated at home.
- To submit information and fees as designated by the Steering Committee.
- To submit a signed agreement of adherence to the Conduct / Participation Policies and all other policies found in REACH guidelines, considerations, and explanations.
- To submit a signed acknowledgment of Purpose Statement, Statement of Faith, and Liability Waiver. This does not require agreement with either the Purpose or Faith Statement but respecting these statements is a condition of membership. This is the basis on which activities are provided, and the member agrees not to do anything that would undermine these statements.
- Members must keep the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of other members in the strictest confidence.

Participation Policy

REACH activities have been designed specifically for the REACH homeschool group. Participation guidelines are for the purpose of maintaining the testimony of the group as well as providing activities that are special for our kids.

Who can participate in activities

- Regular classes, such as Co-op, are for children who receive the majority of their education at home.
- Family members are welcome to attend activities with their home-schooled relatives. Exclusions would include Co-op, Swim & Gym, and field trips/classes that have registration limitations.

Children with Disabilities

- In the event that a homeschooled child has been deemed to have a disability, the parent or guardian is responsible for providing assistance during REACH functions. If this is a hardship for you as a member of REACH, please contact a member of the Steering Committee.

Special Circumstances

- Family members who are visiting from out of town are welcome to attend activities with their REACH family members. Exclusions would include Co-op, Swim & Gym, and field trips/classes that have registration limitations.
- Families with school-aged children (4yrs old before Sept. 1st) who are considering homeschooling may be invited by REACH members to an activity. Exclusions would include Co-op, Swim & Gym, and field trips/classes that have registration limitations.
- Moms who are considering homeschooling may attend any Mom's Night Out activity.
- Steering Committee may, on occasion, review activity and open it up for participation by friends and family of REACH members. All of these activities will be communicated to the membership via newsletter and/or email/Facebook and Spaces message.

Field Trip and Event Coordination

When coordinating an event, the coordinator becomes the face of REACH. The coordinator represents our entire group. Coordinators also represent the homeschool community on a larger scale. Most importantly, as a Christian homeschool group, the coordinator represents Christ. Coordinators are to represent themselves in a way that would be God-honoring.

If an event is coordinated by REACH, any communication with the facility should go through the event coordinator. The coordinator has already established a relationship with a contact person at the facility for that event. That relationship may not be limited to the specific event. It is often times ongoing from previous events and, Lord willing, will continue with future events. The facility does not have knowledge of specific names and numbers registered per family due to REACH registering as a whole to provide group rates at a reduced price.

Although going through a coordinator will require a little more patience when an issue arises, it is necessary. The coordinator will seek resolution as quickly as possible. Going through the coordinator is required to help maintain the established relationship with the facility and reduce confusion for all involved.

Weather Policy

In the event of weather, any REACH activity will take place or be canceled at the discretion of the leader. The leader will announce the decision on Facebook and Spaces and by email. Those without access may call the leader. If an event does continue, families need to use their own judgment regarding safety.

If an event is canceled and families determine to pursue an activity anyway, it is against REACH's policy to identify yourselves as representing REACH, and any discounts given will no longer apply. This is no longer a REACH event but friends getting together.

Conduct Policy

Behavior

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children. During REACH activities, all members should conduct themselves positively reflecting positively on homeschooling and Jesus Christ. Parents or, in some cases, a supervising adult, are responsible for their children during all REACH activities.

Students should be attentive, respectful, and courteous during any REACH activity because this is a time for learning and not just for fun. This includes keeping one's hands to oneself. If a child's behavior is disruptive to the group or disrespectful/discourteous/harmful to the teacher/leader/fellow student, the following disciplinary action will be initiated.

- 1st infraction: The supervising adult, if different from the parent, will request that the child make appropriate changes to behavior. The parent will be notified at the appropriate time following the event.
- 2nd infraction: The child will be excused from the activity. A parent will be required to accompany that child to future classes/activities.
- 3rd infraction: The child will not be permitted to participate in that class/activity for the remainder of the session.

Physical Assault

If a child physically assaults another child, teacher, or parent, the child will be immediately removed from the event and taken to the parent. The child will be prohibited from participating in any activity, class, field trip, or event with REACH for a period of one month, after which time a parent or guardian will be required to be present with the child during any activity, class, field trip, or event with REACH for the remainder of the school year.

REACH High/Independent Students

REACH High allows REACH high students to be considered independent students. Independent students are children whose parents allow them to either drive themselves to REACH events or children whose parents bring them to events, drop them off, and return to pick them up without parental supervision during the activity. Being an independent REACH High participant is a privilege that is outside of the original REACH policy requiring a parent or designated responsible adult to be present for each activity.

Independent REACH High students who are registered for REACH High events are expected to stay on the premises and participate in the events. This includes student drivers. All students are expected to adhere to the REACH code of conduct. Non-compliance or uncooperative behavior may result in non-refundable termination of participation in that event as well as future events, at the discretion of the event coordinator and the REACH High committee. If continued participation is permitted, the family would be required to revert back to the policy for younger REACH participants. At that point, a parent or

responsible adult will be required to remain on the premises with their child throughout the remainder of the activity and possibly for future activities as well.

Independent students are not the responsibility of the event coordinator. Parents are still responsible for their child/children, in both their presence and absence. It must not be assumed that because a child is old enough to drive themselves or be dropped off, the event coordinator is responsible for watching their every move. Coordinators are also not responsible for students leaving the premises with other students, including non-drivers or drivers leaving the premises with other student drivers. REACH High is a large group. Much goes into planning the events and executing them successfully. Adding the additional responsibility to police who have or don't have permission to leave with whom is more than the REACH High committee feels is reasonable for the coordinator.

Parents are responsible for reviewing the code of conduct with REACH High students before activities begin. REACH High's behavior as a group is a reflection in the community of homeschooling, their families, and most importantly, Jesus Christ. This should be remembered, and students are expected to behave in a way that would be pleasing to the Lord.

Dress Code / Public Display of Affection:

Students are expected to dress modestly and behave in a way that is honoring to the Lord. REACH strongly feels that this is an area where you as parents are responsible for governing and disciplining your children. The terms of modesty and appropriate public displays of affection are yours to define. If there is an area of concern, a member of leadership may approach the parents to discuss the issue. A general rule to follow is if you have to think about whether an item or behavior is okay, it is probably best not to wear it or participate in it. When in doubt, don't.

The following list of questions should be considered concerning clothing and appropriate behaviors when participating in REACH events:

- Will this outfit or behavior make anyone in the group feel uncomfortable?
- Am I modeling Christ to those around me, particularly those younger than me?
- Is this outfit/behavior appropriate to the activity?

Conflict Resolution Policy

Don't allow a personal conflict to go unresolved! This allows the enemy to wreak havoc in your relationships and can poison our entire support group. If you are offended by someone and cannot extend grace in the situation by forgiving without any confrontation, then you must go directly to the offender - not discuss it with anyone else. If you cannot resolve the situation, you must involve a leader. Dealing with conflict quickly is essential. Our goal is to keep the conflict as small as possible and see the relationship restored as soon as possible.

We are a Christian homeschool support group, and our standard is the Word of God. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." (Matt. 18:15, ESV) "...and if [your brother] sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." (Luke 17:4, ESV)

Let us be characterized by the grace of God and live by this standard: "do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life..." (Philippians 2:14-16a, ESV)

Waiver of Liability

In order to provide protection for all parties involved, REACH has created a Waiver of Liability. This waiver states that you will release, indemnify, and hold harmless REACH (Raleigh Educational Association of Christian Homeschoolers), its officers, directors, steering members, committee members, teachers, volunteers, associates, and independent contractor instructors from and against any claim(s) for damages and/or injury of any nature (except intentional misconduct) arising from, during or pertaining to the participation of yourself and your family in any activity sponsored or sanctioned by REACH. The indemnification and hold harmless includes any claim(s) by any visitors whom you request be allowed to participate in and/or observe any activity sponsored or sanctioned by REACH.

If this Waiver of Liability involves the release of any claim(s) for an injury suffered or sustained by a minor, which claim(s) the minor subsequently assert(s) against REACH, its officers, directors, steering members, committee members, teachers, volunteers, associates, and independent contractor instructors, then and in that event, YOU PERSONALLY agree to defend (pay all attorney fees and costs reasonably associated with the defense) of such claims and YOU PERSONALLY agree to indemnify and hold harmless REACH, its officers, directors, steering committee members, committee members, teachers, volunteers, associates, and independent contractor instructors from and against any such claim(s) by said minor for damages.

If you, your family, your children, or guests cause damage to REACH property or a building associated with a REACH activity, or other's personal property, during the use of or as a result of such use, you agree to accept responsibility for any damage occurring and will bear the full cost of repair, including replacement, if necessary. By signing the REACH Membership form, you are stating that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions of this REACH Waiver of Liability.

Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

Raleigh Educational Association of Christian Homeschoolers ("REACH") will follow all safety guidelines put forth by the state of West Virginia, as well as the state health agency to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, REACH cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending REACH events could increase your risk, and your child(ren)'s a risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending REACH events and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at REACH events may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, volunteers, as well as event participants and their families. This applies to any and all events during the school year and continues until further notice.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that my child(ren) or I may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s attendance at REACH events ("Claims"). On my behalf, and on behalf of my children, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless REACH, its

representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto.

Privacy Policy

REACH will always respect the privacy of its members to the highest degree possible. Steering Committee uses the information we collect from you in order to maintain the smooth operation of our website and mailing list. Steering Committee will never share your information with any outside parties, or agencies, without your permission.

Financial Policy

REACH utilizes membership funds to provide activities, pay speakers or facility charges, provide support materials, etc. The steering committee's responsibility is to manage these funds so as not to exceed the money brought in or to create a surplus. It is the intention that at the year-end, the funds brought in will equal the funds spent.

Weapons Policy

Students are prohibited from carrying any weapons (knives, guns, hatchets, swords, bows, ninja stars, etc.) of any size at any REACH event or activity. Please leave them at home or in the vehicle.

Parents who legally carry concealed weapons are to do so with additional caution. Weapons must be on their person at all times. At no time should a concealed firearm be left in a purse or bag at any point unattended.

Facebook and Spaces Guidelines

The REACH Facebook and Spaces group is a continually changing outlet for parents. Our Facebook and Spaces group was created due to Article 7 of our bylaws, subsection 7: "Provide a means to share/plan activities that are not a part of REACH core"; and subsection 8: "Provide a means to communicate with other like-minded families."

Members agree to abide by the Facebook and Spaces rules as outlined.

Facebook and Spaces rules:

- Be Kind and Courteous
- No Hate Speech or Bullying
- No Promotions or Spam
- Respect Everyone's Privacy
- No Blocking Fellow Members
- Pursue Conflict Resolution
- Use Photo Consideration

Members who violate a rule listed will have their post removed and will be contacted by an administrator. Members who knowingly continue to violate the same rule will be removed from the group. REACH members agree not to undermine any efforts to display/proclaim Christ. All Facebook and Spaces posts and shared community events should reflect this policy.

It is our wish to support families. If you have a business, we welcome you to make the membership aware but ask that you refrain from repetitive marketing on the REACH page. For example, a one-time post of:

“Just want to let you know that I am now selling “Pogo Sticks.” Message me for more info or check out my website.”

Please note: if you’re willing to post your opinion publicly, you open yourself to others’ opinions.

Photo consideration

Please use courtesy when taking pictures or videos at REACH events. Our group includes several families with children who are not allowed to be photographed for various reasons, foster care/ adoptions being one. Please be mindful of these situations and consider how the pictures will be used.

Please note: Reach leadership is unable to monitor or control the use of photos taken during activities and events.

Explanations of commonly used terms:

Community Opportunity:

A community opportunity is any non-REACH activity or event that might be interesting to homeschoolers.

Examples of what a community opportunity is:

- Activities in the community that other families may enjoy (concert, play, guest speaker, etc.)
- An activity planned by a member of REACH.
 1. In such an instance, the member coordinating the event takes full responsibility for the event, and any questions or concerns would be handled directly by that person and not by the REACH steering committee.
 2. The name REACH cannot be used to receive discounts.

Examples of what a community opportunity is not:

- Any activity that utilizes REACH funds to put on or the REACH name to receive discounts.
- A Multi-Level Marketing sales pitch

Parents must assume the responsibility in searching out the worldview of any event, but especially a Community opportunity.

Guidelines for communicating your community opportunity

- Community Opportunities may be posted on REACH Facebook and Spaces groups.
- A sponsor of a Community Opportunity may request that REACH put out an email about the event by sending the information to reachwvhomeschoolgroup@gmail.com
- A community opportunity may be listed on Facebook and Spaces or sent to Steering to be emailed,, assuming the information is received prior to the event.

Co-Op

REACH uses the term Co-op a bit differently than other groups. REACH is the support group, and Co-op is our REACH exclusive classes offered, traditionally, several weeks in the fall or spring. A co-op is a cooperative of parents working together to provide classes to supplement home education.

Mom's Night Out

Steering Committee recognizes that as the needs of our group change, the reasons for Mom's Night Out also change. In response, SC has committed to offering Mom's Nights Out (MNO) that balances social opportunities, educates, and supports homeschooling families. If you have an idea for an MNO or are willing to host, please contact SC.

MNO is not to be used as an opportunity to conduct a sales pitch for a multi-level marketing business. If the conversation allows, it is acceptable to note that one's family has found success with a certain product, but selling a product is not an MNO topic.