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South Side School District

Classified Personnel Policy

2018-2019

LEA# 7105

/S/ Clint Linn, School Board President

8.1—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SALARY SCHEDULE

For the purposes of this policy, an employee must work two thirds (2/3) of the number of their regularly assigned annual work days to qualify for a step increase.

**South Side Bee Branch
Classified Salary Schedule 18-19**

0	32050
1	32550
2	33050
3	33550
4	34050
5	34550
6	35050
7	35550
8	36050
9	36550
10	37050
11	37550
12	38050
13	38550
14	39050
15	39550
16	40050

Position	Months	Hours/Day	Multiplier
Aide	9	7	0.45
Aide w/Assoc.	9	7	0.5
Bookkeeper/Treasurer	12	8	1.35
Bus Mechanic	12	8	1
Cook	9	8	0.408
Cook	9	7	0.36
Head Cook	9	8	0.43
Cook Supervisor	10	8	0.61
Custodian	11	7 to 8	0.5
Custodian	11	8	0.51
Maintenance	12	7.26	0.57
Maintenance	12	8	0.63
ABC CDA Certified	9	8	0.51
Secretary, Admin.	12	8	0.82
Secretary, Elm	12	8	0.7
Secretary, Elm.	9	8	0.46
Secretary, HS	12	8	0.65
Student Records	12	8	0.7
Technology Technician	10	7	0.87
ABC & Pre-school Aide	9	8	0.43
Nurse RN	9	7	1.1

Stipends

Accounts Payable Adm	\$3,000	Adm.
Bookkeeper/Treasurer	\$4,000	Adm.
ABC CDA Certified	\$1,000	
SIS Reports	\$1,500	
Hourly workers (Maintenance)	\$9.00 per hour	
Gym floor finishing	\$750	

Plant Manager	\$3,500
Custodian Sup	\$750
Due Process Clerk	\$2,000
Activity Accounts	\$4,000
Child Nutrition Reports	\$1,500
ABC Portfolios	\$1,000
Maintenance/School Dude	\$750

**South Side Bee Branch Bus Drivers Salary Schedule
2018-2019**

Plus .10 cents per mile one trip X days
driven

0	7300
1	7400
2	7500
3	7600
4	7700
5	7800
6	7900
7	8000
8	8100
9	8200
10	8300
11	8400
12	8500
13	8600
14	8700
15	8800

Subs \$20 per trip
 Field trips \$10.00 per hr
Example: 30 miles per day one way
 30 X .10 = \$3.00 per day
 \$3.00 X 178 days = \$534.00
 Paid at the end of the year
 Transportation Supervisor 2000

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007
Last Revised: 5-31-2018

8.2— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS

Noncertified personnel may be periodically evaluated.

Any forms, procedures or other methods of evaluation, including criteria, are to be developed by the Superintendent and or his designee(s), but shall not be part of the personnel policies of the District.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301

Date Adopted:6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.3—EVALUATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BY RELATIVES

No person shall be employed in, or assigned to, a position which would require that he be evaluated by any relative, by blood or marriage, including spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or first cousin.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 5/31/2012

8.4—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES DRUG TESTING

Scope of Policy

Each person hired for a position that allows or requires the employee operate a school bus shall meet the following requirements:

1. The employee shall possess a current commercial vehicle drivers license for driving a school bus;
2. Have undergone a physical examination, which shall include a drug test,¹ by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse within the past two years; and
3. A current valid certificate of school bus driver in service training.²

Each person's initial employment for a job entailing a safety sensitive function is conditioned upon the district receiving a negative drug test result for that employee.³ The offer of employment is also conditioned upon the employee's signing an authorization for the request for information by the district from the Commercial Driver Alcohol and Drug Testing Database.⁴

Methods of Testing

The collection, testing methods and standards shall be determined by the agency or other medical organizations chosen by the School Board to conduct the collection and testing of samples. The drug and alcohol testing is to be conducted by a laboratory certified pursuant to the most recent guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for such facilities. ("Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs").

Definitions

"Safety sensitive function" includes:

- a) All time spent inspecting, servicing, and/or preparing the vehicle;
- b) All time spent driving the vehicle;
- c) All time spent loading or unloading the vehicle or supervising the loading or unloading of the vehicle; and
- d) All time spent repairing, obtaining assistance, or remaining in attendance upon a disabled vehicle.

"School Bus" is a motorized vehicle that meets the following requirements:

1. Is designed to carry more than ten (10) passengers;
2. Is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the District; and
3. Is operated for the transportation of students from home to school, from school to home, or to and from school events.⁵

Requirements

Employees shall be drug and alcohol free from the time the employee is required to be ready to work until the employee is relieved from the responsibility for performing work and/or any time they are performing a safety-

sensitive function. In addition to the testing required as an initial condition of employment, employees shall submit to subsequent drug tests as required by law and/or regulation. Subsequent testing includes, and/or is triggered by, but is not limited to:

1. Random tests;
2. Testing in conjunction with an accident;
3. Receiving a citation for a moving traffic violation; and
4. Reasonable suspicion.

Prohibitions

- A. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater;
- B. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions;
- C. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol;
- D. No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test under # 2 above shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident or until he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first;
- E. No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or drug test in conjunction with # 1, 2, and/or 4 above;
- F. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when using any controlled substance, except when used pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner who, with knowledge of the driver's job responsibilities, has advised the driver that the substance will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate his/her vehicle. It is the employee's responsibility to inform his/her supervisor of the employee's use of such medication;
- G. No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.

Violation of any of these prohibitions may lead to disciplinary action being taken against the employee, which could include termination or non-renewal.

Testing for Cause

Drivers involved in an accident in which there is a loss of another person's life shall be tested for alcohol and controlled substances as soon as practicable following the accident. Drivers shall also be tested for alcohol within eight (8) hours and for controlled substances within thirty two (32) hours following an accident for which they receive a citation for a moving traffic violation if the accident involved: 1) bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident, or 2) one or more motor vehicles incurs disabling damage as a result of the accident requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.⁶

Refusal to Submit

Refusal to submit to an alcohol or controlled substance test means that the driver:

- Failed to appear for any test within a reasonable period of time as determined by the employer consistent with applicable Department of Transportation agency regulation;
- Failed to remain at the testing site until the testing process was completed;
- Failed to provide a urine specimen for any required drug test;
- Failed to provide a sufficient amount of urine without an adequate medical reason for the failure;
- Failed to undergo a medical examination as directed by the Medical Review Officer as part of the verification process for the previous listed reason;
- Failed or declined to submit to a second test that the employer or collector has directed the driver to take;
- Failed to cooperate with any of the testing process; and/or
- Adulterated or substituted a test result as reported by the Medical Review Officer.

School bus drivers should be aware that refusal to submit to a drug test when the test is requested based on a reasonable suspicion can constitute grounds for criminal prosecution.

Consequences for Violations

Drivers who engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy, who refuse to take a required drug or alcohol test, refuse to sign the request for information required by law, or who exceed the acceptable limits for the respective tests shall no longer be allowed to perform safety sensitive functions. Actions regarding their continued employment shall be taken in relation to their inability to perform these functions and could include termination or non-renewal of their contract of employment.⁷

Drivers who exhibit signs of violating the prohibitions of this policy relating to alcohol or controlled substances shall not be allowed to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions if they exhibit those signs during, just preceding, or just after the period of the work day that the driver is required to be in compliance with the provisions of this policy. This action shall be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulatable observations concerning the behavior, speech, or body odors of the driver. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall require the driver to submit to “reasonable suspicion” tests for alcohol and controlled substances. The direction to submit to such tests must be made just before, just after, or during the time the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions. If circumstances prohibit the testing of the driver the Superintendent or his/her designee shall remove the driver from reporting for, or remaining on, duty for a minimum of 24 hours from the time the observation was made triggering the driver’s removal from duty.

If the results for an alcohol test administered to a driver is equal to or greater than 0.02, but less than 0.04, the driver shall be prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions for a period no less than 24 hours from the time the test was administered. Unless the loss of duty time triggers

other employment consequence policies, no further other action against the driver is authorized by this policy for test results showing an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-19-108
 A.C.A. § 6-19-119
 A.C.A. § 27-23-201 et seq.
 49 C.F.R. § 382.101 – 605
 49 C.F.R. § part 40
 49 C.F.R. § 390.5
 Arkansas Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules
 Governing Maintenance and Operations of Arkansas Public School
 Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6-1-2015

8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE - Option A

Definitions

1. “Employee” is an employee of the District working 20 or more hours per week who is not required to have a teaching license as a condition of his employment.
2. “Sick Leave” is absence from work due to illness, whether by the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family, or due to a death in the family. The principal shall determine whether sick leave will be approved on the basis of a death outside the immediate family of the employee.
3. “Current Sick Leave” means those days of sick leave for the current contract year, which leave is granted at the rate: 190-210 day contract get 6 days, 215-240 days get 7 days.¹
4. “Accumulated Sick Leave” is the total of unused sick leave, up to a maximum of ninety (90) days accrued from previous contracts, but not used. Accumulated sick leave also includes the sick leave transferred from an employee’s previous public school employment.²
5. “Immediate family” means an employee’s spouse, child, parent, or any other relative provided the other relative lives in the same household as the employee.

Sick Leave

The principal has the discretion to approve sick leave for an employee to attend the funeral of a person who is not related to the employee, under circumstances deemed appropriate by the principal.

Pay for sick leave shall be at the employee’s daily rate of pay, which is that employee’s hourly rate of pay times the number of hours normally worked per day. Absences for illness in excess of the employee’s accumulated and current sick leave shall result in a deduction from the employee’s pay at the daily rate as defined above.

At the discretion of the principal (or Superintendent), and, if FMLA is applicable, subject to the certification or recertification provisions contained in policy 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE the District may require a written statement from the employee’s physician documenting the employee’s illness. Failure to provide such documentation of illness may result in sick leave not being paid, or in discipline up to and including termination.

If the employee's absences are not subject to the FMLA or are in excess of what is protected under the FMLA, excessive absenteeism, to the extent that the employee is not carrying out his/her assigned duties to the degree

that the education of students or the efficient operation of a school or the district is substantially adversely affected (at the determination of the principal or Superintendent) may result in termination.

Sick Leave and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave

When an employee takes sick leave, the District shall determine if the employee is eligible for FMLA leave and if the leave qualifies for FMLA leave. The District may request additional information from the employee to help make the applicability⁴ determination. If the employee is eligible for FMLA leave and if the leave qualifies under the FMLA, the District will notify the employee in writing, of the decision within five (5) workdays. If the circumstances for the leave as defined in policy 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE don't change, the District is only required to notify the employee once of the determination regarding the applicability of sick leave and/or FMLA leave within any applicable twelve (12) month period. To the extent the employee has accumulated sick leave, any sick leave taken that qualifies for FMLA leave shall be paid leave and charged against the employee's accrued leave including, once an employee exhausts his/her accumulated sick leave, vacation or personal leave. See 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

Sick Leave and Outside Employment

Sick leave related absence from work (e.g. sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, and FMLA) inherently means the employee is also incapable of working at any source of outside employment. Except as provided in policy 8.36, if an employee who works a non-district job while taking district sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, or FMLA shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Cross References: 8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE
 8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES
 AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-1301 et seq.
 29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.
 29 CFR 825.100 et seq.

Cross References: 8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE
 8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES
 AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-1301 et seq.
29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.
29 CFR 825.100 et seq.

Date Adopted: 6-27-07
Last Revised: 6-8-17

SICK LEAVE

The South Side School District provides sick leave for employees at the following rate per contracted year: 190- 210 day contract get 6 days, 215-240 days get 7 days.

1. A record of sick leave used and accumulated shall be established and maintained by the school district for each employee. A report of cumulative leave will be made available to each employee at the beginning of the school year.
2. Sick leave that is unused by an employee during any school year shall be accumulated in each employees sick leave account until 90 days have been accumulated. Any employee who qualifies for sick leave may use any amount up to his total number of accumulated days. Sick leave days that are used may be restored, up to 90 days, in the same manner they were first accumulated. No deductions will be made from a classified's salary for sick leave.
3. In the event that a classified personnel uses all of the cumulative sick leave and further sick leave is necessary, additional days will be deducted from the classified's personal days and/or their salary until the classified full salary is used up.
4. The School District will pay district classified personnel \$75 for all sick leave over 90 days accumulated and after 10 years of service within the South Side School District at the end of the school year. (7-17-2017)
5. To establish an incentive pilot program for the 2017-18 school year: Employees will receive a \$250 bonus per semester if they use no more than one sick or personal day in that semester. If more than one sick or personal day is missed in a semester, an employee is not eligible for an attendance bonus. Expires June 30, 2018. (7-17-2017)

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Sick Leave: Absence with full pay from ones duties for the reason of personal illness or illness in one's immediate family. Absences due to the illness of person(s) outside the immediate family will be reviewed on an individual basis by the administration.

Immediate Family: The teacher's spouse, children, siblings, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, and/or other relatives who reside in the same household as the teacher.

MATERNITY LEAVE

Maternity leave will be treated as sick leave.

1. Available sick leave days will be allowed during the period of absence.
2. A classified personnel who becomes pregnant shall provide written notice thereof to her principal and the superintendent as soon as the pregnancy has been medically determined. A written statement from her physician shall include the anticipated date of delivery, the date she may continue her job duties, the physician's comments of any restriction of job activities and a commitment from the physician to notify the school authorities of any change in the patients condition which might affect her ability to perform her job duties. The employee will normally be permitted to continue her employment until the date authorized by her physician, but the district may review the employee's job performance during pregnancy and may request a supplemental statement from the physician as to her physical condition, and in the event the school authorities conclude that the employee's job performance is unsatisfactory because of her physical condition, the employee may be required to take a leave of absence at an earlier date.
3. Maternity leave, without pay, may be granted up to one (1) year.
4. Upon returning to the school system, the classified will be assigned to her former position or to the equivalent.

PERSONAL INJURY OR ASSAULT LEAVE

Per Act 1233 of 1995 and Act 1494 of 1999 requires a policy to read: The South Side School District shall grant a leave of absence with full pay for a maximum period of one (1) year, to any school employee who is absent from duty in the school as a result of personal injury from an assault or other violent criminal act committed against the employee in the course of employment in the school district. Such leave of absence shall not be charged to the sick leave provided to the school employee. The district shall require documentation of injury be made by the employee prior to requesting the medical leave and reserves the right to determine by the records and by the advice of the district's doctor whether the leave is justified by fact. The review of the records and the medical opinion shall be completed in 10 working days during which time the employee will receive full pay. An appeal may be made if the request to the superintendent is denied to the school board who shall review the case at the next regular meeting during which full pay shall be given to the employee.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6-8-17

8.6—SICK LEAVE BANK — CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES *

A sick leave bank is established for the purpose of permitting employees, upon approval, to obtain sick leave in excess of accumulated and current sick leave, when the employee has exhausted all such leave. An individual certified employee may donate only one to five days per year.

The Superintendent shall appoint a Sick Leave Bank Committee. That committee shall consist of six (6) members: four (4) classified, the superintendent, and one (1) principal.

The Committee shall meet as necessary for the purpose of reviewing requests. The determination of the committee shall be final. If the request is approved, the committee will then send a form to everyone to find out how many individuals will be willing to donate days. A form will then be sent to these individuals requesting the least amount of days possible.

Withdrawals

The Committee may grant sick leave up to 30 days per contract year for catastrophic personal or family illness, disabilities or accidents (not including accidents for which the employee is receiving Workers' Compensation), which cause the employee to be absent from work and when the employee has exhausted all accumulated and current sick leave. (More days may be approved for extenuating circumstances.)

Absence from work due to normal pregnancy may not make the employee eligible to withdraw from the sick leave bank.

Each case will be judged on an individual basis. In order to receive days from the bank, a written request must be made by the individual seeking the days. Requests for withdrawal from the sick leave bank must state the reason(s) for the request and the number of days requested and must be accompanied by a detailed statement from an attending physician of the nature of the malady and the expected duration thereof.

If the information provided to the Committee is deemed by a majority of the Committee to be insufficient, the Committee may require additional information or deny the employee's request, at its discretion.

The Committee shall have the authority to grant, reduce or deny any request. Upon the committee decision, they will notify the requesting individual in writing of their decision. However, the Committee may grant no request, or any granted time may be withdrawn, when the employee accepts retirement; is eligible for Social Security Disability; or other disability insurance or the employee returns to work.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1208

Date Adopted: 1/15/2008

Last Revised: 5/31/2012

8.7—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

For the district to function efficiently and have the necessary personnel present to effect a high achieving learning environment, employee absences need to be kept to a minimum. The district acknowledges that there are times during the school year when employees have personal business that needs to be addressed during the school day. Each full-time employee shall receive the following respective days of personal leave per contract year: 240 day contract get 7 days and 180 up to 220 day contracts get 6 days.

Employees shall take personal leave or leave without pay for those absences which are not due to attendance at school functions which are related to their job duties and do not qualify for other types of leave (for sick leave see Policy 8.5, for professional leave see below).

School functions, for the purposes of this policy, means:

1. Athletic or academic events related to a public school district; and
2. Meetings and conferences related to education.

The determination of what activities meet the definition of a school function shall be made by the employee's immediate supervisor or designee. In no instance shall paid leave in excess of allotted vacation days and/or personal days be granted to an employee who is absent from work while receiving remuneration from another source as compensation for the reason for their absence.

Any employee desiring to take personal leave may do so by making a written request to his supervisor at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time of the requested leave. The twenty-four hour requirement may be waived by the supervisor when the supervisor deems it appropriate.

Employees who fail to report to work when their request for a personal day has been denied or who have exhausted their allotted personal days, shall lose their daily rate of pay for the day(s) missed (leave without pay). While there are instances where personal circumstances necessitate an employee's absence beyond the allotted days of sick and/or personal leave, any employee who requires leave without pay must receive advance permission (except in medical emergencies) from their immediate supervisor. Failure to report to work without having received permission to be absent is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination.

Personal days will be automatically deducted as a sick day if/when accumulated sick leave has been exhausted. Unused personal days, through the current year, will be added as accumulated sick leave.

It is encouraged that personal leave not be taken the day before or the day after a holiday.

Professional Leave

“Professional Leave” is leave granted for the purpose of enabling an employee to participate in professional activities (e.g., workshops or serving on professional committees) which can serve to improve the school district’s instructional program or enhances the employee’s ability to perform his duties. Professional leave will also be granted when a school district employee is subpoenaed for a matter arising out of the employee’s employment with the school district. Any employee seeking professional leave must make a written request to his immediate supervisor, setting forth the information necessary for the supervisor to make an informed decision. The supervisor’s decision is subject to review and overruling by the superintendent. Budgeting concerns and the potential benefit for the district’s students will be taken into consideration in reviewing a request for professional leave.

Applications for professional leave should be made as soon as possible following the employee’s discerning a need for such leave, but, in any case, no less than two (2) weeks before the requested leave is to begin, if possible.

If the employee does not receive or does not accept remuneration for their participation in the professional leave activity and a substitute is needed for the employee, the district shall pay the full cost of the substitute. If the employee receives and accepts remuneration for their participation in the professional leave activity, the employee shall forfeit his/her daily rate of pay from the district for the time the employee misses. The cost of a substitute, if one is needed, shall be paid by the employee/district⁵.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-211

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

1. The South Side School District recognizes the importance of maintaining, developing and enhancing the skills of professional staff members. Opportunities will be provided to ensure staff growth and development, which will be reflected in increased personal and professional competence.
2. Planning for staff development activities shall be a cooperative venture, under the direction of the superintendent of schools or his designee. District sponsored activities shall be within the normal workweek, when possible, and the cost shall be paid by the district.
3. The board will be provided with periodic evaluation reports of these activities and their impact on professional growth and student learning.
4. Time may be granted for conferences, professional meetings, workshops and visitations. Expenses may be reimbursed provided such activities are approved by the superintendent and principal.

5. Expenses to such meetings, conferences and workshops may be provided by the board of education as follows:

- Travel: 50 cents per mile
- Lodging: Actual Expense
- Meals: Up to \$50 per day (if away overnight)
- Registration Fee: Actual Expense (Receipts must be provided for reimbursement)

6. Classified personnel will receive full salary for the time they are absent from school attending educational meetings approved by the superintendent.

PERSONAL LEAVE

1. Each employee, except service-oriented positions such as bus drivers, will be permitted to take personal or business leave each year. The employee must receive prior written approval one (1) day in advance for this leave from the principal. Each full-time employee shall receive the following respective days of personal leave per contract year: 240 day contract get 7 days and 190 up to 220 day contracts get 6 days. Personal days not used will be cumulative as sick leave.

2. A deduction equal to one (1) day of the employee's salary shall be made for each day of absence that is not applicable to allowed leaves for all school employees.

VACATIONS FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

All classified personnel employed on a twelve (12) month contract shall be entitled to two weeks vacation each year with pay following the first completed year of employment.

All vacations must be approved by the superintendent and all other absences from available duty during the summer months, including the special educational leave, are to be approved by the superintendent.

CALCULATION OF PARTIAL DAY LEAVE

Sick leave for certified personnel: Partial sick leave days will be calculated by the number of hours missed per day divided by 7 hours per day. Time calculated is rounded to the nearest hour. (periods will no longer be used to calculate partial days missed for sick leave). Substitutes will be hired on an hourly basis, if available at the request of the teacher. For classified personnel: total hours missed divided by the number of hours on contract.

Date Adopted: 9/10/2007

Last Revised: 6-8-17

8.8—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEALING WITH SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS

Individuals who have been convicted of certain sex crimes must register with law enforcement as sex offenders. Arkansas law places restrictions on sex offenders with a Level 1 sex offender having the least restrictions (lowest likelihood of committing another sex crime), and Level 4 sex offenders having the most restrictions (highest likelihood of committing another sex crime).

While Levels 1 and 2 place no restrictions prohibiting the individual's presence on a school campus, Levels 3 and 4 have specific prohibitions. These are specified in Policy 6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN'S LAW) and it is the responsibility of district staff to know and understand the policy and, to the extent requested aid school administrators in enforcing the restrictions placed on campus access to Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders.

It is the intention of the board of directors that district staff not stigmatize students whose parents or guardians are sex offenders while taking necessary steps to safeguard the school community and comply with state law. Each school's administration should establish procedures so attention is not drawn to the accommodations necessary for registered sex offender parents or guardians.¹

Date Adopted: 5/31/2008

Last Revised: 5/31/2012

8.9—PUBLIC OFFICE – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

An employee of the District who is elected to the Arkansas General Assembly or any elective or appointive public office (not legally constitutionally inconsistent with employment by a public school district) shall not be discharged or demoted as a result of such service.

No sick leave will be granted for the employee's participation in such public office. The employee may take personal leave or vacation (if applicable), if approved in advance by the Superintendent, during his absence.

Prior to taking leave, and as soon as possible after the need for such leave is discerned by the employee, he must make written request for leave to the Superintendent, setting out, to the degree possible, the dates such leave is needed.

An employee who fraudulently requests sick leave for the purpose of taking leave to serve in public office may be subject to nonrenewal or termination of his employment contract.

Cross Reference: Policy 8.17—Classified Personnel Political Activity

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-115

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 5-31-2016

8.10—JURY DUTY – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Employees are not subject to discharge, loss of sick leave, loss of vacation time or any other penalty due to absence from work for jury duty, upon giving reasonable notice to the District through the employee's immediate supervisor.

The employee must present the original (not a copy) of the summons to jury duty to his supervisor in order to confirm the reason for the requested absence.

Employees shall receive their regular pay from the district while serving jury duty, and shall reimburse the district from the stipend they receive for jury duty, up to, but not to exceed, the cost of the substitute hired to replace the employee in his/her absence.¹

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 7/30/2012

8.11—OVERTIME, COMPTIME, and COMPLYING WITH FLSA

The South Side School District shall comply with those portions of the Fair Labor Standards Act that relate to the operation of public schools. The act requires that covered employees be compensated for all hours worked at greater than or equal to the applicable minimum wage for workweeks of less than or equal to 40 hours.^A It also requires that employees be compensated for workweeks of greater than 40 hours at 1 1/2 times their regular rate of pay either monetarily^B or through compensatory time^C.

Definitions

“Overtime” is hours worked in excess of 40 per workweek. Compensation given for hours **not** worked such as for holidays or sick days do **not** count in determining hours worked per workweek.^D

“Workweek” is the seven day consecutive period of time from 12:00AM on Sunday to midnight on the following Saturday.¹ Each workweek is independent of every other workweek for the purpose of determining the number of hours worked and the remuneration entitled to by the employee for that week.^E

“Exempt Employees” are those employees who are not covered under the FLSA because the employee’s:^{1, D}

- A. Primary job duties are considered to be exempt eligible due to being administrative or professional in nature. Examples include teachers, counselors, registered nurses, and supervisors; and
- B. Salary meets or exceeds a minimum weekly/annual amount.

Any employee who is unsure of their coverage status should consult with the District’s Administration.

“Covered Employees” (also defined as non-exempt employees) are those employees who are not exempt, generally termed classified, and include bus drivers, clerical workers, maintenance personnel, custodians, transportation workers, receptionists, paraprofessionals, food service workers, secretaries, and bookkeepers.

“Regular Rate of Pay” includes all forms of remuneration for employment³ and shall be expressed as an hourly rate.^G For those employees previously paid on a salary basis, the salary shall be converted to an hourly equivalent. Employees shall be paid for each and every hour worked.

Employment Relationships

The District does not have an employment relationship in the following instances:

1. Between the District and student teachers;
2. Between the District and its students; and
3. Between the District and individuals who as a public service volunteer or donate their time to the District without expectation or promise of compensation.

The District does not have a joint employment relationship in the following instances:

1. Between the District and off-duty policemen or deputies who are hired on a part-time basis for security purposes or crowd control. The District is separate from and acts independently of other governmental entities.
2. Between the District and any agency contracted with to provide transportation services, security services, substitute teachers or other temporary employees, or other services.

Hours Worked

Employees shall be compensated for all the time they are required to be on duty^H and shall be paid for all hours worked each workweek. Employees shall accurately record the hours they work each week.^I

The District shall determine the manner to be used by employees to accurately record the hours they work. Each employee shall record the exact time they commence and cease work including meal breaks. Employees arriving early may socialize with fellow workers who are off the clock, but shall not commence working without first recording their starting time.^J

Employees shall sign in/clock in where they start work and sign out/clock out at the site where they cease working. Employees who do not start and end their workday at the same site shall carry a time card or sheet with them to accurately record their times. They shall turn in their time sheets or cards to their immediate supervisor no later than the following Monday morning after reviewing them to be sure that they accurately reflect their hours worked for that week.⁴

Each employee is to personally record his or her own times. Any employee who signs in or out (or who punches a time clock) for another employee or who asks another employee to do so for him or her will be dismissed.

Employees whose normal workweek is less than 40 hours and who work more than their normal number of hours in a given workweek may, at the District's option, be given compensatory time for the hours they worked in excess of their normal workweek in lieu of their regular rate pay. Compensatory time given in this manner shall be subject to the same conditions regarding accumulation and use as compensatory time given in lieu of overtime pay.

Breaks and Meals

Each employee working more than twenty (20) hours per week shall be provided two (2), paid, fifteen (15) minute duty free breaks per workday.^K

Meal periods that are less than thirty (30) minutes in length or in which the employee is not relieved of duty are compensable.^L Employees with a bona fide meal period shall be completely relieved of their duty to allow them to eat their meal, which they may do away from their work site, in the school cafeteria, or in a break area.

The employee shall not engage in any work for the District during meal breaks except in rare and infrequent emergencies.

Overtime

Covered employees shall be compensated at not less than 1.5 times his or her regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.^M Overtime compensation shall be computed on the basis of the hours worked in each week and may not be waived by either the employee or the District. Overtime compensation shall be paid on the next regular payday for the period in which the overtime was earned.^N

Employees working two or more jobs for the District at different rates of pay shall be paid overtime at a weighted average of the differing wages.^O This shall be determined by dividing the total regular remuneration for all hours worked by the number of hours worked in that week to arrive at the weighted average. One half that rate is then multiplied times the number of hours worked over 40 to arrive at the overtime compensation due.⁵

Provided the employee and the District have a written agreement or understanding before the work is performed,^P compensatory time off may be awarded in lieu of overtime pay for hours worked over 40 in a workweek and shall be awarded on a one-and-one-half (1 1/2) time basis for each hour of overtime worked.^Q The District reserves the right to determine if it will award compensatory time in lieu of monetary pay for the overtime worked. The maximum number of compensatory hours an employee may accumulate at a time is 20.⁶ The employee must be able to take the compensatory time off within a reasonable period of time that is not unduly disruptive to the District.

An employee whose employment is terminated with the District, whether by the District or the employee shall receive monetary compensation for unused compensatory time. Of the following methods, the one that yields the greatest money for the employee shall be used.

1. The average regular rate received by the employee during the last 3 years of employment. Or
2. The final regular rate received by the employee.^R

Overtime Authorization

There will be instances where the district's needs necessitate an employee work overtime. It is the Board's desire to keep overtime worked to a minimum. To facilitate this, employees shall receive authorization from their supervisor in advance of working overtime except in the rare instance when it is unforeseen and unavoidable.

All overtime worked will be paid in accordance with the provisions of the FLSA, but unless the overtime was pre-approved or fit into the exceptions noted previously, disciplinary action must be taken for failure to follow District policy. In extreme and repeated cases, disciplinary action could include the termination of the employee.

Leave Requests

All covered employees shall submit a leave request form prior to taking the leave if possible. If, due to unforeseen or emergency circumstances, advance request was not possible the leave form shall be turned in the day the employee returns to work. Unless specifically granted by the Board for special circumstances, the reason necessitating the leave must fall within District policy.

Payment for leave could be delayed or not occur if an employee fails to turn in the required leave form. Leave may be taken in a minimum of 4 hour increments.⁷

Record Keeping^S and Postings^T

The District shall keep and maintain records as required by the FLSA for the period of time^U required by the act.⁸

The District shall display minimum wage posters where employees can readily observe them.⁹

Cooperation with Enforcement Officials^V

All records relating to the FLSA shall be available for inspection by, and District employees shall cooperate fully with, officials from the DOL and/or its authorized representatives in the performance of their jobs relating to:

1. Investigating and gathering data regarding the wages, hours, and other conditions and practices of employment;
2. Entering, inspecting, and/or transcribing the premises and its records;
3. Questioning employees and investigating such facts as the inspectors deem necessary to determine whether any person has violated any provision of the FLSA.

Legal References:

- A: 29 USC § 206(a), ACA § 6-17-2203
- B: 29 USC § 207(a)(1), 29 CFR § 778.100
- C: 29 USC § 207(o), 29 CFR § 553.50
- D: 29 CFR § 778.218(a)
- E: 29 CFR § 778.105
- F: 29 USC § 213(a), 29 CFR §§ 541 et seq.
- G: 29 USC § 207(e), 29 CFR § 778.108
- H: 29 CFR §§ 785.9, 785.16
- I: 29 CFR § 516.2(7)
- J: 29 CFR §§ 785.1 et seq.
- K: ACA § 6-17-2205 and 2207
- L: 29 CFR §§ 785.19
- M: 29 USC § 207(a), 29 CFR § 778.100, 29 USC § 207(o), 29 CFR §§ 553.20 – 553.32
- N: 29 CFR § 778.106
- O: 29 USC § 207(g)(2), 29 CFR § 778.115
- P: 29 USC § 207(o)(2)(A), 29 CFR § 553.23
- Q: 29 CFR § 553.20
- R: 29 USC § 207(o)(4), 29 CFR § 553.27

S: 29 USC § 211(c), 29 CFR §§ 516.2, 516.3, 553.50
T: 29 CFR § 516.4
U: 29 CFR §§ 516.5, 516.6
V: 29 USC § 211(a)(b)

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007
Last Revised: 6-1-2016

8.12— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

An employee of the District may not be employed in any other capacity during regular working hours.

An employee may not accept employment outside of his district employment which will interfere, or otherwise be incompatible with the District employment, including normal duties outside the regular work day; nor shall an employee accept other employment which is inappropriate for an employee of a public school.

The Superintendent, or his designee(s), shall be responsible for determining whether outside employment is incompatible, conflicting, or inappropriate.

When a classified employee is additionally employed by the District by a contract for a second classified position or to perform supplementary duties for a stipend or multiplier, the duties, expectations, and obligations of the primary position employment contract shall prevail over all other employment duties unless the needs of the district dictate otherwise. If there is a conflict between the expectations of the primary position and any other contracted position, the employee shall notify the employee's building principal as far in advance as is practicable. The Building principal shall verify the existence of the conflict by contacting the supervisor of the secondary contracted position. The building principal shall determine the needs of the district on a case-by-case basis and rule accordingly. The principal's decision is final with no appeal to the Superintendent or the School Board. Frequent conflicts or scheduling problems could lead to the non-renewal or termination of the conflicting contract of employment or the contract to perform the supplementary duties.

For employees who work two or more jobs for the District, the superintendent or designee shall specify which is the employee's primary job. If circumstances change, the determination can be changed to reflect the current needs of the District. Furthermore, if on any given day, one of the employee's jobs requires more hours worked than is customary, the District reserves the right to lessen the number of hours the employee may work in his/her other job such that the employee does not exceed forty (40) hours worked in that week.

Sick Leave and Outside Employment

Sick leave related absence from work (e.g. sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, and FMLA) inherently means the employee is also incapable of working at any source of outside employment. Except as provided in policy 8.26, if an employee who works a non-district job while taking district sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, or FMLA shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 5/31/2014

8.13—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT

All prospective employees must fill out an application form provided by the District, in addition to any resume provided; all of the information provided is to be placed in the personnel file of those employed.

If the employee provides false or misleading information, or if he/she withholds information to the same effect, it may be grounds for dismissal. In particular, it will be considered a material misrepresentation and grounds for termination of contract of employment if an employee's application information is discovered to be other than as was represented by the employee, either in writing on application materials or in the form of representations made to the school district.

It is grounds for termination of contract of employment if an employee fails a criminal background check or receives a true report on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry check.¹

An employee who receives notification of a failure to pass a criminal background check or a true result on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry check shall have thirty (30) days following the notification to submit to the superintendent, or designee, a written request for a hearing before the Board to request a waiver. The written request should include any documentation, such as police reports, or other materials that are related to the event giving rise to the failed background check or true result on the Child Maltreatment Registry as well as information supporting your request for the waiver. Employees requesting a board hearing to request a waiver should be aware that this hearing is subject to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act and it must be fully open to the public as a result.

For unlicensed individuals employed as teachers or administrators under a waiver, all teachers who begin employment in the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter shall demonstrate proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices in scientific reading instruction as is applicable to their teaching position by completing the prescribed proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices of the scientific reading instruction credential either as a condition of licensure or within one (1) year for teachers who are already licensed or employed as a teacher under a waiver from licensure.²

Before the superintendent may make a recommendation to the Board that an individual be hired by the District, the superintendent shall check the Arkansas Educator Licensure System to determine if the individual has a currently suspended or revoked teaching license or a current Level 3 or Level 4 public notification of ethics violation. An individual with a currently suspended license or whose license has been revoked by the State Board of Education is not eligible to be employed by the District; this prohibition includes employment as a substitute teacher, whether directly employed by the District or providing substitute teaching services under contract with an outside entity. An individual with a current Level 3 or Level 4 public notification of ethics violation shall not be recommended for employment by the District.

The District is an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or genetic information.³

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to the office of Superintendent⁴, who may be reached at 501-654-2633⁵.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

In accordance with Arkansas law⁶, the District provides a veteran preference to applicants who qualify for one of the following categories:

1. a veteran without a service-connected disability;
2. a veteran with a service-connected disability; and
3. a deceased veteran's spouse who is unmarried throughout the hiring process.

For purposes of this policy, "veteran" is defined as:

- a. A person honorably discharged from a tour of active duty, other than active duty for training only, with the armed forces of the United States; or
- b. Any person who has served honorably in the National Guard or reserve forces of the United States for a period of at least six (6) years, whether or not the person has retired or been discharged.

In order for an applicant to receive the veteran's preference, the applicant must be a citizen and resident of Arkansas, be substantially equally qualified as other applicants and do all of the following:

1. Indicate on the employment application the category the applicant qualifies for;
2. Attach the following documentation, **as applicable**, to the employment application:
 - Form DD-214 indicating honorable discharge;
 - A letter dated within the last six months from the applicant's command indicating years of service in the National Guard or Reserve Forces as well as the applicant's current status;
 - Marriage license;
 - Death certificate;
 - Disability letter from the Veteran's Administration (in the case of an applicant with a service-related disability).

Failure of the applicant to comply with the above requirements shall result in the applicant not receiving the veteran preference; in addition, meeting the qualifications of a veteran or spousal category does not guarantee either an interview or being hired.

Legal References: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Background Checks

Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

A.C.A. § 6-17-301

A.C.A. § 6-17-414

A.C.A. § 6-17-428

A.C.A. § 6-17-429

A.C.A. § 21-3-302

A.C.A. § 21-3-303

A.C.A. § 25-19-101 et seq.

28 C.F.R. § 35.106

29 C.F.R. part 1635

34 C.F.R. § 100.6

34 C.F.R. § 104.8

34 C.F.R. § 106.9

34 C.F.R. § 108.9

34 C.F.R. § 110.25

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 3-12-18

The South Side School District is an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

CONTRACTS

1. Classified personnel shall be re-employed on an annual basis with contracts renewed at the regular April meeting of the Board of Education.
2. As per Act 1247 of 1997: No classified shall be required to sign and return a contract for the next school year any sooner than thirty (30) days after the contract is issued to the employee. The employee shall have the right to unilaterally rescind any signed contract no later than ten (10) days after signing the contract.
3. Classified personnel who are not recommended for rehiring will be notified by May 1.
DISMISSAL AND NON-RENEWAL POLICIES

Causes of Dismissal: A. In competency
C. Neglect of Duty

B. Misconduct
D. Insubordination

EMPLOYMENT

1. All applicants, prior to employment, must provide the superintendent with a completed application form and resume indicating appropriate qualification and references in regard to training and experience.

2. The employment of all instructional personnel shall be by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the superintendent.
3. Should a person recommended by the superintendent be rejected by the Board of Education, it shall be the duty of the superintendent to recommend another person for consideration.
4. As per Act 1313 of 1997 requires personnel to pass criminal background and central registry checks before they enter employment (contracts will be issued contingent upon passing the check).

EXTRA CURRICULAR DUTIES

1. Extracurricular duties, organizational activities, playground assignments, etc., are considered to be a normal part of the classified work.
2. Employment duties shall be divided as equally and fairly as possible by principals in their respective schools.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. All classified personnel must satisfy the requirements of state law and policies of the school board.
2. Employment will be based on the following criteria:
 - A. Certification requirements
 - B. Experience and performance
 - C. Personal interview
 - D. References
3. All administrative, teaching and other personnel shall meet appropriate state certification.
4. Soon after being notified of election, and before any payment for service, an employee must furnish the superintendent with the following:
 - A. A signed contract, binding both parties
 - B. A statement of number of dependents (W4 form).
 - C. Proof of U.S. Citizenship.
 - D. A copy of social security card
 - E. Background and Central Registry Checks

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 7/30/2013

8.14— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Employees shall be reimbursed for personal and/or travel expenses incurred while performing duties or attending workshops or other employment-related functions, provided that prior written approval for the activity for which the employee seeks reimbursement has been received from the Superintendent, principal (or other immediate supervision with the authority to make school approvals), or the appropriate designee of the Superintendent.

It is the responsibility of the employee to determine the appropriate supervisor from which he must obtain approval.

Reimbursement claims must be made on forms provided by the District and must be supported by appropriate, original receipts. Copies of receipts or other documentation are not acceptable, except in extraordinary circumstances. (See 8.7 for rates)

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2014

8.15— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TOBACCO USE *

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, or other school vehicles is prohibited.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2013

8.16—DRESS OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

Employees shall ensure that their dress and appearance are professional and appropriate to their positions.

Date Adopted:6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.17— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Employees are free to engage in political activity outside of work hours and to the extent that it does not affect the performance of their duties or adversely affect important working relationships.

It is specifically forbidden for employees to engage in political activities on the school grounds or during work hours. The following activities are forbidden on school property:

1. Using students for preparation or dissemination of campaign materials;
2. Distributing political materials;
3. Distributing or otherwise seeking signatures on petitions of any kind;
4. Posting political materials; and
5. Discussing political matters with students, in or out of the classroom, in other than circumstances appropriate to the employee's responsibilities to the students and where a legitimate pedagogical reason exists.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.18— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL DEBTS

For the purposes of this policy, "garnishment" of a district employee is when the employee has lost a lawsuit to a judgment creditor who brought suit against a school district employee for an unpaid debt, has been awarded money damages as a result, and these damages are recoverable by filing a garnishment action against the employee's wages. For the purposes of this policy, the word "garnishment" excludes such things as child support, student loan or IRS liens or voluntary deductions levied against an employee's wages.

All employees are expected to meet their financial obligations. If an employee writes "hot" checks or has his income garnished by a judgment creditor, dismissal may result.

An employee will not be dismissed for having been the subject of one (1) garnishment. However, a second or third garnishment may result in dismissal.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, he or his designee may meet with an employee who has received a second garnishment for the purpose of warning the employee that a third garnishment will result in a recommendation of dismissal to the School Board.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, a second garnishment may be used as a basis for a recommended dismissal. The Superintendent may take into consideration other factors in deciding whether to recommend dismissal based on a second garnishment. Those factors may include, but are not limited to, the amount of the debt, the time between the first and the second garnishment, and other financial problems which come to the attention of the District.

Date Adopted: 9/10/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2013

8.19— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL GRIEVANCES

The purpose of this policy is to provide an orderly process for employees to resolve, at the lowest possible level, their concerns related to the personnel policies or salary payments of this district.

Definitions

Grievance: a claim or concern related to the interpretation, application, or claimed violation of the personnel policies, including salary schedules, federal or state laws and regulations, or terms or conditions of employment, raised by an individual employee of this school district. Other matters for which the means of resolution are provided or foreclosed by statute or administrative procedures shall not be considered grievances. Specifically, no grievance may be entertained against a supervisor for directing, instructing, reprimanding, or “writing up” an employee under his/her supervision.¹ A group of employees who have the same grievance may file a group grievance.

Group Grievance: A grievance may be filed as a group grievance if it meets the following criteria: (meeting the criteria does not ensure that the subject of the grievance is, in fact, grievable)

1. More than one individual has interest in the matter; and
 2. The group has a well-defined common interest in the facts and/or circumstances of the grievance; and
 3. The group has designated an employee spokesperson to meet with administration and/or the board;
- and
4. All individuals within the group are requesting the same relief.

Employee: any person employed under a written contract by this school district.

Immediate Supervisor: the person immediately superior to an employee who directs and supervises the work of that employee.

Working day: Any weekday other than a holiday whether or not the employee under the provisions of their contract is scheduled to work or whether they are currently under contract.

Process

Level One: An employee who believes that he/she has a grievance shall inform that employee’s immediate supervisor that the employee has a potential grievance and discuss the matter with the supervisor within five working days of the occurrence of the grievance. The supervisor shall offer the employee an opportunity to have a witness or representative who is not a member of the employee’s immediate family present at their conference. (The five-day requirement does not apply to grievances concerning back pay.) If the grievance is not advanced to Level Two within five working days following the conference, the matter will be considered resolved and the employee shall have no further right with respect to said grievance.

If the grievance cannot be resolved by the immediate supervisor, the employee can advance the grievance to Level Two. To do this, the employee must complete the top half of the Level Two Grievance Form within five working days of the discussion with the immediate supervisor, citing the manner in which the specific personnel policy was violated that has given rise to the grievance, and submit the Grievance Form to his/her immediate supervisor. The supervisor will have ten

working days to respond to the grievance using the bottom half of the Level Two Grievance Form which he/she will submit to the building principal or, in the event that the employee's immediate supervisor is the building principal, the superintendent.

Level Two (when appeal is to the building principal): Upon receipt of a Level Two Grievance Form, the building principal will have ten working days to schedule a conference with the employee filing the grievance. The principal shall offer the employee an opportunity to have a witness or representative who is not a member of the employee's immediate family present at their conference. After the conference, the principal will have ten working days in which to deliver a written response to the grievance to the employee. If the grievance is not advanced to Level Three within five working days the matter will be considered resolved and the employee shall have no further right with respect to said grievance.

Level Two (when appeal is to the superintendent): Upon receipt of a Level Two Grievance Form, the superintendent will have ten working days to schedule a conference with the employee filing the grievance. The superintendent shall offer the employee an opportunity to have a witness or representative who is not a member of the employee's immediate family present at their conference. After the conference, the superintendent will have ten working days in which to deliver a written response to the grievance to the employee.

Level Three: If the proper recipient of the Level Two Grievance was the building principal, and the employee remains unsatisfied with the written response to the grievance, the employee may advance the grievance to the superintendent by submitting a copy of the Level Two Grievance Form and the principal's reply to the superintendent within five working days of his/her receipt of the principal's reply. The superintendent will have ten working days to schedule a conference with the employee filing the grievance. The superintendent shall offer the employee an opportunity to have a witness or representative who is not a member of the employee's immediate family present at their conference. After the conference, the superintendent will have ten working days in which to deliver a written response to the grievance to the employee.

Appeal to the Board of Directors: An employee who remains unsatisfied by the written response of the superintendent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the Board of Education within five working days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's written response by submitting a written request for a board hearing to the superintendent². If the grievance is not appealed to the Board of Directors within five working days of his/her receipt of the superintendent's response, the matter will be considered resolved and the employee shall have no further right with respect to said grievance.

The school board will address the grievance at the next regular meeting of the school board, unless the employee agrees in writing to an alternate date for the hearing. After reviewing the Level Two Grievance Form and the superintendent's reply, the board will decide if the grievance, on its face, is grievable under district policy. If the grievance is presented as a "group grievance," the Board shall first determine if the composition of the group meets the definition of a "group grievance."

If the Board determines that it is a group grievance, the Board shall then determine whether the matter raised is grievable. If the Board rules the composition of the group does not meet the definition of a group grievance, or the grievance, whether group or individual, is not grievable, the matter shall be considered closed. (Individuals within the disallowed group may choose to subsequently refile their grievance as an individual grievance beginning with Level One of the process.)

If the Board rules the grievance to be grievable, they shall immediately commence a hearing on the grievance. All parties have the right to representation by a person of their own choosing who is not a member of the employee's immediate family at the appeal hearing before the Board of Directors. The employee shall have no less than 90 minutes to present his/her grievance and both parties shall have the opportunity to present and question witnesses. The hearing shall be open to the public unless the employee requests a private hearing. If the hearing is open, the parent or guardian of any student under the age of eighteen years who gives testimony may elect to have the student's testimony given in closed session. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the hearing was closed, the Board of Directors may excuse all parties except board members and deliberate, by themselves, on the hearing. At the conclusion of an open hearing, board deliberations shall also be in open session unless the board is deliberating the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of the employee. A decision on the grievance shall be announced no later than the next regular board meeting.

Records

Records related to grievances will be filed separately and will not be kept in, or made part of, the personnel file of any employee.

Reprisals

No reprisals of any kind will be taken or tolerated against any employee because he/she has filed or advanced a grievance under this policy.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.19F—LEVEL TWO GRIEVANCE FORM - CLASSIFIED

Name: _____

Date submitted to supervisor: _____

Classified Personnel Policy grievance is based upon:

Grievance (be specific): _____

What would resolve your grievance? _____

Supervisor's Response

Date submitted to recipient: _____

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.20— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The South Side School District is committed to providing an academic and work environment that treats all students and employees with respect and dignity. Student achievement and amicable working relationships are best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational and employment opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational and work environment and will not be tolerated.

The District believes the best policy to create an educational and work environment free from sexual harassment is prevention; therefore, the District shall provide informational materials and training to students, parents/legal guardians/other responsible adults, and employees on sexual harassment. The informational materials and training on sexual harassment shall be age appropriate and, when necessary, provided in a language other than English or in an accessible format. The informational materials and training shall include, but are not limited to: the nature of sexual harassment; the District's written grievance procedures for complaints of sexual harassment;¹ that the district does not tolerate sexual harassment; that students and employees can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences; the redress that is available to the victim of sexual harassment;² and the potential discipline for perpetrating sexual harassment.

“Sexual harassment” means conduct that is:

1. Of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Sexual advances;
 - b. Requests for sexual favors;
 - c. Sexual violence; or
 - d. Other personally offensive verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature;
2. Unwelcome; and
3. denies or limits a student's or employee's ability to participate in or benefit from any of the District's educational programs or activities or employment environment through any or all of the following methods:
 - a. Submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education or employment;
 - b. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual; and/or
 - c. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

The terms “intimidating,” “hostile,” and “offensive” include conduct of a sexual nature that has the effect of humiliation or embarrassment and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it limits the student's or employees ability to participate in, or benefit from, an educational program or activity or employment environment.

Within the educational or work environment, sexual harassment is prohibited between any of the following: students; employees and students; non-employees and students; employees; employees and non-employees.

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances and may occur regardless of the sex(es) of the individuals involved. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Making sexual propositions or pressuring for sexual activities;
- Unwelcome touching;
- Writing graffiti of a sexual nature;
- Displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, or written materials;
- Performing sexual gestures or touching oneself sexually in front of others;
- Telling sexual or crude jokes;
- Spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities;
- Discussions of sexual experiences;
- Rating other students as to sexual activity or performance;
- Circulating or showing e-mails or Web sites of a sexual nature;
- Intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; and
- Teasing related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether or not the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender.

Employees who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting their immediate supervisor, an administrator, or the Title IX coordinator who will provide assistance on the complaint process. Under no circumstances shall an employee be required to first report allegations of sexual harassment to a school contact person if that person is the individual who is accused of the harassment.

Complaints will be treated in a confidential manner to the extent possible. Limited disclosure may be provided to: individuals who are responsible for handling the District's investigation to the extent necessary to complete a thorough investigation; the extent necessary to submit a report to the child maltreatment hotline; the Professional Licensure Standards Board for complaints alleging sexual harassment by an employee towards a student; or the extent necessary to provide the individual accused in the complaint due process during the investigation and disciplinary processes. Individuals who file a complaint have the right to request that the individual accused of sexual harassment not be informed of the name of the accuser; however, individuals should be aware that making such a request may substantially limit the District's ability to investigate the complaint and may make it impossible for the District to discipline the accused.³

Employees who file a complaint of sexual harassment shall not be subjected to retaliation or reprisal in any form, including threats, intimidation, coercion, or discrimination. The District shall take steps to prevent retaliation and shall take immediate action if any form

of retaliation occurs regardless of whether the retaliatory acts are by District officials, students, or third parties.

Following the completion of an investigation of a complaint, the District will inform the employee who filed the complaint:

- The final determination of the investigation;
- Remedies the District will make available to the employee; and
- The sanctions, if any, imposed on the alleged harasser relevant to the employee.

Following the completion of an investigation of a complaint, the District will inform the alleged perpetrator, or the parents/legal guardian/other responsible adult of the alleged perpetrator if the alleged perpetrator is under the age of eighteen (18):

- The final determination of the investigation; and
 - The sanctions, if any, the District intends to impose on the alleged perpetrator.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment. Following an investigation, any employee who is found by the evidence to more likely than not have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, termination.

Employees who knowingly fabricate allegations of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Individuals who withhold information, purposely provide inaccurate facts, or otherwise hinder an investigation of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681, et seq.

34 CFR part 106

A.C.A. § 6-15-1005 (b) (1)

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 3-12-18

8.21— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

All District personnel are expected to conscientiously execute their responsibilities to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students under their care. The Superintendent shall direct all principals to establish regulations ensuring adequate supervision of students throughout the school day and at extracurricular activities.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.22— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY

The South Side School District provides computers and/or computer Internet access for many employees, to assist employees in performing work related tasks. Employees are advised that they enjoy **no expectation of privacy** in any aspect of their computer use, including email, and that under Arkansas law, both email and computer use records maintained by the district are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Passwords or security procedures are to be used as assigned, and confidentiality of student records is to be maintained at all times. Employees must not disable or bypass security procedures, compromise, attempt to compromise, or defeat the district's technology network security, alter data without authorization, disclose passwords to other staff members or students, or grant students access to any computer not designated for student use. It is the policy of this school district to equip each computer with Internet filtering software designed to prevent users from accessing material that is harmful to minors. The District Information Technology Security Officer or designee may authorize the disabling of the filter to enable access by an adult for a bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Employees who misuse district-owned computers in any way, including excessive personal use, using computers for personal use during work or instructional time, using computers to violate any other policy, knowingly or negligently allowing unauthorized access, or using the computers to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics, will face disciplinary action, up to and including termination or non-renewal of the employment contract.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6-8-17

8.22F—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

Name (Please Print) _____

School _____ Date _____

The South Side School District agrees to allow the employee identified above (“Employee”) to use the district’s technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions:

1. Conditional Privilege: The Employee’s use of the district’s access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Employee’s abiding by this agreement.
2. Acceptable Use: The Employee agrees that in using the District’s Internet access he/she will obey all federal and state laws and regulations. Internet access is provided as an aid to employees to enable them to better perform their job responsibilities. Under no circumstances shall an Employee’s use of the District’s Internet access interfere with, or detract from, the performance of his/her job-related duties.
3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Employee violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Employee shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.
4. “Misuse of the District’s access to the Internet” includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. using the Internet for any activities deemed lewd, obscene, vulgar, or pornographic as defined by prevailing community standards;
 - b. using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
 - c. posting anonymous messages on the system;
 - d. using encryption software other than when required by the employee’s job duties;
 - e. wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
 - f. causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files other than when required by the employee’s job duties;
 - g. vandalizing data of another user;
 - h. obtaining or sending information ~~which~~ that could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
 - i. gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
 - j. identifying oneself with another person’s name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
 - k. using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
 - l. theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
 - m. invading the privacy of individuals other than when required by the employee’s job duties;

- n. using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- o. introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with, the system;
- p. degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
- q. creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;
- r. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files of students not under their jurisdiction;
- s. providing access to the District's Internet Access to unauthorized individuals; or
- t. taking part in any activity related to Internet use that creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools;
- u. Making unauthorized copies of computer software;
- v. personal use of computers during instructional time; or
- w. Installing software on district computers without prior approval of the Information Technology Security Officer or his/her designee except for District technology personnel as part of their job duties.

5. Liability for debts: Staff shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through their use of the District's computers or the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.

6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Employee signing below agrees that in using the Internet through the District's access, he/she waives any right to privacy the Employee may have for such use. The Employee agrees that the district may monitor the Employee's use of the District's Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Employee participates in, including but not limited to e-mail, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system.

7. Signature: The Employee, who has signed below, has read this agreement and agrees to be bound by its terms and conditions.

Employee's Signature: _____ Date

Note: This policy is similar to Policy 3.28F. If you change this policy, review 3.28F at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Date Adopted: 9/10/2007
Last Revised: 6-8-17

Acceptable Use Policy: Staff

The South Side Bee Branch School District provides technology to support teaching, enhance learning, and improve productivity. This policy is intended to delineate the roles and responsibilities of all technology users in the South Side Bee Branch School District. All South Side Bee Branch School District employees are required to comply with provisions herein.

The use of South Side Bee Branch School District technology is a privilege, not a right. Staff must supervise students' use of technology at all times. Staff is responsible for their conduct when using South Side Bee Branch School District technology.

Definitions

As defined in this policy, the term technology includes, but is not limited to: all computers; printers, digital cameras, document cameras, interactive white boards, projectors, scanners, peripheral equipment; networks; Internet resources, including production of Web content, all forms of Web-based synchronous and asynchronous communication including electronic mail, and file transfer protocol; multimedia, video, laser, cable television, telephone, and fax equipment; language lab equipment; all software and files, including all user files generated from the use of the resources listed herein; as well as the supplies used to maintain technology.

The term "staff" includes teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, permanent substitutes and any adult responsible for supervising students. The term "user" includes staff members and anyone who makes use of South Side Bee Branch School District's technology. Substitutes hired on a per diem basis are not eligible for Internet use privileges.

Access Statement

All users must sign and return an Acceptable Use Policy Statement before being allowed to use any of the South Side Bee Branch School District's technology. The Acceptable Use Statement will stay in effect as long as the staff member is employed in the South Side Bee Branch School District.

Users are not allowed to use South Side Bee Branch School District technology if a signed Acceptable Use Policy Statement has not been submitted to their school. Users may not login under a generic or shared password.

Acceptable Uses

In the Instructional Setting:

1. Classroom assignments
2. Comply with fair-use laws and copyright regulations while accessing the internet
3. Understand, recognize, and respect the intellectual property of others
4. Career development activities
5. School Sponsored email

6. Approved use of 21st Century Tools including, but not limited to, podcasting, private class chat room experiences, private class to class video-conferencing, private class blogging, and private class wikis
7. Educational research

Unacceptable Uses

1. Users may not bypass or attempt to bypass the South Side Bee Branch School District filtering software
2. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language in any messages or web pages. Be advised that doing so in school-sponsored email will result in your email being automatically redirected from the intended recipient to the Director of Technology for review. Disciplinary action, as outlined in this policy, may be forthcoming
3. Users are prohibited from accessing any site on the Internet that is not consistent with the educational objectives of the Division, to include, but not be limited to, social networking sites
4. Participating in “cyber bullying” such as personal attacks and/or threats on/against anyone including being impolite
5. Using the network/Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of any federal, state or local law
6. Sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading illegal material via the South Side Bee Branch School District computer system
7. Unauthorized downloading or installing of software to any South Side Bee Branch School District electronic devices or any electronic device, such as an mp3 player, brought on to the school grounds
8. Using the computer system for private financial or commercial gain
9. Wastefully using resources, such as bandwidth, file space, paper, and ink/toner
10. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
11. Using the computer system for commercial or private advertising
12. Submitting, posting, publishing or displaying any obscene, profane, threatening, illegal, or other inappropriate material
13. Using the computer system while access privileges are suspended or revoked
14. Vandalizing the computer system, including, but not limited to, modifying or destroying any other peripheral equipment, or destroying data by creating or spreading viruses and/or by any other means
15. Forging, intercepting, or interfering with electronic mail messages, except as otherwise provided in this policy
16. Accessing or attempting to access instant messages, non-educational chat rooms, forums that are not school-related, private e-mail, message boards, blogs or wikis that are not school-related, or host personal web pages at any time on the Division LAN or WAN. Exceptions to this shall only include school-approved, teacher-supervised, filtered, archived Internet communication, which occurs during the instructional day
17. Failing to respect the South Side Bee Branch School District computer system’s

resource limits

18. Using the computer system to disrupt others

19. Reading, modifying or deleting data owned by others, except as otherwise provided in this policy

20. Use of the computer system concurrent with a violation of the code of conduct or violation of any rule or regulation of the school or school system

21. Users shall not bypass or attempt to bypass the South Side Bee Branch School District's security measures through means such as, but not limited to, online proxies, bootable media, IP spoofing, etc.

22. Users shall not intentionally damage the system, damage information belonging to others, misuse system resources, or allow others to misuse system resources

23. Users shall not alter or vandalize computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment and system resources. Alteration or vandalism includes, but not limited to, removal of parts, intentional destruction of equipment, attempting to degrade or disrupt system performance, or attempting to make system resources unusable

24. Users shall not relocate or remove technology equipment (hardware or software from its location without permission from the South Side Bee Branch School District Technology Department.

25. Users shall not use system resources to distribute or provide personal information or addresses that others may use inappropriately

26. Users should be aware that electronic mail (e-mail) and all other files stored on South Side Bee Branch School District's network are the property of South Side Bee Branch School District

27. Users should not send any messages or create any files that they would not want to be made public. Space restrictions will be implemented according to South Side Bee Branch School District guidelines

28. Users shall maintain a strong password on South Side Bee Branch School District computers, email system, and any other network logins at all times

Violations Consequences

1st Offense: Warning and documentation in personnel file

2nd Offense: Disciplinary action and formal improvement plan

3rd Offense: Possible suspension and/or recommendation for non-renewal or termination

Policy Statements

The use of the South Side Bee Branch School District computer system is a privilege, not a right, and the Acceptable Use Policy is designed to establish clear guidelines for adult stakeholders who have access to the Public School computer system.

Be polite and use proper Network etiquette (the acceptable behavior the Internet community expects its citizens to follow)

Use appropriate language

Respect both your own privacy and the privacy of others by not giving out personal information

Respect the rights of others by not wasting network resources
Report threatening or harassing remarks or materials to administration

Permission Forms

All users (staff members, substitute teachers, guests, and students and their parents) must sign an Acceptable Use Agreement to be eligible to work on any equipment connected to the network. This agreement must be renewed on an annual basis.

Acceptable Use Purpose

Internet Access

1. Staff has access to Internet World Wide Web information resources through their classroom, media center, and/or computer lab on any equipment connected to the network. All Internet usage is monitored, and users should expect that their use may be reviewed at any time by the principal or superintendent.
2. Staff will be issued an e-mail account for business use.
3. Teachers and support staff will create a classroom website in accordance with South Side Bee Branch School District guidelines. Material placed on a web page must relate to the school, classroom, or program.

Confidential Information

Look at IT security for clarification

Responsibility

Users are responsible for their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their account. Under no conditions should users provide their passwords to anyone else.

Copyright

COVERED IN AN ABOVE SECTION

Benefits of Education

We are in the 21st Century; our students must learn to utilize the tools and skills necessary to compete in a global economy. Students of today must think critically about global issues, work collaboratively on projects, and understand the significance of intellectual property, fair-use laws, and copyright regulations as they research the world in which they live. The South Side Bee Branch School District computer system, coupled with Internet access, empowers our students to construct authentic meaning from classroom lessons.

Enforcing Acceptable Use Policies

Privacy Policies

Users should not expect privacy in the contents of their personal files on the South Side Bee Branch School District's network; they must realize that any information stored electronically on school-owned equipment is subject to Arkansas' Freedom of Information Act. The situation is similar to the rights staff and students have in regard to

their lockers, desks, or other storage systems. The South Side Bee Branch School District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice, any and all usage of the computer network and/or internet usage. b. Parents of students have the right at any time to request a review of the contents of their children's electronic files or a conference with the teacher regarding electronic projects and/or research.

Liability Disclaimer

The South Side Bee Branch School District makes no guarantees that the functions of the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect. The South Side Bee Branch School District will not be responsible for any damage the user may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The South Side Bee Branch School District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the network. The South Side Bee Branch School District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network. When using the network, one may sense they can more easily break a rule and not be caught. This perception is not accurate. Whenever users access the network or use technology equipment, they leave "electronic footprints." Thus, the odds of getting caught in violations are really about the same as in the real world or in any other actions or situations.

Signature Forms

Staff Agreement

The acceptable and unacceptable uses of the South Side Bee Branch School District's equipment, network and the Internet access are described in this "Acceptable Use Agreement" for the South Side Bee Branch School District. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the provisions of the attached Student Acceptable Use Policy. I realize that all the rules of conduct described in this South Side Bee Branch School District's AUP, policies, procedures, and handbooks apply when I am using the South Side Bee Branch School District's network.

Staff Name: _____ **Email:** _____
(Print)

Staff Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007
Last Revised: 7/30/2012

8.23— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE *

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) offers job protection for leave that might otherwise be considered excessive absences. Employees need to carefully comply with this policy to ensure they do not lose FMLA protection due to inaction or failure to provide the District with needed information. The FMLA provides up to twelve (12) work weeks (or, in some cases twenty-six (26) weeks) of job-protected leave to eligible employees with absences that qualify under the FMLA. While an employee can request FMLA leave and has a duty to inform the District, as provided in this policy, of foreseeable absences that may qualify for FMLA leave, it is the District's ultimate responsibility to identify qualifying absences as FMLA or non-FMLA. FMLA leave is unpaid, except to the extent that paid leave applies to any given absence as governed by the FMLA and this policy.

SECTION ONE – FMAL LEAVE GENERALLY

Definitions:

“Eligible Employee” is an employee who has:

1. Been employed by the District for at least twelve (12) months, which are not required to be consecutive; and
2. Performed at least 1250 hours of service during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.¹

“FMLA” is the Family and Medical Leave Act

“Health Care Provider” means:

- a. A doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery (as appropriate) by the State in which the doctor practices;
- b. Podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, and chiropractors (limited to treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by X-ray to exist) authorized to practice in the State and performing within the scope of their practice as defined under State law;
- c. Nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, clinical social workers and physician assistants who are authorized to practice under State law and who are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under State law;
- d. Christian Science Practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts. Where an employee or family member is receiving treatment from a Christian Science practitioner, an employee may not object to any requirement from an employer that the employee or family member submit to examination (though not treatment) to obtain a second or third certification from a health care provider other than a Christian Science practitioner except as otherwise provided under applicable State or local law or collective bargaining agreement; or
- e. Any other person determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor to be capable of providing health care services.

“Instructional Employee” is an employee whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, preschool teachers, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include, and the special rules related to the taking of leave near the end of a semester do not apply to: teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, administrators, counselors, librarians, psychologists, and curriculum specialists.

“Intermittent leave” is FMLA leave taken in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason. A reduced leave schedule is a leave schedule that reduces an employee’s usual number of working hours per workweek, or hours per workday. A reduced leave schedule is a change in the employee’s schedule for a period of time, normally from full-time to part-time.

“Next of Kin”, used in respect to an individual, means the nearest blood relative of that individual.

“Parent” is the biological parent of an employee or an individual who stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a son or a daughter. This term does not include parents “in-law.”

“Serious Health Condition” is an injury, illness, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider.

“Son or daughter”, for numbers 1, 2, or 3 below, is a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age eighteen (18), or age eighteen (18) or older and “incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability” at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.²

“Year” the twelve (12) month period of eligibility shall begin on July first of each school-year.³

Policy

The provisions of this policy are intended to be in line with the provisions of the FMLA. If any conflict(s) exist, the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, shall govern.

Leave Eligibility

The District will grant up to twelve (12) weeks of leave in a year in accordance with the FMLA, as amended, to its eligible employees for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Because of the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for such son or daughter;
2. Because of the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;

3. To care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent, of the employee, if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent has a serious health condition;
4. Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the position of such employee; and
5. Because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces. (See Section Two)
6. To care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury. (See Section Two)

The entitlement to leave for reasons 1 and 2 listed above shall expire at the end of the twelve (12) month period beginning on the date of such birth or placement.

A legally married couple who are both eligible employees employed by the District may not take more than a combined total of twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1, 2, or to care for a parent under number 3.

Provisions Applicable to both Sections One and Two

District Notice to Employees

The District shall post, in conspicuous places in each school within the District where notices to employees and applicants for employment are customarily posted, a notice explaining the FMLA's provisions and providing information about the procedure for filing complaints with the Department of Labor.⁴

Designation Notice to Employee

When an employee requests FMLA leave or the District determines that an employee's absence may be covered under the FMLA, the District shall provide written notice within five (5) business days (absent extenuating circumstances) to the employee of the District's determination of his/her eligibility for FMLA leave.⁵ If the employee is eligible, the District may request additional information from the employee and/or certification from a health care provider to help make the applicability⁶ determination. After receiving sufficient information as requested, the District shall provide a written notice within five (5) business days (absent extenuating circumstances) to the employee of whether the leave qualifies as FMLA leave and will be so designated.⁷

If the circumstances for the leave don't change, the District is only required to notify the employee once of the determination regarding the designation of FMLA leave within any applicable twelve (12) month period.

Employees who receive notification that the leave request does not qualify under the FMLA are expected to return to work; further absences that are not otherwise excused could lead to discipline for excessive absences, or termination for job abandonment.

Concurrent Leave Under the FMLA

All FMLA leave is unpaid unless substituted by applicable accrued leave. The District requires employees to substitute any applicable accrued leave (in the order of sick , personal, or vacation leave as may be applicable) for any period of FMLA leave.⁶

An employee who does not have enough accrued leave to cover the number of days of FMLA leave taken shall not have his/her number of contract days altered because some of the FMLA leave taken was unpaid.

Working at another Job while Taking FMLA for Personal or Family Serious Medical Condition

No employee on FMLA leave for their own serious medical condition may perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave. Except as provided in policy 8.36, employees who do perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave for their own serious medical condition will be subject to discipline, which could include termination or nonrenewal of their contract of employment.

No employee on FMLA leave for the serious medical condition of a family member may perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave. Employees who do perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave for the serious medical condition of a family member will be subject to discipline, which could include termination or nonrenewal of their contract of employment.

Health Insurance Coverage

The District shall maintain coverage under any group health plan for the duration of FMLA leave the employee takes at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued in active employment with the District. Additionally, if the District makes a change to its health insurance benefits or plans that apply to other employees, the employee on FMLA leave must be afforded the opportunity to access additional benefits and/or the same responsibility for changes to premiums. Any changes made to a group health plan that apply to other District employees, must also apply to the employee on FMLA leave. The District will notify the employee on FMLA leave of any opportunities to change plans or benefits. The employee remains responsible for any portion of premium payments customarily paid by the employee. When on unpaid FMLA leave, it is the employee's responsibility to submit his/her portion of the cost of the group health plan coverage to the district's business office on or before it would be made by payroll deduction.⁸

The District has the right to pay an employee's unpaid insurance premiums during the employee's unpaid FMLA leave to maintain the employee's coverage during his/her leave. The District may recover the employee's share of any premium payments missed by the employee for any FMLA leave period that the District maintains health coverage for the employee by paying his/her share. Such recovery shall be made by offsetting the employee's debt through payroll deductions or by other means against any monies owed the employee by the District.

An employee who chooses to not continue group health plan coverage while on FMLA leave, is entitled to be reinstated on the same terms as prior to taking the leave, including family or dependent coverages, without any qualifying period, physical examination, exclusion of pre-existing conditions, etc.⁹

If an employee gives unequivocal notice of an intent not to return to work, or if the employment relationship would have terminated if the employee had not taken FMLA leave, the District's obligation to maintain health benefits ceases.

If the employee fails to return from leave after the period of leave the employee was entitled has expired, the District may recover the premiums it paid to maintain health care coverage unless:

1. The employee fails to return to work due to the continuation, reoccurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to leave under reasons 3 or 4 listed above; and/or
2. Other circumstances exist beyond the employee's control.

Circumstances under "a" listed above shall be certified by a licensed, practicing health care provider verifying the employee's inability to return to work.

Reporting Requirements During Leave

Unless circumstances exist beyond the employee's control, the employee shall inform the district every two (2) weeks¹⁰ during FMLA leave of his/her current status and intent to return to work.

Return to Previous Position

An employee returning from FMLA leave is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. An equivalent position must involve the same or substantially similar duties and responsibilities, which must entail substantially equivalent skill, effort, and authority.

The employee's right to return to work and/or to the same or an equivalent position does not supersede any actions taken by the District, such as conducting a RIF, that the employee would have been subject to had the employee not been on FMLA leave at the time of the District's actions.

Provisions Applicable to Section One

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave:

When the need for leave is foreseeable for reasons 1 through 4 listed above, the employee shall provide the District with at least thirty (30) days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave for the specified reason. An eligible employee who has no reasonable excuse for his/her failure to provide the District with

timely advance notice of the need for FMLA leave may have his/her FMLA coverage of such leave delayed until thirty (30) days after the date the employee provides notice.

If there is a lack of knowledge of approximately when the leave will be required to begin, a change in circumstances, or an emergency, notice must be given as soon as practicable. As soon as practicable means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances in the individual case.

When the need for leave is for reasons 3 or 4 listed above, the eligible employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the District subject to the approval of the health care provider of the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee.

If the need for FMLA leave is foreseeable less than thirty (30) days in advance, the employee shall notify the District as soon as practicable. If the employee fails to notify as soon as practicable, the District may delay granting FMLA leave for the number of days equal to the difference between the number of days in advance that the employee should have provided notice and when the employee actually gave notice.

Unforeseeable Leave:

When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee shall provide the District notice of the need for leave as soon as practicable given the facts and circumstances of the particular case.

Ordinarily, the employee shall notify the District within two (2) working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not feasible. Notice may be provided in person, by telephone, fax, email, or other electronic means. If the eligible employee fails to notify the District as required, unless the failure to comply is justified by unusual circumstances, the FMLA leave may be delayed or denied.

Medical Certification

Second and Third Opinions: In any case where the District has reason to doubt the validity of the initial certification provided, the District may require, at its expense, the employee to obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the employer. If the second opinion differs from the first, the District may require, at its expense, the employee to obtain a third opinion from a health care provider agreed upon by both the District and the employee. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be considered final and be binding upon both the District and the employee.

Recertification: The District may request, either orally or in writing, the employee obtain a recertification in connection with the employee's absence, at the employee's expense, no more often than every thirty (30) days unless one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- The original certification is for a period greater than thirty (30) days. In this situation, the District may require a recertification after the time of the original

certification expires, but in any case, the District may require a recertification every six (6) months.

- The employee requests an extension of leave;
- Circumstances described by the previous certification have changed significantly; and/or
- The district receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the certification.

The employee must provide the recertification within fifteen (15) calendar days after the District's request.

No second or third opinion on a recertification may be required.

The District may deny FMLA leave if an eligible employee fails to provide a requested certification.

Substitution of Paid Leave

When an employee's leave has been designated as FMLA leave for reasons 1 (as applicable), 2, 3, or 4 above, the District requires employees to substitute accrued sick, vacation, or personal leave for the period of FMLA leave.¹¹

To the extent the employee has accrued paid vacation or personal leave, any leave taken that qualifies for FMLA leave for reasons 1 or 2 above shall be paid leave and charged against the employee's accrued leave.

Workers Compensation: FMLA leave may run concurrently with a workers' compensation absence when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee at the rate necessary to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted daily rate of pay. If the health care provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a "light duty job," but is unable to return to the employee's same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the District's offer of a "light duty job." As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers' compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee's FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

Return to Work¹²

If the District's written designation determination that the eligible employee's leave qualified as FMLA leave under reason 4 above stated that the employee would have to provide a "fitness-for-duty" certification from a health care provider for the employee to resume work, the employee must provide such certification prior to returning to work. The employee's failure to do so voids the District's obligation to reinstate the employee under the FMLA and the employee shall be terminated.

If the District's written designation determination that the eligible employee's leave qualified as FMLA leave under reason 4 above stated that the employee would have to provide a "fitness-for-duty" certification from a health care provider for the employee to resume work **and** the designation determination listed the employee's essential job functions, the employee must provide certification that the employee is able to perform those functions prior to returning to work. The employee's failure to do so or his/her inability to perform his/her job's essential functions voids the District's obligation to reinstate the employee under the FMLA and the employee shall be terminated.

Failure to Return to Work:

In the event that an employee is unable or fails to return to work within FMLA's leave timelines, the superintendent will make a determination at that time regarding the documented need for a severance of the employee's contract due to the inability of the employee to fulfill the responsibilities and requirements of his/her contract.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

To the extent practicable, employees requesting intermittent or reduced schedule leave shall provide the District with not less than thirty (30) days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave.

Eligible employees may only take intermittent or reduced schedule leave for reasons 1 and 2 listed above if the District agrees to permit such leave upon the request of the employee. If the District agrees to permit an employee to take intermittent or reduced schedule leave for such reasons, the agreement shall be consistent with this policy's requirements governing intermittent or reduced schedule leave. The employee may be transferred temporarily during the period of scheduled intermittent or reduced leave to an alternative position that the employee is qualified for and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties.

Eligible employees may take intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave due to reasons 3 or 4 listed above when the medical need is best accommodated by such a schedule. The eligible employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider.

When granting leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule for reasons 3 or 4 above that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the District may temporarily transfer eligible employees for the period of scheduled intermittent or reduced leave to an alternative position that the employee is qualified for and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. When the employee is able to return to full-time work, the employee shall be placed in the same or equivalent job as he/she had when the leave began. The employee

will not be required to take more FMLA leave than necessary to address the circumstances requiring the need for the leave.

Special Provisions relating to Instructional Employees as Defined in This Policy

The FMLA definition of "instructional employees" covers a small number of classified employees. Any classified employee covered under the FMLA definition of an "instructional employee" and whose FMLA leave falls under the FMLA's special leave provisions relating to "instructional employees" shall be governed by the applicable portions of policy 3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

SECTION TWO - FMLA LEAVE CONNECTED TO MILITARY SERVICE

Leave Eligibility

The FMLA provision of military associated leave is in two categories. Each one has some of its own definitions and stipulations. Therefore, they are dealt with separately in this Section of the policy. Definitions different than those in Section One are included under the respective reason for leave. Definitions that are the same as in Section One are NOT repeated in this Section.

Qualifying Exigency

An eligible employee may take FMLA leave for any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces. Examples include issues involved with short-notice deployment, military events and related activities, childcare and school activities, the need for financial and legal arrangements, counseling, rest and recuperation, post-deployment activities, and other activities as defined by federal regulations.¹³

Definitions:

“Covered active duty” means:

- in the case of a member of a **regular** component of the Armed Forces, duty during deployment of the member with the armed forces to a foreign country; and
- in the case of a member of a **reserve** component of the Armed Forces, duty during deployment of the member with the armed forces to a foreign country under a call to order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code.

“Son or daughter on active duty or call to active duty status” means the employee's biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stood in loco parentis, who is on active duty or call to active duty status, and who is of any age.

Certification¹⁴

The District may require the eligible employee to obtain certification to help the district determine if the requested leave qualifies for FMLA leave for the purposes of a

qualifying exigency. The District may deny FMLA leave if an eligible employee fails to provide the requested certification.

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave:

When the necessity for leave for any qualifying exigency is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty, the employee shall provide such notice to the District as is reasonable and practicable regardless of how far in advance the leave is foreseeable. As soon as practicable means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances in the individual case.

Unforeseeable Leave:

When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee shall provide the District notice of the need for leave as soon as practicable given the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Ordinarily, the employee shall notify the District within two (2) working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not feasible. Notice may be provided in person, by telephone, fax, email, or other electronic means. If the eligible employee fails to notify the District as required unless the failure to comply is justified by unusual circumstances, the FMLA leave may be delayed or denied.

Substitution of Paid Leave

When an employee's leave has been designated as FMLA leave for any qualifying exigency, the District requires employees to substitute accrued vacation, or personal leave for the period of FMLA leave.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

Eligible employees may take intermittent or reduced schedule leave for any qualifying exigency. The employee shall provide the district with as much notice as is practicable.

Special Provisions relating to Instructional Employees as Defined in This Policy

The FMLA definition of "instructional employees" covers a small number of classified employees. Any classified employee covered under the FMLA definition of an "instructional employee" and who's FMLA leave falls under the FMLA's special leave provisions relating to "instructional employees" shall be governed by the applicable portions of policy 3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

Serious Illness

An eligible employee is eligible for leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury under the following conditions and definitions.

Definitions:

“Covered Service Member” is:

1. a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or
2. a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves) at any time during the period of five (5) years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy.

“Outpatient Status”, used in respect to a covered service member, means the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to:

- a. A military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or
- b. A unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.

“Parent of a covered service member” is a covered service member’s biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the covered service member. This term does not include parents “in law.”

“Serious Injury or Illness” :

- A. In the case of a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves, it means an injury or illness incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member’s office, grade, rank, or rating; and
- B. In the case of a veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard of Reserves, at any time during a period as a covered service member defined in this policy, it means a qualifying (as defined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor) injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran.

“Son or daughter of a covered service member” means a covered service member’s biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the covered service member stood in loco parentis, and who is of any age.²

“Year”, for leave to care for the serious injury or illness of a covered service member, the twelve (12) month period begins on the first day the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for a covered service member and ends twelve (12) months after that date.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member shall be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) weeks of leave during one

twelve (12) - month period to care for the service member who has a serious injury or illness as defined in this policy. An eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member continues to be limited for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency to a total of twelve (12) weeks of leave during a year as defined in this policy. For example, an eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member for sixteen (16) weeks during a twelve (12) month period could only take a total of ten (10) weeks for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency. An eligible employee may not take more than twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency regardless of how little leave the eligible employee may take to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury.

If a legally married couple are both eligible employees employed by the District, the legally married couple are entitled to a combined total of twenty-six (26) weeks of leave during one twelve (12) month period to care for their spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious injury or illness, as defined in this policy. The leave taken by a legally married couple who care for such a covered service member continues to be limited to a total of twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency during a year, as defined in this policy, regardless of whether or not the legally married couple uses less than a combined total of fourteen (14) weeks to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness; moreover, the legally married couple's twelve (12) weeks are combined when taken for reasons 1, 2, or to care for a parent under reason 3 in Section One.

. For example, a legally married couple who are both eligible employees and who care for such a covered service member for sixteen (16) weeks during a twelve (12) month period could:

1. Each take up to ten (10) weeks for reason 4 in section 1 or a qualifying exigency;
2. Take a combined total of ten (10) weeks for reasons 1, 2, or to care for a parent under reason 3 in Section One; or
3. Take a combination of numbers 1 and 2 that totals ten (10) weeks of leave.

Medical Certification¹⁵

The District may require the eligible employee to obtain certification of the covered service member's serious health condition to help the District determine if the requested leave qualifies for FMLA leave. The District may deny FMLA leave if an eligible employee fails to provide the requested certification.

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave:

When the need for leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury is clearly foreseeable at least thirty (30) days in advance, the employee shall provide the District with not less than thirty (30) days' notice before the date the employee intends for the leave is to begin for the specified reason. An eligible employee who has no reasonable excuse for his/her failure

to provide the District with timely advance notice of the need for FMLA leave may have his/her FMLA coverage of such leave delayed until thirty (30) days after the date the employee provides notice.

If the need for FMLA leave is foreseeable less than thirty (30) days in advance, the employee shall notify the District as soon as practicable. If the employee fails to notify as soon as practicable, the District may delay granting FMLA leave for an amount of time equal to the difference between the length of time that the employee should have provided notice and when the employee actually gave notice.

When the need for leave is to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury, the employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the district subject to the approval of the health care provider of the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee.

Unforeseeable Leave:

When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee shall provide the District notice of the need for leave as soon as practicable given the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Ordinarily, the employee shall notify the District within two (2) working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not feasible. Notice may be provided in person, by telephone, fax, email, or other electronic means. If the eligible employee fails to notify the District as required, unless the failure to comply is justified by unusual circumstances, the FMLA leave may be delayed or denied.

Substitution of Paid Leave

When an employee's leave has been designated as FMLA leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury, the District requires employees to substitute accrued sick, vacation, or personal leave for the period of FMLA leave.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

To the extent practicable, employees requesting intermittent or reduced schedule leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury shall provide the District with at least thirty (30) days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave.

Eligible employees may take intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury when the medical need is best accommodated by such a schedule. The eligible employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider.

When granting leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the District may temporarily transfer eligible employees for the period of scheduled intermittent or reduced leave to an alternative position that the employee is qualified for and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. When the employee is able to return to full-time work, the employee shall be placed in the same or equivalent job as he/she had when the leave began.

Special Provisions relating to Instructional Employees (as defined in this policy)

The FMLA definition of "instructional employees" covers a small number of classified employees. Any classified employee covered under the FMLA definition of an "instructional employee" and whose FMLA leave falls under the FMLA's special leave provisions relating to "instructional employees" shall be governed by the applicable portions of policy 3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

Cross References: 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE
 8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
 8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES
 AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Legal References: 29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.
 29 CFR part 825

Date Adopted: 9/10/2007

Last Revised: 5/31-2016

8.24—SCHOOL BUS DRIVER’S USE OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

“School Bus” is a motorized vehicle that meets the following requirements:

1. Is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the District; and
2. Is operated for the transportation of students from home to school, from school to home, or to and from school events.¹

Any driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus while using a device to browse the internet, make or receive phone calls or compose or read emails or text messages.² If the school bus is safely off the road with the parking brake engaged, exceptions are allowed to call for assistance due to a mechanical problem with the bus, or to communicate with any of the following during an emergency:

- An emergency system response operator or 911 public safety communications dispatcher;
- A hospital or emergency room;
- A physician's office or health clinic;
- An ambulance or fire department rescue service;
- A fire department, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department; or
- A police department.

In addition to statutorily permitted fines, violations of this policy shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6 –19 -120
 A.C.A. § 27-51-1504
 A.C.A. § 27-51-1609

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6-1-2015

8.26—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BULLYING

School employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of bullying as defined in this policy, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the principal, or designee,. The principal, or designee, shall be responsible for investigating the incident(s) to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

District staff are required to help enforce implementation of the district’s anti-bullying policy and shall receive the training necessary to comply with this policy. The district’s definition of bullying is included below. Students who bully another person are to be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school-sponsored or school-approved function, activity, or event; or going to or from school or a school activity. Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously.

A school principal, or designee, who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall promptly investigate the complaint or report and make a record of the investigation and any action taken as a result of the investigation.

District employees are held to a high standard of professionalism, especially when it comes to employee-student interactions. Actions by a District employee towards a student that would constitute bullying if the act had been performed by a student shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. This policy governs bullying directed towards students and is not applicable to adult on adult interactions. Therefore, this policy does not apply to interactions between employees. Employees may report workplace conflicts to their supervisor.¹ In addition to any disciplinary actions, the District shall take appropriate steps to remedy the effects resulting from bullying.

Definitions:

“Attribute” means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

“Bullying” means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other

student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable:

- Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;
- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;

“Electronic act” means without limitation a communication or image transmitted by means of an electronic device, including without limitation a telephone, wireless phone or other wireless communications device, computer, or pager that results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

Electronic acts of bullying are prohibited whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school, and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose;

“Harassment” means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and

“Substantial disruption” means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

Examples of "Bullying" may include but are not limited to a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

1. Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
4. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as “fronting” or “chesting” a person,
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student's actual or perceived attributes,

6. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
7. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
8. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
9. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
10. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
11. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 8.20, is also a form of bullying, and/or
12. Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender (Examples: “Slut”, “You are so gay.”, “Fag”, “Queer”).

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-514

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 3-12-18

8.27—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL LEAVE — INJURY FROM ASSAULT

Any staff member who, while in the course of their employment, is injured by an assault or other violent act; while intervening in a student fight; while restraining a student; or while protecting a student from harm, shall be granted a leave of absence for up to one (1) year from the date of the injury, with full pay.

A leave of absence granted under this policy shall not be charged to the staff member's sick leave.

In order to obtain leave under this policy, the staff member must present documentation of the injury from a physician, with an estimate for time of recovery sufficient to enable the staff member to return to work, and written statements from witnesses (or other documentation as appropriate to a given incident) to prove that the incident occurred in the course of the staff member's employment.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.28— DRUG FREE WORKPLACE - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

The conduct of district staff plays a vital role in the social and behavioral development of our students. It is equally important that the staff have a safe, healthful, and professional environment in which to work. To help promote both interests, the district shall have a drug free workplace. It is, therefore, the district's policy that district employees are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances, illegal drugs, inhalants, alcohol, as well as inappropriate or illegal use of prescription drugs. Such actions are prohibited both while at work or in the performance of official duties while off district property; violations of this policy will subject the employee to discipline, up to and including termination.

To help promote a drug free workplace, the district shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the district's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance abuse programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations. (Insert substance abuse resources here.)¹

Should any employee be found to have been under the influence of, or in illegal possession of, any illegal drug or controlled substance, whether or not engaged in any school or school-related activity, and the behavior of the employee, if under the influence, is such that it is inappropriate for a school employee in the opinion of the superintendent, the employee may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. This policy also applies to those employees who are under the influence of alcohol while on campus or at school-sponsored functions, including athletic events.

An employee living on campus or on school owned property is permitted to possess alcohol in his/her residence. The employee is bound by the restrictions stated in this policy while at work or performing his/her official duties.

Possession, use or distribution of drug paraphernalia by any employee, whether or not engaged in school or school-related activities, may subject the employee to discipline, up to and including termination. Possession in one's vehicle or in an area subject to the employee's control will be considered to be possession as though the substance were on the employee's person.

It shall not be necessary for an employee to test at a level demonstrating intoxication by any substance in order to be subject to the terms of this policy. Any physical manifestation of being under the influence of a substance may subject an employee to the terms of this policy. Those physical manifestations include, but are not limited to: unsteadiness; slurred speech; dilated or constricted pupils; incoherent and/or irrational speech; or the presence of an odor associated with a prohibited substance on one's breath or clothing.

Should an employee desire to provide the District with the results of a blood, breath or urine analysis, such results will be taken into account by the District only if the sample is provided within a time range that could provide meaningful results and only by a testing agency chosen or approved by the District. The District shall not request that the employee be tested, and the expense for such voluntary testing shall be borne by the employee.

Any incident at work resulting in injury to the employee requiring medical attention shall require the employee to submit to a drug test, which shall be paid at the District's worker's compensation carrier's expense. Failure for the employee to submit to the drug test or a confirmed positive drug test indicating the use of illegal substances or the misuse of prescription medications shall be grounds for the denial of worker's compensation benefits in accordance with policy 8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION.²

Any employee who is charged with a violation of any state or federal law relating to the possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, other controlled substances or alcohol, or of drug paraphernalia, must notify his/her immediate supervisor within five (5) week days (i.e., Monday through Friday, inclusive, excluding holidays) of being so charged. The supervisor who is notified of such a charge shall notify the Superintendent immediately.

If the supervisor is not available to the employee, the employee shall notify the Superintendent within the five (5) day period.

Any employee so charged is subject to discipline, up to and including termination. However, the failure of an employee to notify his/her supervisor or the Superintendent of having been so charged shall result in that employee being recommended for termination by the Superintendent.

Any employee convicted of any criminal drug statute violation for an offense that occurred while at work or in the performance of official duties while off district property shall report the conviction within 5 calendar days to the superintendent. Within 10 days of receiving such notification, whether from the employee or any other source, the district shall notify federal granting agencies from which it receives funds of the conviction. Compliance with these requirements and prohibitions is mandatory and is a condition of employment.

Any employee convicted of any state or federal law relating to the possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, other controlled substances, or of drug paraphernalia, shall be recommended for termination.

Any employee who must take prescription medication at the direction of the employee's physician, and who is impaired by the prescription medication such that he/she cannot properly perform his/her duties shall not report for duty. Any employee who reports for duty and is so impaired, as determined by his/her supervisor, will be sent home. The

employee shall be given sick leave, if owed any. The District or employee will provide transportation for the employee, and the employee may not leave campus while operating any vehicle. It is the responsibility of the employee to contact his/her physician in order to adjust the medication, if possible, so that the employee may return to his/her job unimpaired. Should the employee attempt to return to work while impaired by prescription medications, for which the employee has a prescription, he/she will, again, be sent home and given sick leave, if owed any. Should the employee attempt to return to work while impaired by prescription medication a third time the employee may be subject to discipline, up to and including a recommendation of termination.

Any employee who possesses, uses, distributes or is under the influence of a prescription medication obtained by a means other than his/her own current prescription shall be treated as though he was in possession, possession with intent to deliver, or under the influence, etc. of an illegal substance. An illegal drug or other substance is one which is (a) not legally obtainable; or (b) one which is legally obtainable, but which has been obtained illegally. The District may require an employee to provide proof from his/her physician and/or pharmacist that the employee is lawfully able to receive such medication. Failure to provide such proof, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent, may result in discipline, up to and including a recommendation of termination.

A report to the appropriate licensing agency shall be filed within seven (7) days of:

- 1) A final disciplinary action taken against an employee resulting from the diversion, misuse, or abuse of illicit drugs or controlled substances; or
- 2) The voluntary resignation of an employee who is facing a pending disciplinary action resulting from the diversion, misuse, or abuse of illicit drugs or controlled substances.

The report filed with the licensing authority shall include, but not be limited to:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the person who is the subject of the report; and
- A description of the facts giving rise to the issuance of the report.

When the employee is not a healthcare professional, law enforcement will be contacted regarding any final disciplinary action taken against an employee for the diversion of controlled substances to one (1) or more third parties.

Legal References: 41 U.S.C. § 8101, 8103, and 8104
A.C.A. § 11-9-102
A.C.A. § 17-80-117

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6-8-17

8.28F—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that I have been presented with a copy of the _____ District's drug-free workplace policy, that I have read the statement, and that I will abide by its terms as a condition of my employment with District.

Signature _____

Date _____

8.29—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER MONITORING

The Board of Directors has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras, automatic identification, data compilation devices, and technology capable of tracking the physical location of district equipment, students, and/or personnel.

The placement of video/audio surveillance cameras shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy anywhere on or near school property, facilities, vehicles, or equipment, with the exception of places such as rest rooms or dressing areas where an expectation of bodily privacy is reasonable and customary.

Signs shall be posted on district property and in or on district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use. Violations of school personnel policies or laws caught by the cameras and other technologies authorized in this policy may result in disciplinary action.

The district shall retain copies of video recordings until they are erased which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording.

Videos, automatic identification, or data compilations containing evidence of a violation of district personnel policies and/or state or federal law shall be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal [as determined by board policy or staff handbook](#); any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law.

Staff who vandalize, damage, defeat, disable, or render inoperable (temporarily or permanently) surveillance cameras and equipment, automatic identification, or data compilation devices shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Video recordings and automatic identification or data compilation records may become a part of a staff member's personnel record.

Date Adopted: 7/30/2007

Last Revised: 7/30/2012

8.30—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REDUCTION IN FORCE

SECTION ONE

The School Board acknowledges its authority to conduct a reduction in force (RIF) when a decrease in enrollment or other reason(s) make such a reduction necessary or desirable. A RIF will be conducted when the need for a reduction in the work force exceeds the normal rate of attrition for that portion of the staff that is in excess of the needs of the district as determined by the superintendent.

In effecting a reduction in force, the primary goals of the school district shall be: what is in the best interests of the students; to maintain accreditation in compliance with the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and/or the North Central Association; and the needs of the district. A reduction in force will be implemented when the superintendent determines it is advisable to do so and shall be effected through non-renewal, termination, or both. Any reduction in force will be conducted by evaluating the needs and long- and short-term goals of the school district in relation to the staffing of the district.

If a reduction in force becomes necessary, the RIF shall be conducted separately for each occupational category of classified personnel identified within the district on the basis of each employee's years of service. The employee within each occupational category with the least years of experience will be non-renewed first. The employee with the most years of employment in the district as compared to other employees in the same category shall be non-renewed last. In the event that employees within a given occupational category have the same length of service to the district the one with the earlier hire date, based on date of board action, will prevail.

All credited years of service must be verified by documents on file with the District by October 1 of the current school year. All non-certified employees shall receive a listing of the personnel within their category with corresponding point totals. Upon receipt of the list, each employee has ten (10) working days within which to appeal his or her assignment of points with the superintendent whose decision shall be final.

Total years of service to the district shall include non-continuous years of service; in other words, an employee who left the district and returned later will have the total years of service counted, from all periods of employment. Working fewer than 120 days in a school year shall not constitute a year. Length of service in a certified position shall not count for the purpose of length of service for a non-certified position. There is no right or implied right for any employee to "bump" or displace any other employee. This specifically does not allow a certified employee who might wish to assume a classified position to displace a classified employee.

Pursuant to any reduction in force brought about by consolidation or annexation and as a part of it, the salaries of all employees will be brought into compliance, by a partial RIF if necessary, with the receiving district's salary schedule. Further adjustments will be made if length of contract or job assignments change.¹ A Partial RIF may also be conducted in conjunction with any job reassignment whether or not it is conducted in relation to an annexation or consolidation.

For a period of up to two (2) years from the date of board action on the classified employee's non-renewal or termination recommendation under this policy, a classified employee shall be offered an opportunity to fill a classified vacancy comparable as to pay, responsibility and contract length to the position from which the employee was non-renewed, and for which he or she is qualified. The non-renewed employee shall be

recalled for a period of two (2) years in reverse order of the non-renewed to any position for which he or she is qualified. No right of recall shall exist for non-renewal from a stipend, or non-renewal or reduction of a stipend, or non-renewal to reduce contract length.

Notice of vacancies to non-renewed employees shall be by certified mail and they shall have 10 working days from the date that the notification is received in which to accept the offer of a position. A lack of response, as evidenced by a teacher's failure to respond within 10 working days, or a non-renewed employee's express refusal of an offer of a position or an employee's acceptance of a position but failure to sign an employment contract within two business days of the contract being presented to the employee shall constitute a rejection of the offered position and shall end the district's obligation to rehire the non-renewed employee. No further rights to be rehired because of the reduction in force shall exist.

SECTION TWO

Option A

In the event the district is involved in an annexation or consolidation, employees from all the districts involved will be ranked according to years of service. A year of employment at an annexed or consolidated district will be counted the same as a year at the receiving or resulting district. No credit for years of service will be given at other public or private schools, or for higher education or Educational Service Cooperative employment.

Date Adopted:9/10/2007

Last Revised:5/31/2014

8.31—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

For procedures relating to the termination and non-renewal of noncertified employees, please refer to the Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act A.C.A. § 6-17-1701 through 1705. The Act specifically is not made a part of this policy by this reference.

A copy of the code is available in the office of the principal of each school building.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.32—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

The superintendent shall be responsible for assigning and reassigning noncertified personnel.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: 6/27/2012

8.33—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SCHOOL CALENDAR

The superintendent shall present to the personnel policies committee (PPC) a school calendar which the board has adopted as a proposal. The Superintendent, in developing the calendar, shall accept and consider recommendations from any staff member or group wishing to make calendar proposals. The PPC shall have the time prescribed by law and/or policy in which to make any suggested changes before the board may vote to adopt the calendar.

The District shall not establish a school calendar that interferes with any scheduled statewide assessment that might jeopardize or limit the valid assessment and comparison of student learning gains.

The South Side School District shall operate by the following calendar.

**SOUTH SIDE BEE BRANCH
2018-2019
School Calendar**

August 07-09	Professional Development
August 09	Open House
August 13	First Day of School
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
October 12	End first nine weeks (44 days)
October 18	Parent/Teacher Conference
November 19– 20	Professional Development (Flex)
November 21 – 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21	End second nine weeks / first semester (45 days)
December 24 – January 4	Christmas Holiday
January 7	Return to school
March 08	End of third nine weeks (45 days)
March 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 15	Professional Development/Snow
March 18– 22	Spring Break
May 17	Last Day/End 4th 9 wks./2nd semester (44 days)
May 20	Snow Day
May 21	Snow Day
May 22	Snow Day
May 23	Snow Day

ALL DAYS MISSED WILL BE ADDED TO THE END OF THE YEAR

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2907(f)
 A.C.A. § 6-17-2301
 ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and
Accountability Act

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007
Last Revised: 5-31-2018

8.34—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WHO ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, MALTREATMENT OR NEGLECT

It is the statutory duty of classified school district employees **who are mandatory reporters**¹ and who have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment to directly and personally report these suspicions to the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline, by calling 1-800-482-5964. Failure to report suspected child abuse, maltreatment or neglect by calling the Hotline can lead to criminal prosecution and individual civil liability of the person who has this duty. Notification of local or state law enforcement does not satisfy the duty to report; only notification by means of the Child Abuse Hotline discharges this duty.

The duty to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment is a direct and personal duty for statutory mandatory reporters, and cannot be assigned or delegated to another person. There is no duty to investigate, confirm or substantiate statements a student may have made which form the basis of the reasonable cause to believe that the student may have been abused or subjected to maltreatment by another person; however, a person with a duty to report may find it helpful to make a limited inquiry to assist in the formation of a belief that child abuse, maltreatment or neglect has occurred, or to rule out such a belief². Employees and volunteers who call the Child Abuse Hotline in good faith are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution.

By law, no school district or school district employee may prohibit or restrict an employee or volunteer **who is a mandatory reporter** from directly reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment, or require that any person notify or seek permission from any person before making a report to the Child Abuse Hotline.

Date Adopted:

Last Revised: 6/27/2013

8.35— OBTAINING and RELEASING STUDENT’S FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Obtaining Eligibility Information

A fundamental underpinning of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (Programs) is that in their implementation, there will be no physical segregation of, discrimination against, or overt identification of children who are eligible for the Program's benefits. While the requirements of the Programs are defined in much greater detail in federal statutes and pertinent Code of Federal Regulations, this policy is designed to help employees understand prohibitions on how the student information is obtained and/or released through the Programs. Employees with the greatest responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Programs should obtain the training necessary to become fully aware of the nuances of their responsibilities.

The District is required to inform households with children enrolled in District schools of the availability of the Programs and of how the household may apply for Program benefits. However, the District and anyone employed by the district is **strictly forbidden** from **requiring** any household or student within a household from submitting an application to participate in the program. There are NO exceptions to this prohibition and it would apply, for example, to the offer of incentives for completed forms, or disincentives or negative consequences for failing to submit or complete an application. Put simply, federal law requires that the names of the children shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner.

In addition to potential federal criminal penalties that may be filed against a staff member who violates this prohibition,¹ the employee shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Releasing Eligibility Information

As part of the district’s participation in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, the district collects eligibility data from its students. The data’s confidentiality is very important and is governed by federal law. The district has made the determination to release student eligibility status or information² as permitted by law. Federal law governs how eligibility data may be released and to whom. The district will take the following steps to ensure its confidentiality:

Some data may be released to government agencies or programs authorized by law to receive such data without parental consent, while other data may only be released after obtaining parental consent. In both instances, allowable information shall only be released on a need to know basis to individuals authorized to receive the data. The recipients shall sign an agreement with the district specifying the names or titles of the persons who may have access to the eligibility information. The agreement shall further specify the specific purpose(s) for which the data will be used and how the recipient(s) shall protect the data from further, unauthorized disclosures.

The superintendent shall designate the staff member(s) responsible for making eligibility determinations. Release of eligibility information to other district staff shall be limited to as few individuals as possible who shall have a specific need to know such information to perform their job responsibilities. Principals, counselors, teachers, and administrators shall not have routine access to eligibility information or status.

Each staff person with access to individual eligibility information shall be notified of their personal liability for its unauthorized disclosure and shall receive appropriate training on the laws governing the restrictions of such information.

Date Adopted:

Last Revised: 6-27-13

8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The district provides Workers’ Compensation Insurance, as required by law. Employees who sustain **any** injury at work must immediately notify their immediate supervisor, or in the absence of their immediate supervisor notify their immediate supervisor¹. An injured employee must fill out a Form N and the employee’s supervisor will determine whether to report the claim or to file the paperwork if the injury requires neither medical treatment or lost work time. While many injuries will require no medical treatment or time lost at work, should the need for treatment arise later, it is important that there be a record that the injury occurred. All employees have a duty to provide information and make statements as requested for the purposes of the claim assessment and investigation.

For injuries requiring medical attention, the district will exercise its right to designate the initial treating physician and an injured employee will be directed to seek medical attention, if necessary, from a specific physician or clinic. In addition, employees whose injuries require medical attention shall submit to a drug test, which shall be paid at the District’s worker’s compensation carrier’s expense. Failure for the employee to submit to the drug test or a confirmed positive drug test indicating the use of illegal substances or the misuse of prescription medications shall be grounds for the denial of worker’s compensation benefits.²

A Workers’ Compensation absence may run concurrently with FMLA leave (policy 8.23) when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee at the rate necessary to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted daily rate of pay. If the health care provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a “light duty job,” but is unable to return to the employee’s same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the District’s offer of a “light duty job.” As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers’ compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee’s FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

Employees who are absent from work in the school district due to a Workers’ Compensation claim may not work at a non-district job until they have returned to full duties at their same or equivalent district job; those who violate this prohibition may be subject to discipline up to and including termination. This prohibition does NOT apply to an employee who has been cleared by his/her doctor to return to "light duty" but the District has no such position available for the employee and the employee's second job qualifies as "light duty".

To the extent an employee has accrued sick leave and a WC claim has been filed, an employee:

- Will be charged for a day's sick leave for the all days missed until such time as the WC claim has been approved or denied;
- Whose WC claim is accepted by the WC insurance carrier as compensable and who is absent for eight or more days shall be charged sick leave at the rate necessary, when combined with WC benefits, to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of the employee's usual contracted daily rate of pay;
- Whose WC claim is accepted by the WC insurance carrier as compensable and is absent for 14 or more days will be credited back that portion of sick leave for the first seven (7) days of absence that is not necessary to have brought the total amount of combined income up to 100% of the employee's usual contracted gross pay.

Cross References: 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE
 8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Legal References: Ark. Workers Compensation Commission RULE 099.33 -
 MANAGED CARE

A.C.A. § 11-9-102
 A.C.A. § 11-9-508(d)(5)(A)
 A.C.A. § 11-9-514(a)(3)(A)(i)

Date Adopted: 5-31-2009
 Last Revised: 6-1-2016

8.37—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ETHICS

Definitions

Social Media Account: a personal, individual, and non-work related account with an electronic medium or service where users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails or website profiles or locations, such as FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, MySpace, Instagram.

Professional/education Social Media Account: an account with an electronic medium or service where users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails or website profiles or locations, such as FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, MySpace, Instagram.

Blogs: are a type of networking and can be either social or professional in their orientation. Professional blogs are encouraged and can provide a place for teachers to post homework, keep parents up-to-date, and interact with students concerning school related activities. Social blogs are discouraged to the extent they involve teachers and students in a non-education oriented format.

Policy

Technology used appropriately gives faculty new opportunities to engage students. District staff are encouraged to use educational technology, the Internet, and professional/education social networks to raise student achievement and to improve communication with parents and students. Technology and social media accounts also offer staff many ways they can present themselves unprofessionally and/or interact with students inappropriately.

It is the duty of each staff member to appropriately manage all interactions with students, regardless of whether contact or interaction with a student occurs face-to-face or by means of technology, to ensure that the appropriate staff/student relationship is maintained. This includes instances when students initiate contact or behave inappropriately themselves.

Public school employees are, and always have been, held to a high standard of behavior. Staff members are reminded that whether specific sorts of contacts are permitted or not specifically forbidden by policy, they will be held to a high standard of conduct in all their interactions with students. Failure to create, enforce and maintain appropriate professional and interpersonal boundaries with students could adversely affect the District's relationship with the community and jeopardize the employee's employment with the district.

The Arkansas Department of Education *Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators* requires District staff to maintain a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom. The School Board of Directors encourages all staff to read and become familiar with the Rules. Conduct in violation of the *Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators*, including, but not limited to conduct relating to the inappropriate use of technology or online resources, may be reported to the Professional License Standards Board (PLSB) and may form the basis for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Staff members are discouraged from creating personal social media accounts to which they invite students to be friends or followers. Employees taking such action do so at their own risk and are advised to monitor the site's privacy settings regularly.

District employees may set up blogs and other professional/education social media accounts using District resources and following District guidelines¹ to promote communications with students, parents, and the community concerning school-related activities and for the purpose of supplementing classroom instruction. Accessing professional/education social media during school hours is permitted.

Staff are reminded that the same relationship, exchange, interaction, information, or behavior that would be unacceptable in a non-technological medium, is unacceptable when done through the use of technology. In fact, due to the vastly increased potential audience digital dissemination presents, extra caution must be exercised by staff to ensure they don't cross the line of acceptability. A good rule of thumb for staff to use is, "if you wouldn't say it in class, don't say it online."

Whether permitted or not specifically forbidden by policy, or when expressed in an adult-to-adult, face-to-face context, what in other mediums of expression could remain private opinions, including "likes" or comments that endorse or support the message or speech of another person, when expressed by staff on a social media website, have the potential to be disseminated far beyond the speaker's desire or intention. This could undermine the public's perception of the individual's fitness to educate students, thus undermining the teacher's effectiveness. In this way, the expression and publication of such opinions could potentially lead to disciplinary action being taken against the staff member, up to and including termination or nonrenewal of the contract of employment.

Accessing social media websites for personal use during school hours is prohibited, except during breaks or preparation periods. Staff are discouraged from accessing social media websites on personal equipment during their breaks and/or preparation periods because, while this is not prohibited, it may give the public the appearance that such access is occurring during instructional time. Staff shall not access social media websites using district equipment at any time, including during breaks or preparation periods, except in an emergency situation or with the express prior permission of school administration. All school district employees who participate in social media websites shall not post any school district data, documents, photographs taken at school or of

students, logos, or other district owned or created information on any website. Further, the posting of any private or confidential school district material; on such websites is strictly prohibited.

Specifically, the following forms of technology based interactivity or connectivity are expressly permitted or forbidden:

Privacy of Employee's Social Media Accounts

In compliance with A.C.A. § 11-2-124, the District shall not require, request, suggest, or cause a current or prospective employee to:

1. Disclose the username and/or password to his/her personal social media account;
2. Add an employee, supervisor, or administrator to the list of contacts associated with his/her personal social media account;
3. Change the privacy settings associated with his/her personal social media account; or
4. Retaliate against the employee for refusing to disclose the username and/or password to his/her personal social media account.

The District may require an employee to disclose his or her username and/or password to a personal social media account if the employee's personal social media account activity is reasonable believed to be relevant to the investigation of an allegation of an employee violating district policy, or state, federal or local laws or regulations. If such an investigation occurs, and the employee refuses, upon request, to supply the username and/or password required to make an investigation, disciplinary action may be taken against the employee, which could include termination or nonrenewal of the employee's contract of employment with the District.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this policy, the District reserves the right to view any information about a current or prospective employee that is publicly available on the Internet.

In the event that the district inadvertently obtains access to information that would enable the district to have access to an employee's personal social media account, the district will not use this information to gain access to the employee's social media account. However, disciplinary action may be taken against an employee in accord with other District policy for using district equipment or network capability to access such an account. Employees have no expectation of privacy in their use of District issued computers, other electronic device, or use of the District's network. (See policy 8.22—**CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY**).

Date adopted:

Last Revised: 5/31/2013

8.38—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL VACATIONS

240 day contracted employees are credited with 10 days of vacation¹ at the beginning of each fiscal year. This is based on the assumption that a full contract year will be worked. If an employee fails to finish the contract year due to resignation or termination, the employee's final check will be reduced by the number of days used but not earned.

All vacation time must be approved by the superintendent or his designee who shall consider the staffing needs of the district in making his/her determination.

Date Adopted:

Last Revised: 5-31-2013

8.40—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

Firearms¹

Except as permitted by this policy, no employee of this school district, including those who may possess a “concealed carry permit,” shall possess a firearm on any District school campus or in or upon any school bus or at a District designated bus stop.

Employees who meet one or more of the following conditions are permitted to bring a firearm onto school property::

- He/she is participating in a school-approved educational course or program involving the use of firearms such as ROTC programs, hunting safety or military education, or before or after-school hunting or rifle clubs;
- The firearms are securely stored and located in an employee’s on-campus personal residence and/or immediately adjacent parking area;²
- He/she is a registered, commissioned security guard acting in the course and scope of his/her duties:;
 - He/she has a valid conceal carry license and leaves his/her handgun in his/her locked vehicle in the district parking lot.

Possession of a firearm by a school district employee who does not fall under any of the above categories anywhere on school property, including parking areas and in or upon a school bus, will result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee, which may include termination or nonrenewal of the employee.

Other Weapons³

An employee may possess a pocket knife which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a knife that can be folded into a case and has a blade or blades of less than three (3) inches or less each. Employees are expected to safeguard such items in such a way as to ensure they are not possessed by students. Such items are not to be used against students, parents or other school district employees. Possession of weapons, knives or self-defense items that do not comply with the limits contained herein, the failure of an employee to safeguard such items, or the use of such items against students, parents or other school district employees may result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee, which may include termination or nonrenewal of the employee.

Employees who are participating in a Civil War reenactment may bring a Civil War era weapon onto campus with prior permission of the building principal. If the weapon is a firearm, the firearm must be unloaded.⁵

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-73-119
 A.C.A. § 5-73-120
 A.C.A. § 5-73-124(a)(2)
 A.C.A. § 5-73-301
 A.C.A. § 5-73-306

A.C.A. § 6-5-502

Date Adopted: 4-15-2013

Last Revised: 6-1-2015

8.41— WRITTEN CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN PROCUREMENT WITH FEDERAL FUNDS

For purposes of this policy, “Family member” includes:

- An individual's spouse;
- Children of the individual or children of the individual's spouse;
- The spouse of a child of the individual or the spouse of a child of the individual's spouse;
- Parents of the individual or parents of the individual's spouse;
- Brothers and sisters of the individual or brothers and sisters of the individual's spouse;
- Anyone living or residing in the same residence or household with the individual or in the same residence or household with the individual's spouse; or
- Anyone acting or serving as an agent of the individual or as an agent of the individual's spouse.

No District employee, administrator, official, or agent shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds, including the District Child Nutrition Program funds, if a conflict of interest exists, whether the conflict is real or apparent. Conflicts of interest arise when one or more of the following has a financial or other interest in the entity selected for the contract:

1. The employee, administrator, official, or agent;
2. Any family member of the District employee, administrator, official, or agent;
3. The employee, administrator, official, or agent’s partner; or
4. An organization that currently employs or is about to employ one of the above.

Employees, administrators, officials, or agents shall not solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to sub-agreements including, but not limited to:

- a. Entertainment;
- b. Hotel rooms;
- c. Transportation;
- d. Gifts;
- e. Meals; or
- f. Items of nominal value (e.g. calendar or coffee mug).¹

Violations of the Code of Conduct shall result in discipline, up to and including termination. The District reserves the right to pursue legal action for violations.

All District personnel involved in purchases with Federal funds, including child nutrition personnel, shall receive training on the Code of Conduct. Training should include guidance about how to respond when a gratuity, favor, or item with monetary value is offered.²

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq.

Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Ethical
Guidelines And Prohibitions For Educational Administrators,
Employees, Board Members And Other Parties

Commissioner's Memo FIN 09-036

Commissioner's Memo FIN-10-048

Commissioner's Memo FIN 15-074

2 C.F.R. § 200.318

7 C.F.R. § 3016.36

7 C.F.R. § 3019.42

Date Adopted: 6-1-2015

Last Revised: 6-1-2016

8.42—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BUS DRIVER END of ROUTE REVIEW

Each bus driver shall walk inside the bus from the front to the back to make sure that all students have gotten off the bus after each trip. If a child is discovered through the bus walk, the driver will immediately notify the central office and make arrangements for transporting the child appropriately. If children are left on the bus after the bus walk through has been completed and the driver has left the bus for that trip, the driver shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Date Adopted:5-31-2014

Last Revised:

8.43—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Employees whose job duties require the use or wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall use or wear the prescribed PPE at all times while performing job duties that expose employees to potential injury or illness. Examples of PPE include, but are not limited to:¹

- Head and face protection:
 - Hard hat;
 - Bump cap;
 - Welding helmet;
 - Safety goggles;
 - Safety glasses;
 - Face shield;
- Respiratory protection:
 - Dust/mist mask;
 - Half-face canister respirators;
- Hearing protection:
 - Ear plugs;
 - Ear muffs;
- Hand protection, which is based on hazard exposure(s) and type(s) of protection needed:
 - Leather;
 - Latex;
 - Rubber;
 - Nitrile;
 - Kevlar;
 - Cotton;
- Body protection:
 - Welding apron;
 - Welding jackets;
 - Coveralls/Tyvek suits;
- Foot Protection:
 - Metatarsal protection;
 - Steel toed boots/shoes;
 - Slip resistant shoes;
- Fall Protection:
 - Belts, harnesses, lanyards;
 - Skylight protection;
 - Safe ladders;
 - Scissor lifts.

Employees operating a school-owned vehicle that is equipped with seat belts for the operator shall be secured by the seat belt at all times the employee is operating the vehicle. If the vehicle is equipped with seat belts for passengers, the employee operating the vehicle shall not put the vehicle into motion until all passengers are secured by a seat belt. Employees traveling in, but not operating, a school owned vehicle that is equipped

with seat belts for passengers shall be secured by a seat belt at all times the vehicle is in motion.

Employees who fail to use or wear the prescribed PPE required by their job duties put themselves and co-workers at risk of sustaining personal injuries. Employees who are found to be performing job duties without using or wearing the necessary PPE required by the employee's job duties may be disciplined, up to and including termination.

A supervisor may be disciplined, up to and including termination, if the supervisor:

1. Fails to ensure the employee has the prescribed PPE before the employee assumes job duties requiring such equipment;
2. Fails to provide an employee replacement PPE when necessary in order for the employee to continue to perform the job duties that require the PPE; or
3. Instructs the employee to perform the employee's job duties without the prescribed PPE required by those job duties.

An employee shall **not** be disciplined for refusing to perform job duties that require the employee to use/wear PPE if:

- a. The employee has not been provided the prescribed PPE; or
- b. The PPE provided to the employee is damaged or worn to the extent that the PPE would not provide adequate protection to the employee.

An employee's immediate Supervisor is responsible for providing the employee training on the proper use, care, and maintenance of any and all PPE that the employee may be required to use.

Cross Reference: 8.11—OVERTIME, COMPTIME, and COMPLYING WITH FLSA

Date Adopted: 3-12-18

Last Revised:

POLICY CONCERNING PARAPROFESSIONALS

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires that Title I paraprofessionals who have any student instructional contact be “highly qualified.” This requires that, at a minimum, they shall have:

1. completed at least 2 years of study at an institution of higher education;
2. obtained an associate's (or higher) degree;
3. taken and passed the Parapro Assessment Test certifying they are highly qualified; or
4. satisfied any other state or federal requirement for paraprofessionals to be “highly qualified.”

New employees hired as paraprofessionals are required to have met the qualifications criteria as an initial condition for employment. Title I paraprofessionals who have any student instructional contact already employed by the district as of January 8, 2002 must be able to meet the qualifications criteria by January 1, 2006.

The superintendent shall determine if, in his or her opinion, a paraprofessional employed by the district prior to January 8, 2002 may be reasonably expected to satisfy the requirements imposed by NCLB or state requirements by January 1, 2006.¹ No later than 30 days prior to each paraprofessional’s contract commencement date the superintendent shall notify paraprofessional employees deemed unlikely to satisfy NCLB and/or state requirements that they are being recommended for non-renewal. In the event that, subsequent to contract renewal, the superintendent determines the paraprofessional employee does not meet the definition of “highly qualified,” it shall be grounds for termination of the paraprofessional’s contract of employment.

An exception to the highly qualified requirements of NCLB is allowed for paraprofessionals who are proficient in English and a language other than English and who provide services primarily to enhance the participation of children in programs served under Title I by acting as a translator; or whose duties consist solely of conducting parental involvement activities consistent with the requirements of NCLB.

Date Adopted: 6/27/2007

Last Revised: