

EMPLOYEES

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ROLE OF AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EMPLOYEES

This series of the board policy manual is devoted to the board's goals and objectives for employees in the performance of their jobs. Employees provide a variety of important services for the children of the school district community. They may be teaching or assisting in the classroom, working in the office, maintaining the facilities, driving or repairing the school buses, or cooking lunches. Each employee plays a vital role in providing an equal opportunity for a quality education for students commensurate with the students' individual needs. While the teachers have the most direct impact on the formal instruction of students, all employees have an impact on the school environment by their dedication to their work and their actions. As role models for the students, employees shall promote a cooperative, enthusiastic, and supportive learning environment for the students.

In striving to achieve a quality education program, the board's goal is to obtain and retain qualified and effective employees. The board shall have complete discretion to determine the number, the qualifications, and the duties of the positions and the school district's standards of acceptable performance. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make recommendations to the board in these areas prior to board action. The board recognizes its duty to bargain collectively with duly certified collective bargaining units. To the extent a group of employees has a recognized collective bargaining unit, the provisions of the master contract regarding such topics shall prevail.

Board policies in this series relating to general employees shall apply to employees regardless of their position as a licensed employee, classified employee, substitute or administrator. Board policies relating to licensed employees shall apply to positions that require a teaching license or administrator's certificate or other professional license, certificate or endorsement, unless administrative positions are specifically excluded from the policy or a more specific policy is in the 300 series, Administration. Classified employees' policies included in this series will apply to positions that do not fall within the definition of licensed employee.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The West Hancock Community School District will provide equal opportunity to employees and applicants for employment in accordance with applicable equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws, directives and regulations of federal, state and local governing bodies. Opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment includes hiring, placement, promotion, transfer or demotion, recruitment, advertising or solicitation for employment, treatment during employment, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and layoff or termination. The school district will take affirmative action in major job categories where women, men, minorities and persons with disabilities are underrepresented. Employees will support and comply with the district's established equal employment opportunity and affirmative action policies. Employees will be given notice of this policy annually.

The board will appoint an affirmative action coordinator. The affirmative action coordinator will have the responsibility for drafting the affirmative action plan. The affirmative action plan will be reviewed by the board at least every two years.

Individuals who file an application with the school district will be given consideration for employment if they meet or exceed the qualifications set by the board, administration, and Iowa Department of Education for the position for which they apply. In employing individuals, the board will consider the qualifications, credentials, and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or disability. In keeping with the law, the board will consider the veteran status of applicants.

Prior to a final offer of employment the school district will perform the background checks required by law. Based upon the results of the background checks, the school district will determine whether an offer will be extended. If the candidate is a teacher who has an initial license from the BOEE, then the requirement for a background check is waived. The district will perform repeat background checks on applicable employees as required by law.

Advertisements and notices for vacancies within the district will contain the following statement: "The West Hancock Community School District is an EEO/AA employer." The statement will also appear on application forms.

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, will be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator by writing to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, West Hancock Community School District, P.O. Box 420, Britt, Iowa 50423; or by telephoning 641-843-3833.

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions, Milwaukee Area Office, Reuss Federal Plaza, 310 West Wisconsin Ave., Suite 800, Milwaukee, WI, 53203-2292, (800) 669-4000 or TTY (800) 669-6820. <http://www.eeoc.gov/field/milwaukee/index.cfm> or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321 (515) 281-4121 or 1-800-457-4416, <http://www.state.ia.us/government/crc/index.html>. This inquiry or complaint to the federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Further information and copies of the procedures for filing a complaint are available in the school district's central administrative office and the administrative office in each attendance center.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e et seq.
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq
Iowa Code §§ 19B; 20; 35C; 73; 216; 279.8
281 I.A.C. 12.4; 95.

Cross Reference: 102 Equal Educational Opportunity
102-R(1) Equal Educational Opportunity - Grievance Procedure
102-E(1) Equal Educational Opportunity - Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination
102-E(2) Equal Educational Opportunity - Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination
102-E(3) Equal Educational Opportunity - Notice of Section 504 Student and Parental Rights
102-E(4) Equal Educational Opportunity - Discrimination Complaint Form
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104-E(3) Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policy - Disposition of Complaint Form
405.02 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
411.02 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Employees' use of their position with the school district for financial gain is considered a conflict of interest with their position as employees and may subject employees to disciplinary action.

Employees have access to information and a captive audience that could award the employee personal or financial gain. No employee may solicit other employees or students for personal or financial gain to the employee without the approval of the superintendent. If the approval of the superintendent is given, the employee must conduct the solicitations within the conditions set by the superintendent. Further, the superintendent may, upon five days notice, require the employee to cease such solicitations as a condition of continued employment.

Employees will not act as an agent or dealer for the sale of textbooks or other school supplies. Employees will not participate for personal financial remuneration in outside activities wherein their position on the staff is used to sell goods or services to students or to parents. Employees will not engage in outside work or activities where the source of information concerning the customer, client or employer originates from information obtained because of the employee's position in the school district.

It will also be a conflict of interest for an employee to engage in any outside employment or activity which is in conflict with the employee's official duties and responsibilities. In determining whether outside employment or activity of an employee creates a conflict of interest, situations in which an unacceptable conflict of interest is deemed to exist will include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

- (1) The outside employment or activity involves the use of the school district's time, facilities, equipment and supplies or the use of the school district's badge, uniform, business card or other evidences of office to give the employee or the employee's immediate family an advantage or pecuniary benefit that is not available to other similarly situated members or classes of members of the general public. For purposes of this section, a person is not "similarly situated" merely by being related to an employee who is employed by the school district.
- (2) The outside employment or activity involves the receipt of, promise of, or acceptance of more or other consideration by the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family from anyone other than the school district for the performance of any act that the employee would be required or expected to perform as part of the employee's regular duties or during the hours during which the employee performs service or work for the school district.
- (3) The outside employment or activity is subject to the official control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement authority of the employee during the performance of the employee's duties.

EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If the outside employment or activity is employment or activity in (1) or (2) above, the employee must cease the employment of or activity. If the activity or employment falls under (3), then the employee must:

- Cease the outside employment or activity; or
- Publicly disclose the existence of the conflict and refrain from taking any official action or performing any official duty that would detrimentally affect or create a benefit for the outside employment or activity. Official action or official duty includes, but is not limited to, participating in any vote, taking affirmative action to influence any vote, or providing any other official service or thing that is not available generally to members of the public in order to further the interests of the outside employment or activity.

When procurement is supported by Federal Child Nutrition funds, employees will not participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract if there is a real or apparent conflict of interest in the contract. Contract, for purposes of this paragraph, includes a contract where the employee, employee's immediate family, partner, or a non-school district employer of these individuals is a party to the contract.

It is the responsibility of each employee to be aware of and take the necessary action to eliminate a potential conflict of interest should it arise.

Legal Reference: 7 C.F.R. 3016.36(3)
Iowa Code §§ 20.7; 68B; 279.8; 301.28

Cross Reference: 203 Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest
402.4 Gifts to Employees
402.7 Employee Outside Employment
404 Employee Conduct and Appearance

NEPOTISM

More than one family member may be an employee of the school district. It is within the discretion of the superintendent to allow one family member employed by the school district to supervise another family member employed by the school district subject to the approval of the board.

The employment of more than one individual in a family is on the basis of their qualifications, credentials and records.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 71; 277.27; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment Selection
411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment Selection

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EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS

Complaints of employees against fellow employees should be discussed directly between employees as appropriate for the nature of the complaint. Complaints should be made in a constructive and professional manner. Complaints should generally not be made in the presence of other employees, students or outside persons.

If the complaint cannot be resolved, the employee may discuss the matter with their immediate supervisor. If the matter cannot be resolved within 5 days of speaking with the immediate supervisor, the employee may discuss it with the principal within 5 days of the supervisor's decision. If the matter cannot be resolved by the principal, the employee may discuss it with the superintendent within 5 days after speaking with the principal.

If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by the superintendent, the employee may ask to have the matter placed on the board agenda of a regularly scheduled board meeting in compliance with board policy. The board retains discretion as to whether to consider or take action on any complaint.

This policy is designed to create an appropriate process for pursuing general employee complaints. However, employees wishing to address a complaint on a topic with a more specialized procedure such as master contract grievances, or bullying or harassment claims should follow the appropriate process set forth in the master contract, employee handbook or other board policies specific to that topic.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8

Cross Reference:
210.8 Baard Meeting Agenda

EMPLOYEE RECORDS

The school district will maintain personnel records on employees. The records are important for the daily administration of the educational program, for implementing board policy, for budget and financial planning, and for meeting state and federal requirements.

The records will include, but not be limited to, records necessary for the daily administration of the school district, salary records, evaluations, application for employment, references, and other items needed to carry out board policy. Employee personnel files are school district records and are considered confidential records and therefore are not generally open to public inspection or accessibility. Only in certain limited instances, when the employee has given a signed consent, will employee personnel records be accessible to individuals other than the employee or authorized school officials.

Employees may have access to their personnel files, with the exception of letters of reference, and copy items from their personnel files at a time mutually agreed upon between the superintendent and the employee. The school district may charge a reasonable fee for each copy made. However, employees will not be allowed access to the employment references written on behalf of the employee. Board members will generally only have access to an employee's file when it is necessary because of an employee related matter before the board.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to keep employees' personnel files current. The board secretary is the custodian of employee records.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code chs. 20; 21; 22; 91B (2015).

Cross Reference: 402.1 Release of Credit Information
403 Employees' Health and Well-Being
708 Care, Maintenance and Disposal of School District Records

EMPLOYEE RECORDS REGULATION

Employee Personnel Records Content

1. Employee personnel records may contain the following information:
 - Personal information including, but not limited to, name, address, telephone number, emergency numbers, birth date and spouse.
 - Individual employment contract.
 - Evaluations.
 - Application, resume and references.
 - Salary information.
 - Copy of the employee's license or certificate, if needed for the position.
 - Educational transcripts.
 - Assignment.
 - Records of disciplinary matters.

2. Employee health and medical records are kept in a file separate from the employee's personnel records. Health and medical records may contain, but are not limited to:
 - Medical professional signed physical form.
 - Sick or long-term disability leave days.
 - Worker's compensation claims.
 - Reasonable accommodation made by the school district to accommodate the employee's disability.
 - Employee's medical history.
 - Employee emergency names and numbers.
 - Family and medical leave request forms.

3. The following are considered public personnel records available for inspection:
 - The name and compensation of the individual, including any written agreement establishing compensation or any other terms of employment, except for that information that is otherwise protected. "Compensation" includes the value of benefits conferred including, but not limited to: casualty, disability, life or health insurance, other health or wellness benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave, severance payments, retirement benefits and deferred compensation;
 - The dates the individual was employed by the government body;
 - The positions the individual holds or has held with the government body;
 - The educational institutions attended by the individual, including any diplomas and degrees earned, and the names of the individual's previous employers, positions previously held and dates of previous employment;
 - The fact that the individual resigned in lieu of termination, was discharged, or was demoted as a result of a disciplinary action, and the documented reasons and rationale for the resignation in lieu of termination, the discharge, or the demotion. "Demoted" or "demotion" mean a change of an employee from a position in a given classification to a position in a classification having a lower pay grade; and;
 - Personal information in confidential personnel records of government bodies relating to student employees shall only be released pursuant to the Family Educational Privacy Rights Act (FERPA.)

EMPLOYEE RECORDS REGULATION

Applicant File Records Content

Records on applicants for positions with the school district are maintained in the central administration office. The records will include, but not be limited to:

- Application for employment.
- Resume.
- References.
- Evidence of appropriate license or certificate, if necessary for the position for which the individual applied.
- Affirmative action form, if submitted.

Record Access

Only authorized school officials will have access to an employee's records without the written consent of the employee. Authorized school officials may include, but not be limited to, the superintendent, building principal, or board secretary. In the case of a medical emergency, the school nurse or other first aid or safety personnel may have access to the employee's health or medical file without the consent of the employee. Board members will generally only have access to an employee's personnel file without the consent of the employee when necessary for the conducting of board business.

LIMITATIONS TO EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES

The district believes in taking appropriate measures to promote the health and welfare of all students. Any school employee, volunteer, contractor, or agent shall not assist another school employee, volunteer, contractor, or agent in obtaining a new job, apart from the routine transmission of administrative personnel files, if the individual or agency knows, or has probable cause to believe, that such school employee, volunteer, contractor, or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor or student in violation of the law. Sexual misconduct means physical or sexual abuse of students, including but not limited to sexual or physical relationships, grooming behavior, and otherwise inappropriate relationships with students.

This limitation does not apply if the matter has been properly reported to law enforcement and any other regulatory authorities required by law, and either:

- the matter has been officially closed by the law enforcement agency;
- the individual is acquitted or otherwise exonerated of the alleged misconduct; or
- more than four years has passed since the case was opened, and no charges or indictment have been filed.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §7926
Iowa Code 256;
281 I.A.C. 12.3(14)

Cross References: 401.5 Employee Records
402.2 Child Abuse Reporting
402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees
405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

TRANSPORTING OF STUDENTS BY EMPLOYEES

Generally, transportation of students is in a motor vehicle owned by the school district and driven by an employee. In some cases, it may be more economical or efficient for the school district to allow an employee of the school district to transport the students in the employee's motor vehicle.

Employees who transport students for school purposes must have the permission of the superintendent.

This policy statement applies to transportation of students for school purposes in addition to the regular bus route transporting students to and from their designated attendance center.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code chs. 285; 321 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.8 Employee Travel Compensation
711 Transportation
904.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles

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EMPLOYEE TRAVEL COMPENSATION

Employees traveling on behalf of the school district and performing approved school district business will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. Actual and necessary travel expenses will include, but not be limited to, transportation and/or mileage costs, lodging expenses, meal expenses and registration costs.

Travel Outside the School District

Travel outside of the school district must be pre-approved. Pre-approval will include an evaluation of the necessity of the travel, the reason for the travel and an estimate of the cost of the travel to qualify as approved school district business. Travel outside the school district by employees, other than the superintendent, is approved by the superintendent or immediate supervisor. Travel outside the school district by the superintendent shall be approved by the board president.

Reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses will be allowed for travel outside the school district if the employee received pre-approval for the travel. Prior to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, the employee must provide the school district with a detailed, itemized receipt, indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. In exceptional circumstances, the superintendent may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances is maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

Failure to have a detailed, itemized receipt will make the expense a personal expense. Personal expenses, including mileage, in excess of that required for the trip are reimbursed by the employee to the school district no later than 10 working days following the date of the expense.

Reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses for travel outside the school district will be limited to the pre-approved expenses. Pre-approved expenses for registration are limited to the actual cost of the registration.

Pre-approved expenses for transportation within three-hundred miles of the school district administrative office shall be by automobile. If a school district vehicle is not available, the employee will be reimbursed at the rate annually determined by the board. Travel to/from work is never a reimbursable travel expense. Travel costs for a spouse or anyone other than the district employee shall be a personal expense not reimbursable by the district.

Travel Within the School District

Employees that make more than 1 trip per day from one building to another because of academic assignment or other assigned duties shall apply for a flat fee mileage reimbursement on an individual basis through the administration. Extra-curricular assignments and unassigned travel between buildings are excluded from consideration. Mileage will be determined by the Board of Education but shall not exceed the limit determined by State Law. A trip is defined as the travel from one building to another and then because of a required assignment must return to the first building.

Qualified travel reimbursement would be if an employee goes to building A from his or her home, then goes to Building B and then returns to building A. The return trip from building B to building A would be one trip.

Travel allowances within the district will be provided only after board approval. Employees who are allowed an ~~in-school~~ within district travel allowance will have the amount of the allowance actually received during each calendar year included on the employee's W-2 form as taxable income according to the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of District-Owned Vehicles

Certain district employment positions may require regular and extensive travel. Due to the required duties of these positions, the district may provide certain positions with use of district-owned vehicles. Employees who utilize district-owned vehicles during the course of their job duties are fulfilling the public purpose of meeting the needs of the educational community in an efficient, and time-sensitive manner. District-owned vehicles are purchased and maintained with public money and must be used strictly in accordance with fulfilling a public purpose. These vehicles represent the district in carrying out its educational mission. Therefore, district-owned vehicles will be clearly marked at all times to identify the district.

The superintendent is responsible for developing administrative regulations regarding actual and necessary expenses, in-school district travel allowances and assignment and proper use of school district vehicles. The administrative regulations will include the appropriate forms to be filed for reimbursement to the employee from the school district and the procedures for obtaining approval for travel outside of and within the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Constitution, Art. III, § 31.
Iowa Code §§ 70A.9-.11
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 512

Cross Reference: 216.3 Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses
401.7 Transporting of Students by Employees
401.10 Credit and Procurement Cards
904.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles

RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES

The board recognizes and appreciates the service of its employees. Employees who retire or resign may be honored by the board, administration and staff in an appropriate manner.

If the form of honor thought appropriate by the administration and employees involves unusual expense to the school district, the superintendent will seek prior approval from the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Const. Art. III, § 31.
Iowa Code § 279.8 (2015).
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 102.

Cross Reference: 407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

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EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Employees will not engage in political activity upon property under the jurisdiction of the board. Activities including, but not limited to, posting of political circulars or petitions, the distribution of political circulars or petitions, the collection of or solicitation for campaign funds, solicitation for campaign workers, and the use of students for writing or addressing political materials, or the distribution of such materials to or by students are specifically prohibited.

Violation of this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 55; 279.8

Cross Reference: 409.5 Licensed Employee Political Leave
414.5 Classified Employee Political Leave

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EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Employees must know their role and duties. New employees may be required to participate in an orientation program for new employees. The employee's immediate supervisor should provide the new employee with a review of the employee's responsibilities and duties. Payroll procedures and employee benefit programs and accompanying forms will be explained to the employee by the board secretary or superintendent. Regular employees ineligible for the school district's group health plan will be given information regarding where they can obtain health care or health care insurance.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2015).
191 I.A.C. 74.

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits
412 Classified Employee Compensation and Benefits

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EMPLOYEES RELATIONS TO ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE BOARD

School district personnel are encouraged to attend school board meetings. School district personnel shall be available to provide information and assist in providing recommendations to the board upon request. The employee shall keep the board informed through the administration about educational trends and issues that may assist the board. It shall be the responsibility of the employees to keep the administration informed about the day-to-day occurrences in their work areas.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop avenues for communication between the board and the employees. These avenues of communication will not be construed as denying the right of any employee to appeal any action or decision of the superintendent to the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.4 Employee Complaints
401.13 Employee Involvement in Decision-Making

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EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Input from school district personnel regarding the students, the educational program, and other school district operations will be considered by the administration and the board. School district personnel may be requested to make a presentation to the board. The administration, in its discretion, may consult with employees about proposed changes in the educational program and operations of the school district.

Teachers having suggestions for changes or improvements in administrative procedure or policy should take such suggestions directly to the principal and/or the superintendent. The principal or superintendent will give the teacher a fair and courteous hearing regarding the same. After a final decision is made on any policy or procedure, teachers will be expected to accept the same in their subsequent actions, discussions, and relations.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§273.1, 279.8 (2001).

Cross Reference: 302 Administration and School District Personnel
401.12 Employee Relations to the Administration and to the Board

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USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT BY EMPLOYEES

The primary purpose of the school district facilities and equipment is the delivery of the educational program. Resources for school equipment are limited. Each user must operate the equipment with the utmost care. School district employees may use school equipment for any school purpose or activity held during the school day or for a school-sponsored event. School district personnel may not use school equipment for non-school sponsored events.

School district personnel shall be issued a key to the building to which they are assigned, unless their position requires additional keys be issued to them. Employees shall be responsible for the keys assigned to them. If lost keys require the locks to the school facility be changed, the employee losing the keys may be responsible for payment of the cost to change the locks.

A request by an employee to use the facilities for non-school related business must be approved by the principal. Such a request will not supersede any prior request made by another individual or organization. The employee will be responsible to meet the same requirements as other individuals or organizations using the facilities.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.12, 273.1, 279.8, 297.9 (2015).

Cross Reference: 905 Use of School District Facilities & Equipment

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USE OF SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

School materials are purchased and used for the delivery of the educational program. School district employees may use the school district materials for internal communication between themselves when the communication is directly related to the educational program. Communications distributed to or between school district personnel shall also be distributed to the building principal and the superintendent.

When the communication will involve unusual expense or use of materials, the employee must first have permission of the principal.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§273.1, 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.14 Use of School Facilities & Equipment by Employees

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

EMPLOYEE ACTIVITY PASSES

Employee passes to school-sponsored activities will be available to school district personnel. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to obtain their school activity pass.

All certified staff will receive an activity pass for themselves and their spouse. All certified staff or their spouse will work three home events in exchange for these passes.

All classified staff may sign up for passes for themselves and their spouse based on the language in the classified contract.

District football passes may be available. These passes should be secured through the activity directors.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§273.1, 279.8 (2015).

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised November 19, 2012

EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES

The use of cell phones and other communication devices may be appropriate to provide for the effective and efficient operation of the School district and to help ensure safety and security of people and property while on School district property or engaged in school-sponsored activities.

Employees may possess and use cell phones during the school day as outlined in this policy and as provided in the administrative regulations developed by the superintendent. Employees should not use cell phones for personal business while on-duty, including staff development times, parent-teacher conferences, etc., except in the case of an emergency or during prep time or break/lunch times. Employees, except for bus drivers, see below, are prohibited from using cell phones while driving except in the case of an emergency and any such use must comply with applicable state and federal law and district policies and regulations.

Cell phones are not to be used for conversations involving confidential student or employee information.

School bus drivers are prohibited from using any communication device while operating the bus except in the case of an emergency, or to call for assistance, after the vehicle has been stopped. Any such use must comply with applicable state and federal law and district policies and regulations.

Cell Phone Allowance

Certain positions within the district may require the regular use of cell phones to conduct district business. These employees may purchase and/or maintain cell phones and related equipment, at their own expense, to make themselves accessible to the district and to conduct district business more efficiently. The superintendent has discretion to determine which district positions qualify for a cell phone allowance. The monthly cell phone allowance amount shall be established by the superintendent and/or the board. Employees who utilize their personal cell phones shall do so in accordance with this policy and accompanying procedures. The cell phone allowance is neither permanent nor guaranteed. The district reserves the right to rescind the allowance at any time for a violation of district policy or regulation or for any other reason.

Employees violating the policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including, discharge. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal References: Internal Revenue Comment Notice, 2009-46, http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-23_IRB/ar07.html
Iowa Code § 279.8, 321.276 (2015)

Cross References: 406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits
412 Classified Employee Compensation and Benefits
707.5 Internal Controls

EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Cell phone Usage

1. Cell phones shall be used in a manner that does not disrupt instruction and should not be used during school-sponsored programs, meetings, in-services, or other events where there exists a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness unless there is a reason of personal health or safety involved.
2. Cell phones should not be used to transmit confidential student or personal information either verbally or written.
3. Employees are prohibited from using a cell phone while driving as part of their work duties, unless in the case of an emergency, unless the vehicle has come to a complete stop and the gear is in park.

Cell Phone Business Procedures

School district employees may be reimbursed for use of privately owned cell phones to conduct school district business in accordance with board policy and this regulation, with prior approval of the superintendent.

1. Requests for reimbursement for authorized use of employee owned cell phones are to be submitted on school district provided forms accompanied by a copy of the billing statement with the school district business related calls highlighted. A notation for each highlighted entry, indicating the nature of the call is required. The employee's immediate supervisor must sign-off on the billing statement verifying the calls were school district business related. School district reimbursement for authorized use of employee owned cell phones will be made in conformance with school district payment procedures. Requests for reimbursement, including the highlighted billing statement must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the end of the time period for which reimbursement is requested. Requests submitted after the reimbursement deadline has passed will be denied.

EMPLOYEE EXPRESSION

The board believes the district has an interest in maintaining an orderly and effective work environment while balancing employees First Amendment rights to freedom of expression and diverse viewpoints and beliefs. When employees speak within their official capacity, their expression represents the district and may be regulated. The First Amendment protects a public employee's speech when the employee is speaking as an individual citizen on a matter of public concern. Even so, employee expression that has an adverse impact on district operations and/or negatively impacts an employee's ability to perform their job for the district may still result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Employees will comply with Iowa law to the extent that compliance does not infringe on employees' free speech rights.

Employees who use social media platforms are encouraged to remember that the school community may not be able to separate employees as private citizens, from their role within the district. Employee expression on social media platforms that interferes with the district's operations or prevents the district from functioning efficiently and effectively may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

A district employee who acts to protect a student for engaging in free expression or who refuses to infringe on students engaging in free expression; and who is acting within the scope of their professional ethics will not be retaliated against or face any adverse employment action based on their behavior provided that expression is otherwise permitted by law and board policy.

If the board or court finds an employee that is subject to licensure, certification or authorization by the Board of Educational Examiners discriminated against a student or other co-employee, the board will refer the employee to the Board of Educational Examiners for additional proceedings as required by law and which may result in discipline up to and including termination.

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. Amend. I
Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, 597 U.S. ____ (2022)
Iowa Code §§ 279.73; 280.22

Cross Reference: 502.3 Student Expression
504.3 Student Publications

Approved February 19, 2024 Reviewed February 19, 2024 Revised November 21, 2022

RELEASE OF CREDIT INFORMATION

The following information will be released to an entity with whom an employee has applied for credit or has obtained credit: title of position, income, and number of years employed. This information will be released without prior written notice to the employee. Confidential information about the employee will be released to an inquiring creditor with a written authorization from the employee.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary or superintendent to respond to inquiries from creditors.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 22.7; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.5 Employee Records

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

In compliance with state law and to provide protection to victims of child abuse, the board believes incidents of alleged child abuse should be reported to the proper authorities. All licensed school employees, teachers, coaches and paraeducators and all school employees 18 years of age or older are mandatory reporters as provided by law and are to report alleged incidents of child abuse they become aware of within the scope of their professional duties.

When a mandatory reporter suspects a student is the victim of child abuse, the mandatory reporter shall make an oral report of the suspected child abuse to the Iowa Department of Human Services within 24 hours of becoming aware of the abusive incident and shall make a written report to the Iowa Department of Human Services within 48 hours following the oral report. If the mandatory reporter believes the child is in immediate danger, the local law enforcement agency will also be notified.

Within six months of their initial employment, mandatory reporters will take a two-hour training course involving the identification and reporting of child abuse and dependent adult abuse, or submit evidence they've taken the course within the previous three years. After July 1, 2019, employees who have previously taken mandatory reporter training will be required to take the two-hour training course before the expiration of their current training certificate. Once the training course has been taken, the certificate will remain valid for three years. Employees who have taken the post-July 1, 2019 two-hour training course will take the one-hour follow up training course every three years and prior to the expiration of their certificate.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67-.77; 235A; 280.17.
441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.

Cross Reference: 402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees
502.9 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
507 Student Health and Well-Being

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised August 21, 2023

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REGULATION

Iowa law requires licensed employees to report to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) instances of suspected child abuse which they become aware of within the scope of their professional duties.

The law further specifies that a licensed employee who knowingly or willfully fails to report a suspected case of child abuse is guilty of a simple misdemeanor and that the licensed employee may be subject to civil liability for damages caused by the failure to report.

Employees participating in good faith in the making of a report or in a judicial proceeding that may result from the report, are immune from liability.

Child Abuse Defined

"Child abuse" is defined as:

- Any non-accidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of it, suffered by a child as the result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child.
- The commission of a sexual offense with or to a child . . . as a result of the acts or omissions of the person responsible for the child. . . . Sexual offense includes sexual abuse, incest, and sexual exploitation of a minor.
- The failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care necessary for the child's welfare when financially able to do so or when offered financial or other reasonable means to do so. A parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs who does not provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone will not be considered abusing the child.
- The acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of a child which allow, permit or encourage the child to engage in acts prohibited pursuant to *Iowa Code*, section 725.1 which deals with prostitution.
- Any mental injury to a child's intellectual or psychological capacities evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within the child's normal range of performance and behavior as the result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child, if the impairment is diagnosed by a licensed physician or qualified mental health professional.
- An illegal drug is present in a child's body as a direct and foreseeable consequence of the acts or omissions of the person responsible for the care of the child.
- The person responsible for the care of a child has, in the presence of the child, as defined in section 232.2, subsection 6, paragraph "p", manufactured a dangerous substance, as defined in section 232, subsection 6, paragraph "p", or in the presence of the child possesses a product containing ephedrine or its salts, optical isomers or its salts, pseudoephedrine or its salts, with the intent to use the product as a precursor or an intermediary to a dangerous substance.
- The commission of bestiality in the presence of a minor under section 717C.1 by a person who resides in a home with a child, as a result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child.

Teachers in public schools are not "persons responsible for the care of the child" under this definition.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REGULATION

Reporting Procedures

Licensed employees, including teachers and school nurses, are required to report orally, within twenty-four hours to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) when the employee reasonably believes a child has suffered from abuse within the scope of employment. Within forty-eight hours of an oral report, a written report must be filed with DHS.

Each report should contain as much of the following information as can be obtained within the time limit. However, the law specifies a report will be considered valid even if it does not contain all of the following information:

- name, age, and home address of the child;
- name and home address of the parents, guardians or other persons believed to be responsible for the care of the child;
- the child's present whereabouts if not the same as the parent's or other person's home address;
- description of injuries, including evidence of previous injuries;
- name, age, and condition of other children in the same home;
- any other information considered helpful; and,
- name and address of the person making the report.

Board policy states it is not the responsibility of employees to prove that a child has been abused or neglected. Employees should not take it upon themselves to investigate the case or contact the family of the child. DHS is responsible for investigating the incident of alleged abuse.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Physical or sexual abuse of students, including but not limited to sexual or physical relationships, grooming behavior, and otherwise inappropriate relationships with students, by employees will not be tolerated. The definition of employees for the purpose of this policy includes not only those who work for pay but also those who are volunteers of the school district under the direction and control of the school district. Employees found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

The school district will respond promptly to allegations of abuse of students by school district employees by investigating or arranging for the investigation of an allegation and timely reporting to all relevant agencies as required by law. The processing of a complaint or allegation will be handled confidentially to the maximum extent possible. Employees are required to assist in the investigation when requested to provide information and to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting and investigation process.

The school district has appointed a Level I investigator and alternate Level I investigator. The school district has also arranged for a trained, experienced professional to serve as the Level II investigator. The Level I investigator and alternate will be provided training in the conducting of an investigation at the expense of the school district. The names of the investigators are listed in the student handbook published annually in the local newspaper and posted in all school facilities.

The district will use forms provided by the Department of Education and can be found on their website.

The superintendent is responsible for drafting administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67, .70, .73, .75; 235A; 256.160; 272A; 280.17; 709;
728.12(1)
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6), 102; 103.
441 I.A.C. 155; 175.

Cross Reference: 106 Bullying/Harassment
402.2 Child Abuse Reporting
503.5 Corporal Punishment

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

An individual who has knowledge an employee has physically or sexually abused a student may immediately report it to AEA 267 who is the school district's Level I investigator. "Employee" means one who works for pay or as a volunteer under the direction and control of the school district. The report is written, signed and witnessed by a person of majority age. The witness may be the Level I investigator. The reporter is the individual filing the report. The report will contain the following:

- The full name, address, and telephone number of the person filing.
- The full name, age, address, and telephone number, and attendance center of the student.
- The name and place of employment of the employee who allegedly committed the abuse.
- A concise statement of the facts surrounding the incident, including date, time, and place of occurrence, if known.
- A list of possible witnesses by name, if known.
- Names and locations of persons who examined, counseled or treated the student for the alleged abuse, including the dates on which those services were provided, if known.

Upon request, the Level I investigator may assist the reporter in completing the report. An incomplete report will not be rejected unless the missing information would render the investigation futile or impossible. An employee receiving a report of alleged abuse of a student by an employee will pass the report to the investigator and will keep the report confidential to the maximum extent possible. In performing the investigation, the investigator will have access to the educational records of the alleged student victim as well as access to the student for interviewing purposes.

In order for the school district to have jurisdiction over the acts and to constitute a violation of the law, acts of the employee must be alleged to have occurred on school grounds, on school time, at a school-sponsored activity, or in a school-related context. However, the student need not be a student in the school district. The student can be from another school district. To be investigable, the written report must include basic information showing that the victim of the alleged abuse is or was a student at the time of the incident, that the alleged act of the employee resulted in injury or otherwise meets the definition of abuse in these rules, and that the person responsible for the act is currently an employee. If the report is not investigable due to lack of jurisdiction, the investigator will dismiss the complaint and inform the reporter of other options available. Other options available to the reporter include contacting law enforcement authorities, private counsel, or the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners in the case of a licensed employee.

If the Level I investigator believes the student is in imminent danger if continued contact is permitted between the employee and the student, the Level I investigator may:

- temporarily remove the student from contact with the employee;
- temporarily remove the employee from service; or,
- take other appropriate action to ensure the student's safety.

The Level I investigator will have access to the educational records of the student and access to the student for purposes of interviewing the student about the report.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

Physical Abuse Allegations

When physical abuse is reported, the Level I investigator will make copies of the report and give a copy to the person filing the report, the students' parents and the immediate supervisor of the employee named in the report. The employee named in the report will not receive a copy of the report until the employee is initially interviewed.

The Level I investigator will use discretion in handling the information received regarding an investigation of abuse by an employee, and those persons involved in the investigation will not discuss information regarding the complaint outside the investigation. The entire investigative procedure will be thoroughly explained, including the confidential nature of the proceedings, to the student and other persons involved in the investigation.

Within five days of receipt of an investigable report, the Level I investigator will complete an informal investigation. The informal investigation will consist of interviews with the student, the employee and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident. If the Level I investigator determines that the allegations in the report are founded and that immediate and professional investigation is necessary, the Level I investigator may defer further investigation and contact appropriate law enforcement officials, the student's parents and the person filing the report. Within fifteen days of receipt of the report, the Level I investigator will complete a written investigative report, unless the investigation was temporarily deferred.

The written investigative report will include:

1. The name, age, address and attendance center of the student named in the report.
2. The name and address of the student's parent or guardian and the name and address of the person filing the report, if different from the student's parent or guardian.
3. The name and work address of the employee named in the report as allegedly responsible for the abuse of the student.
4. An identification of the nature, extent and cause, if known, of any injuries or abuse to the student named in the report.
5. A general review of the investigation.
6. Any actions taken for the protection and safety of the student.
7. A statement that, in the investigator's opinion, the allegations in the report are either:
 - Unfounded. (*It is not likely that an incident, as defined in these rules, took place*), or
 - Founded. (*It is likely that an incident took place.*)
8. The disposition or current status of the investigation.
9. A listing of the options available to the parents or guardian of the student to pursue the allegations. These options include, but are not limited to:
 - Contacting law enforcement officials.
 - Contacting private counsel for the purpose of filing a civil suit or complaint.
 - Filing a complaint with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners if the employee is a licensed employee.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

The investigator will retain the original and provide a copy of the written investigative report to the school employee named in the report, the employee's supervisor and the student's parent or guardian. The person filing the report, if not the student's parent or guardian, is notified only that the Level I investigation has been concluded and of the disposition or anticipated disposition of the case.

It is the responsibility of the Level I investigator to determine whether it is more likely than not that an incident of abuse as defined in the rules took place between the student and employee. The Level I investigator does not make the determination of whether the use of physical contact was appropriate or whether any of the exceptions apply. That is the responsibility of the Level II investigator. Upon completion of the report, if the Level I investigator determines the allegations of physical abuse are founded and serious, the Level I investigator will notify law enforcement authorities. If the allegations are founded but the physical abuse is not of a serious nature, the Level I investigator will refer the case on to the Level II investigator.

The Level II investigator will review the Level I investigator's final investigative report and conduct further investigation. The Level II investigative report will state the conclusion as to the occurrence of the alleged incident, the applicability of exceptions, the reason for the contact or force used, and recommendations regarding the need for further investigation. In determining the applicability of the exceptions or the reasonableness of the contact or force used, the Level II investigator will use the following definitions:

Physical abuse is non-accidental physical injury to the student as a result of the action of an employee. Injury occurs when evidence of it is still apparent at least twenty-four hours after its occurrence. The following do not constitute physical abuse, and no employee is prohibited from:

- a. Using reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain:
 - (1) To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical harm to any person.
 - (2) To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a pupil's control.
 - (3) For the purposes of self-defense or defense of others as provided for in Iowa Code § 704.3.
 - (4) For the protection of property as provided for in Iowa Code §§ 704.4, .5.
 - (5) To remove a disruptive pupil from class, or any area of school premises or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.
 - (6) To prevent a student from the self-infliction of harm.
 - (7) To protect the safety of others.

- b. Using incidental, minor, or reasonable physical contact to maintain order and control. In determining the reasonableness of the contact or force used, the following factors are considered:
 - a. The nature of the misconduct of the student, if any, precipitating the physical contact by the school employee.
 - b. The size and physical condition of the student.
 - c. The instrumentality used in making the physical contact.
 - d. The motivation of the school employee in initiating the physical contact.
 - e. The extent of injury to the student resulting from the physical contact.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

"Reasonable force" is that force and no more which a reasonable person, in like circumstances, would judge to be necessary to prevent an injury or loss and can include deadly force if it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to avoid injury or risk to one's life or safety or the life or safety of another, or it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to resist a like force or threat.

Upon completion of the Level II investigation, the Level I investigator will forward copies of the Level II investigative report to the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor and the student's parent. The Level I investigator will notify the person filing the report of the current status of the case.

If the Level II investigator's report or law enforcement officials conclude abuse occurred, or the employee admits the violation, or the employee has surrendered the employee's certificate or license, the Level I investigator will file a complaint with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. The Level I investigator will also arrange for counseling services for the student if the student or student's parents request counseling services.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is defined as including sexual acts involving a student, acts that encourage the student to engage in prostitution, as well as inappropriate, intentional sexual behavior or sexual harassment by the employee toward a student. "Sexual harassment" is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of the student's education or benefits;
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that student; or
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive education environment.

When sexual abuse is reported, the Level I investigator will make copies of the report and give a copy to the person filing the report, the students' parents and the immediate supervisor of the employee named in the report. The employee named in the report will not receive a copy of the report until the employee is initially interviewed. The designated investigator will not interview the school employee named in a report of sexual abuse until after a determination is made that jurisdiction exists, the alleged victim has been interviewed and a determination made that the investigation will not be deferred.

The investigator will notify the parent, guardian or legal custodian of a student in prekindergarten through grade six, of the date and time of the interview and of the right to be present or to see and hear the interview or send a representative in the parent's place. The Level I investigator will interview the student as soon as possible, but in no case later than five days from the receipt of a report or notice of the allegation of sexual abuse. The Level I investigator may record the interview electronically.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

The Level I investigator will exercise discretion in the investigative process to preserve the privacy interests of the individuals involved. To the maximum extent possible, the investigator will maintain the confidentiality of the report.

It is the responsibility of the Level I investigator to determine whether it is more likely than not that an incident took place between the employee and the student. If the Level I investigator believes the employee committed a sex act with a student or sexually exploited a student, the Level I investigator will defer the Level I investigation and immediately notify law enforcement officials, the student's parents and the person filing the report.

If the Level I investigator determines an incident occurred, while not an illegal sex act with a student or sexual exploitation of a student, but where the employee engaged in inappropriate, intentional sexual behavior, further investigation is warranted. If further investigation is warranted, the Level I investigator may proceed to interview the employee and other individuals who may have knowledge of the circumstances contained in the report. Prior to interviewing other individuals who may have knowledge of the circumstance contained in the report, the Level I investigator will provide notice of the impending interview of student witnesses or the student who is in prekindergarten through grade six, to their parent, guardian, or legal custodian, and may provide notice to the parent or guardian of older students, prior to interviewing those students. The Level I investigator shall, if founded, arrange for the Level II investigator to further investigate the allegations.

Within fifteen days of receipt of the report or notice of alleged sexual abuse, the Level I investigator will complete a written investigative report unless the investigation was temporarily deferred. The written investigative report will include:

1. The name, age, address and attendance center of the student named in the report.
2. The name and address of the student's parent or guardian and the name and address of the person filing the report, if different from the student's parent or guardian.
3. The name and work address of the school employee named in the report as allegedly responsible for the abuse of the student.
4. An identification of the nature, extent and cause, if known, of any injuries or abuse to the student named in the report.
5. A general review of the investigation.
6. Any actions taken for the protection and safety of the student.
7. A statement that, in the investigator's opinion, the allegations in the report are either:
 - Unfounded. (*It is not likely that an incident, as defined in these rules, took place*), or
 - Founded. (*It is likely that an incident took place.*)
8. The disposition or current status of the investigation.
9. A listing of the options available to the parents or guardian of the student to pursue the allegations. These options include, but are not limited to:
 - Contacting law enforcement officials.
 - Contacting private counsel for the purpose of filing a civil suit or complaint.
 - Filing a complaint with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners if the school employee is certificated.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

The investigator will retain the original and provide a copy of the investigative report to the school employee named in the report, the school employee's supervisor and the named student's parent or guardian. The person filing the report, if not the student's parent or guardian, is notified only that the Level I investigation has been concluded and of the disposition or anticipated disposition of the case.

If the allegations are founded, the Level I investigation will refer the case to the Level II investigator. The Level II investigator will review the Level I investigator's final investigative report and conduct further investigation if necessary. The Level II investigative report will state conclusively as to the occurrence of the alleged incident, conclusively as to the nature of the sexual abuse and recommendations regarding the need for further investigation. Upon completion of the Level II investigation, the Level I investigator will forward copies of the Level II investigative report to the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor and the student's parent. The Level I investigator will notify the person filing the report of the current status of the case.

If the Level II investigator's report or law enforcement officials conclude sexual abuse occurred, or the employee admits the violation, or the employee has surrendered the employee's certificate or license, the Level I investigator will file a complaint on behalf of the district after obtaining the superintendent's signature with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. The Level I investigator will also arrange for counseling services for the student if the student or student's parents request counseling services.

In cases involving founded physical or sexual abuse by a licensed employee, the board will notify the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. Information of unfounded abuse at Level I or Level II will not be kept in the employee's personnel file. If the Level I investigative report is founded but Level II is unfounded, then the Level I report is removed from the employee's permanent file. Notes, tapes memorandums and related materials compiled in the investigations must be kept for two years.

It is the responsibility of the board to annually identify a Level I and Level II investigator. The board will also designate annually an alternate Level I investigator, preferably of the opposite sex of the designated Level I investigator, to whom reports may also be made. The names and telephone numbers of the Level I investigator and the alternate Level I investigator is included in employee handbooks, student handbooks, annually published in the local newspaper, and prominently displayed in all school buildings.

GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES

Employees may receive a gift on behalf of the school district. Employees will not, either directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or receive any gift, series of gifts or an honorarium unless the donor does not meet the definition of "restricted donor" stated below or the gift or honorarium does not meet the definition of gift or honorarium stated below.

A "restricted donor" is defined as a person or other entity which:

- Is seeking to be, or is a party to, any one or any combination of sales, purchases, leases or contracts to, from or with the school district;
- Will be directly and substantially affected financially by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duty in a way that is greater than the effect on the public generally or on a substantial class of persons to which the person belongs as a member of a profession, occupation, industry or region; or
- Is a lobbyist or a client of a lobbyist with respect to matters within the school district's jurisdiction.

A "gift" is the giving of anything of value in return for which something of equal or greater value is not given or received. However, "gift" does not include any of the following:

- Contributions to a candidate or a candidate's committee;
- Information material relevant to an employee's official function, such as books, pamphlets, reports, documents, periodicals or other information that is recorded in a written, audio or visual format;
- Anything received from a person related within the fourth degree by kinship or marriage, unless the donor is acting as an agent or intermediary for another person not so related;
- An inheritance;
- Anything available or distributed to the general public free of charge without regard to the official status of the employee;
- Items received from a charitable, professional, educational or business organization to which the employee belongs as a dues paying member if the items are given to all members of the organization without regard to an individual member's status or positions held outside of the organization and if the dues paid are not inconsequential when compared to the items received;
- Actual expenses of an employee for food, beverages, travel and lodging for a meeting, which is given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting when the expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the employee has participation or presentation responsibilities;
- Plaques or items of negligible resale value given as recognition for public service;
- Nonmonetary items with a value of less than three dollars that are received from any one donor during one calendar day;
- Items or services solicited or given to a state, national or regional organization in which the state of Iowa or a school district is a member for purposes of a business or educational conference, seminar or other meeting or solicited by or given for the same purposes to state, national or regional government organizations whose memberships and officers are primarily composed of state or local government officials or employees for purposes of a business or educational conference, seminar or other meeting;

GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES

- Items or services received by members or representatives of members as part of a regularly scheduled event that is part of a business or educational conference, seminar or other meeting that is sponsored and directed by any state, national or regional government organization in which the state of Iowa or a political subdivision of the state of Iowa is a member or received at such an event by members or representatives of members of state, national or regional government organizations whose memberships and officers are primarily composed of state or local government officials or employees;
- Funeral flowers or memorials to a church or nonprofit organization;
- Gifts other than food, beverages, travel and lodging received by an employee which are received from a person who is a citizen of a country other than the United States and is given during a ceremonial presentation or as a result of a custom of the other country and is of personal value only to the employee
- Gifts which are given to an employee for the employee's wedding or twenty-fifth or fiftieth wedding anniversary;
- Payment of salary or expenses by the school district for the cost of attending a meeting of a subunit of an agency when the employee whose expenses are being paid serves on a board, commission, committee, council or other subunit of the agency and the employee is not entitled to receive compensation or reimbursement of expenses from the school district for attending the meeting; or
- Actual registration costs for informational meetings or sessions which assist a public official or public employee in the performance of the person's official functions. The costs of food, drink, lodging and travel are not "registration costs" under this paragraph. Meetings or sessions which a public official or public employee attends for personal or professional licensing purposes are not "informational meetings or sessions which assist a public official or public employee in the performance of the person's official functions" under this paragraph.

An "honorarium" is anything of value that is accepted by, or on behalf of, an employee as consideration for an appearance, speech or article. An honorarium does not include any of the following:

- Actual expenses of an employee for registration, food, beverages, travel or lodging for a meeting, which is given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at a meeting when the expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the employee has participation or presentation responsibilities;
- A nonmonetary gift or series of nonmonetary gifts donated within thirty days to a public body, an educational or charitable organization or the Iowa department of general services; or
- A payment made to an employee for services rendered as part of a private business, trade or profession in which the employee is engaged if the payment is commensurate with the actual services rendered and is not being made because of the person's status as an employee of the district, but, rather, because of some special expertise or other qualification.

GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES

It is the responsibility of each employee to know when it is appropriate to accept or reject gifts or an honorarium.

Legal References: Iowa Code ch. 68B (2015).
1972 Op. Att'y Gen. 276.
1970 Op. Att'y Gen. 319.

Cross References: 217 Gifts to Board of Directors
401.2 Employee Conflict of Interest
704.4 Gifts-Grants-Bequests

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised September 19, 2016

EMPLOYEE OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The board believes the primary responsibility of employees is to the duties of their position within the school district as outlined in their job description. The board considers an employee's duties as part of a regular, full-time position as full-time employment. The board expects such employees to give the responsibilities of their positions in the school district precedence over any other employment.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to counsel employees, whether full-time or part-time, if, in the judgment of the superintendent and the employee's immediate supervisor, the employee's outside employment interferes with the performance of the employee's duties required in the employee's position within the school district.

The board may request the employee to cease the outside employment as a condition of continued employment with the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.2 Employee Conflict of Interest
408.3 Licensed Employee Tutoring

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EMPLOYEES

Appropriate training and professional development of all employees is crucial to the success of all students. The district will provide professional development opportunities appropriate to the duties of school employees.

For all professional development programs, the district requires employees to take, the district will provide to the employee notice indicating the section of the law, or rules adopted by the state board of education or board of educational examiners that the district determines requires the employee to participate in the professional development program.

Legal Reference:Iowa Code § .

Cross Reference: 302.6 Superintendent Professional Development
 303.7 Administrator Professional Development
 408.1 Licensed Employee Professional Development

Approved August 21, 2023

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

EMPLOYEE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

The West Hancock CSD believes good health is important to job performance. School bus drivers will present evidence of good health upon initial hire and every other year in the form of a physical examination report, unless otherwise required by law or medical opinion. All other employees shall present evidence of good health, in the form of a post-offer, pre-employment physical examination report.

The cost of the initial examination will be paid by the employee. The form indicating the employee is able to perform the duties, with or without reasonable accommodation, for which the employee was hired, must be returned prior to the performance of duties. The cost of bus driver renewal physicals will be paid by the school district up to a maximum of \$75. The school district will provide the standard examination form to be completed by the personal physician of the employee or a certified medical examiner for bus drivers.

Employees whose physical or mental health, in the judgment of the administration, may be in doubt will submit to additional examinations to the extent job-related and consistent with business necessity, when requested to do so, at the expense of the school district.

The district will comply with occupational safety and health requirements as applicable to its employees in accordance with law.

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1030.
 49 C.F.R. §§ 391.41 – 391.49.
 Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.8; 321.376.
 281 I.A.C. 43.15; 43.17.

Cross Reference: 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

EMPLOYEE INJURY ON THE JOB

When an employee becomes seriously injured on the job, the employee's principal will attempt to notify a member of the family, or an individual of close relationship, as soon as the building principal becomes aware of the injury.

If possible, an employee may administer emergency or minor first aid. An injured employee will be turned over to the care of the employee's family or qualified medical employees as quickly as possible. The school district is not responsible for medical treatment of an injured employee.

It is the responsibility of the employee injured on the job to inform the superintendent or board secretary of the occurrence according to the district workers' compensation plan. It is the responsibility of the employee's immediate supervisor to file an accident report within forty-eight hours after the employee reported the injury.

It shall be the responsibility of the employee and his/her immediate supervisor to file claims, such as workers' compensation, through the superintendent or the board secretary.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 85; 279.40; 613.17 (2015).
1972 Op. Att'y Gen. 177.

Cross Reference: 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being
409.2 Licensed Employee Personal Illness Leave
414.2 Classified Employee Personal Illness Leave

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES - EMPLOYEES

Employees with a communicable disease will be allowed to perform their customary employment duties provided they are able to perform the essential functions of their position and their presence does not create a substantial risk of illness or transmission to students or other employees. The term "communicable disease" will mean an infectious or contagious disease spread from person to person, or animal to person, or as defined by law.

Prevention and control of communicable diseases is included in the school district's bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan. The procedures will include scope and application, definitions, exposure control, methods of compliance, universal precautions, vaccination, post-exposure evaluation, follow-up, communication of hazards to employees and record keeping. This plan is reviewed annually by the superintendent and school nurse.

The health risk to immunodepressed employees is determined by their personal physician. The health risk to others in the school district environment from the presence of an employee with a communicable disease is determined on a case-by-case basis by the employee's personal physician, a physician chosen by the school district or public health officials.

An employee who is at work and who has a communicable disease which creates a substantial risk of harm to a student, coworkers, or others at the workplace shall report the condition to the superintendent at any time the employee is aware that the disease actively creates such risk.

Health data of an employee is confidential and it will not be disclosed to third parties. Employee medical records are kept in a file separate from their personal file.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the school nurse, to develop administrative regulations stating the procedures for dealing with employees with a communicable disease.

Legal Reference:

29 U.S.C. §§ 794, 1910
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.*
45 C.F.R. Pt. 84.3
Iowa Code chs. 139; 141
641 I.A.C. .1, .2

Cross Reference:

401.5 Employee Records
403.1 Employee Physical Examinations
507.3 Communicable Diseases - Students

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

The Disease

Hepatitis B is a viral infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) which causes death in 1-2% of those infected. Most people with HBV recover completely, but approximately 5-10% become chronic carriers of the virus. Most of these people have no symptoms, but can continue to transmit the disease to others. Some may develop chronic active hepatitis and cirrhosis. HBV may be a causative factor in the development of liver cancer. Immunization against HBV can prevent acute hepatitis and its complications.

The Vaccine

The HBV vaccine is produced from yeast cells. It has been extensively tested for safety and effectiveness in large scale clinical trials.

Approximately 90 percent of healthy people who receive two doses of the vaccine and a third dose as a booster achieve high levels of surface antibody (anti-HBs) and protection against the virus. The HBV vaccine is recommended for workers with potential for contact with blood or body fluids. Full immunization requires three doses of the vaccine over a six-month period, although some persons may not develop immunity even after three doses.

There is no evidence that the vaccine has ever caused Hepatitis B. However, persons who have been infected with HBV prior to receiving the vaccine may go on to develop clinical hepatitis in spite of immunization.

Dosage and Administration

The vaccine is given in three intramuscular doses in the deltoid muscle. Two initial doses are given one month apart and the third dose is given six months after the first.

Possible Vaccine Side Effects

The incidence of side effects is very low. No serious side effects have been reported with the vaccine. Ten to 20 percent of persons experience tenderness and redness at the site of injection and low grade fever. Rash, nausea, joint pain, and mild fatigue have also been reported. The possibility exists that other side effects may be identified with more extensive use.

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

CONSENT FORM OF HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

I have knowledge of Hepatitis B and the Hepatitis B vaccination. I have had an opportunity to ask questions of a qualified nurse or physician and understand the benefits and risks of Hepatitis B vaccination. I understand that I must have three doses of the vaccine to obtain immunity. However, as with all medical treatment, there is no guarantee that I will become immune or that I will not experience side effects from the vaccine. I give my consent to be vaccinated for Hepatitis B.

Signature of Employee (consent for Hepatitis B vaccination)

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

REFUSAL FORM OF HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials I may be at risk of acquiring the Hepatitis B virus infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with Hepatitis B vaccine at no charge to myself. However, I decline the Hepatitis B vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B, a serious disease. If in the future I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with the Hepatitis B vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series at no charge to me.

Signature of Employee (refusal for Hepatitis B vaccination)

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

I refuse because I believe I have (check one)

_____ started the series

_____ completed the series

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

RELEASE FORM FOR HEPATITIS B MEDICAL INFORMATION

I hereby authorize _____ (individual or organization holding Hepatitis B records and

address) to release to the West Hancock Community School District, my Hepatitis B vaccination records for required employee records.

I hereby authorize release of my Hepatitis B status to a health care provider, in the event of an exposure incident.

Signature of Employee

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD

Employee Name (last, first, middle)

Social Security No.

Job Title:

	Hepatitis B Vaccination Date	Lot Number	Site	Administered by
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional Hepatitis B status information:

Post-exposure incident: (Date, time, circumstances, route under which exposure occurred)

Identification and documentation of source individual:

Source blood testing consent:

Description of employee's duties as related to the exposure incident:

Copy of information provided to health care professional evaluating an employee after an exposure incident:

Attach a copy of all results of examinations, medical testing, follow-up procedures, and health care professional's written opinion.

Training Record: (date, time, instructor, location of training summary)

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS REGULATION

Universal precautions (UP) are intended to prevent transmission of infection, as well as decrease the risk of exposure for employees and students. It is not currently possible to identify all infected individuals, thus precautions must be used with every individual. UP pertain to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) containing blood. These precautions do not apply to other body fluids and wastes (OBFW) such as saliva, sputum, feces, tears, nasal secretions, vomitus and urine unless blood is visible in the material. However, these OBFW can be sources of other infections and should be handled as if they are infectious. The single most important step in preventing exposure to and transmission of any infection is anticipating potential contact with infectious materials in routine as well as emergency situations. Based on the type of possible contact, employees and students should be prepared to use the appropriate precautions prior to the contact. Diligent and proper hand washing, the use of barriers, appropriate disposal of waste products and needles, and proper decontamination of spills are essential techniques of infection control. All individuals should respond to situations practicing UP followed by the activation of the school response team plan. Using common sense in the application of these measures will enhance protection of employees and students.

Hand Washing

Proper hand washing is crucial to preventing the spread of infection. Textured jewelry on the hands or wrists should be removed prior to washing and kept off until completion of the procedure and the hands are re-washed. Use of running water, lathering with soap and using friction to clean all hand surfaces is key. Rinse well with running water and dry hands with paper towels.

- Hands should be washed before physical contact with individuals and after contact is completed.
- Hands should be washed after contact with any used equipment.
- If hands (or other skin) come into contact with blood or body fluids, hands should be washed immediately before touching anything else.
- Hands should be washed whether gloves are worn or not and, if gloves are worn, after the gloves are removed.

Barriers

Barriers anticipated to be used at school include disposable gloves, absorbent materials and resuscitation devices. Their use is intended to reduce the risk of contact with blood and body fluids as well as to control the spread of infectious agents from individual to individual. Gloves should be worn when in contact with blood, OPIM or OBFW. Gloves should be removed without touching the outside and disposed of after each use.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS REGULATION

Disposal of Waste

Blood, OPIM, OBFW, used gloves, barriers and absorbent materials should be placed in a plastic bag and disposed of in the usual procedure. When the blood or OPIM is liquid, semi-liquid or caked with dried blood, it is not absorbed in materials, and is capable of releasing the substance if compressed, special disposal as regulated waste is required. A band-aid, towel, sanitary napkin or other absorbed waste that does not have the potential of releasing the waste if compressed would not be considered regulated waste. It is anticipated schools would only have regulated waste in the case of a severe incident. Needles, syringes and other sharp disposable objects should be placed in special puncture-proof containers and disposed of as regulated waste. Bodily wastes such as urine, vomitus or feces should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system.

Clean up

Spills of blood and OPIM should be cleaned up immediately. The employee should:

- Wear gloves.
- Clean up the spill with paper towels or other absorbent material.
- Use a solution of one part household bleach to one hundred parts of water (1:100) or other EPA-approved disinfectant and use it to wash the area well.
- Dispose of gloves, soiled towels and other waste in a plastic bag.
- Clean and disinfect reusable supplies and equipment.

Laundry

Laundry with blood or OPIM should be handled as little as possible with a minimum of agitation. It should be bagged at the location. If it has the potential of releasing the substance when compacted, regulated waste guidelines should be followed. Employees who have contact with this laundry should wear protective barriers.

Exposure

An exposure to blood or OPIM through contact with broken skin, mucous membrane or by needle or sharp stick requires immediate washing, reporting and follow-up.

- Always wash the exposed area immediately with soap and water.
- If a mucous membrane splash (eye or mouth) or exposure of broken skin occurs, irrigate or wash the area thoroughly.
- If a cut or needle stick injury occurs, wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.

The exposure should be reported immediately, the parent or guardian is notified, and the person exposed contacts a physician for further health care.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE

The board authorizes the development of a comprehensive hazardous chemical communication program for the school district to disseminate information about hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

Each employee will annually review information about hazardous substances in the workplace. When a new employee is hired or transferred to a new position or work site, the information and training, if necessary, is included in the employee's orientation. When an additional hazardous substance enters the workplace, information about it is distributed to all employees, and training is conducted for the appropriate employees. The superintendent will maintain a file indicating which hazardous substances are present in the workplace and when training and information sessions take place.

Employees who will be instructing or otherwise working with students will disseminate information about the hazardous chemicals with which they will be working as part of the instructional program.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this program.

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. Pt. 1910; 1200 *et seq.*
Iowa Code chs. 88; 89B

Cross Reference: 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being
804 Safety Program

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised February 17, 2020

HARASSMENT

Harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated in the school district. School district includes school district facilities, school district premises, and non-school property if the employee or student is at any school sponsored, school approved or school related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the school district or where the employee is engaged in school business.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, racial, religious, national origin, age, disability and sexual harassment. Harassment by board members, administrators, employees, parents, vendors, and others doing business with the school district is prohibited. Employees whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure which may result in discipline, up to and including, discharge or other appropriate action. Other individuals whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or board.

Sexual harassment shall include, but not be limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Other types of harassment may include, but not be limited to, jokes, stories, pictures or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean certain protected individuals and groups.

Employees and students who believe they have suffered harassment shall report such matters to the investigator for harassment complaints. However, claims regarding harassment may also be reported to the alternate investigator for harassment complaints.

Upon receiving a complaint, the investigator shall confer with the complainant to obtain an understanding and a statement of the facts. It shall be the responsibility of the investigator to promptly and reasonably investigate claims of harassment and to pass the findings on to the superintendent who shall complete such further investigation as deemed necessary and take such final action as deemed appropriate. Information regarding an investigation of harassment shall be confidential to the extent possible, and those individuals who are involved in the investigation shall not discuss information regarding the complaint outside the investigation process.

HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

Name of complainant: _____

Position of complainant: _____

Date of complaint: _____

Name of alleged harasser: _____

Date and place of incident or incidents: _____

Description of misconduct: _____

Name of witnesses (if any): _____

Evidence of harassment, i.e., letters, photos, etc. (attach evidence if possible): _____

Any other information: _____

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

WITNESS DISCLOSURE FORM

Name of witness:

Position of witness:

Date of testimony, interview:

Description of instance witnessed:

Any other information:

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

HARASSMENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

Harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated in the school district. School district includes school district facilities, school district premises, and nonschool property if the employee or student is at any school sponsored, school approved or school related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the school district or where the employee is engaged in school business.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, racial, religious, national origin, age, disability and sexual harassment. Harassment by board members, administrators, employees, parents, vendors, and others doing business with the school district is prohibited. Employees whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure which may result in discipline, up to and including, discharge or other appropriate action. Other individuals whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or board.

Sexual harassment includes, but not be limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Other types of harassment may include, but not be limited to, jokes, stories, pictures or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean certain individuals and groups.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

An employee or student who believes that they have been harassed shall notify the building guidance counselor, the designated investigator. An alternate investigator is assigned annually by the board. The investigator may request that the employee or student complete the Harassment Complaint form and turn over evidence of the harassment, including, but not limited to, letters, tapes, or pictures. Information received during the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent possible. The investigator, with the approval of the superintendent, or the superintendent has the authority to initiate a harassment investigation in the absence of a written complaint.

HARASSMENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

The investigator shall reasonably and promptly commence the investigation upon receipt of the complaint. The investigator shall interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The alleged harasser may file a written statement refuting or explaining the behavior outlined in the complaint. The investigator may also interview witnesses as deemed appropriate.

Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator shall report to the superintendent. The investigator will outline the findings of the investigation to the superintendent.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMPLAINT

The superintendent will complete the next step in the investigation reasonably and promptly upon receipt of the investigator's report. Following the investigator's report, the superintendent may investigate further, if deemed necessary, and make a determination of the appropriate next step which may include discipline up to and including discharge.

Prior to the determination of the appropriate remedial action, the superintendent may, at the superintendent's discretion, interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The superintendent shall file a written report closing the case. The complainant, the alleged harasser and the investigator shall receive notice as to the conclusion of the investigation.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN THE INVESTIGATION

- Evidence uncovered in the investigation is confidential.
- Complaints must be taken seriously and investigated.
- No retaliation will be taken against individuals involved in the investigation process.
- Retaliators will be disciplined up to and including discharge.

CONFLICTS

If the investigator is the alleged harasser or a witness to the incident, the alternate investigator shall be the investigator.

If the alleged harasser is the superintendent, the alternate investigator shall take the superintendent's place in the investigation process. The alternate investigator shall report the findings to the board.

SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE

The board expects the school district and its employees to remain substance free. No employee shall unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of in the workplace any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance or alcoholic beverage as defined by federal or state law. "Workplace" includes school district facilities, school district premises or school district vehicles. "Workplace" also includes non-school property if the employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity, event or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the school district or where the employee is engaged in school business.

If an employee is convicted of a violation of any criminal drug offense committed in the workplace, the employee shall notify the employee's supervisor of the conviction within five days of the conviction.

The superintendent will make the determination whether to require the employee to undergo substance abuse treatment or to discipline the employee. An employee who violates the terms of this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including termination. An employee who violates this policy may be required to successfully participate in a substance abuse treatment program approved by the board. If the employee fails to successfully participate in a program, the employee may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

The superintendent shall be responsible for publication and dissemination of this policy to each employee. In addition, the superintendent shall oversee the establishment of a substance-free awareness program to educate employees about the dangers of substance abuse and notify them of available substance abuse treatment programs.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: 41 U.S.C. §§ 701-707 (1988).
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. (Supp. 1990).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 85 (1993).
Iowa Code §§ 124; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance

SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED it is a violation of the Substance-Free Workplace policy for an employee to unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of in the workplace any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance or alcohol, as defined in Schedules I through V of section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. 1300.11 through 1300.15 and Iowa Code Chapter 204.

"Workplace" is defined as the site for the performance of work done in the capacity as an employee. This includes school district facilities, other school premises or school district vehicles. Workplace also includes non-school property if the employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity, event or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the school district or where the employee is engaged in school business.

Employees who violate the terms of the Substance-Free Workplace policy may be required to successfully participate in a substance abuse treatment program approved by the board. The superintendent retains the discretion to discipline an employee for violation of the Substance-Free Workplace policy. If the employee fails to successfully participate in such a program the employee shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

EMPLOYEES ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED it is a condition of their continued employment that they comply with the above policy of the school district and will notify their supervisor of their conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation committed in the workplace, no later than five days after the conviction.

SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I, _____, have read and understand the Substance-Free Workplace policy. I understand that if I violate the Substance-Free Workplace policy, I may be subject to discipline up to and including termination or I may be required to participate in a substance abuse treatment program. If I fail to successfully participate in a substance abuse treatment program, I understand I may be subject to discipline up to and including termination. I understand that if I am required to participate in a substance abuse treatment program and I refuse to participate, I may be subject to discipline up to and including termination. I also understand that if I am convicted of a criminal drug offense committed in the workplace, I must report that conviction to my supervisor within five days of the conviction.

(Signature of Employee)

(Date)

SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE REGULATION

A superintendent who suspects an employee has a substance abuse problem shall follow these procedures:

1. **Identification** - the superintendent shall document the evidence the superintendent has which leads the superintendent to conclude the employee has violated the Substance-Free Workplace policy. After the superintendent has determined there has been a violation of the Substance-Free Workplace policy, the superintendent shall discuss the problem with the employee.
2. **Discipline** - if, after the discussion with the employee, the superintendent determines there has been a violation of the Substance-Free Workplace policy, the superintendent may recommend discipline up to and including termination or may recommend the employee seek substance abuse treatment. Participation in a substance abuse treatment program is voluntary.
3. **Failure to participate in referral** - if the employee refuses to participate in a substance abuse treatment program or if the employee does not successfully complete a substance abuse treatment program, the employee may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.
4. **Conviction** - if an employee is convicted of a criminal drug offense committed in the workplace, the employee must notify the employer of the conviction within five days of the conviction.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM

Employees who operate school vehicles are subject to drug and alcohol testing if a commercial driver's license is required to operate the school vehicle and the school vehicle transports sixteen or more persons including the driver or the school vehicle weighs twenty-six thousand one pounds or more. For purposes of the drug and alcohol testing program, the term "employees" includes applicants who have been offered a position to operate a school vehicle.

The employees operating a school vehicle as described above are subject to pre-employment drug testing and random, reasonable suspicion and post-accident drug and alcohol testing. Employees operating school vehicles will not perform a safety-sensitive function within four hours of using alcohol. Employees governed by this policy are subject to the drug and alcohol testing program beginning the first day they operate or are offered a position to operate school vehicles and continue to be subject to the drug and alcohol testing program as long as they may be required to perform a safety-sensitive function as it is defined in the administrative regulations. Employees with questions about the drug and alcohol testing program may contact the school district contact person, the superintendent of schools at 510 9th Ave SW, Britt, IA, (641) 843-3833.

Employees who violate the terms of this policy are subject to discipline, up to and, including termination. The district is required to keep a record of all drug or alcohol violations by employees for a minimum of five years. Employees are put on notice that information related to drug or alcohol violations will be reported to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Clearinghouse. Additionally, the district will conduct FMCSA Clearinghouse queries for employees annually. Employees must provide written consent for the district to conduct FMCSA Clearinghouse queries; however, employees who choose to withhold consent will be prohibited from performing any safety sensitive functions

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy in compliance with the law. The superintendent will inform applicants of the requirement for drug and alcohol testing in notices or advertisements for employment. Most forms are federal forms and they can be found online.

The superintendent will also be responsible for publication and dissemination of this policy and supporting administrative regulations and forms to employees operating school vehicles. The superintendent will also oversee a substance-free awareness program to educate employees about the dangers of substance abuse and notify them of available substance abuse treatment resources and programs.

Legal Reference: American Trucking Association, Inc., v. Federal Highway Administration,
51 Fed. 3rd 405 (4th Cir. 1995).
49 U.S.C. §§ 5331 et seq.
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101
41 U.S.C. §§ 701-707
49 C.F.R. Pt. 40; 382; 391.81-123
34 C.F.R. Pt. 85 (~~2002~~).
Local 301, Internat'l Assoc. of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, and City of
Burlington, PERB No. 3876 (3-26-91).
Iowa Code §§ 124; 279.8; 321.375(2); 730.5

Cross Reference: 403.6 Substance-Free Workplace
409.2 Licensed Employee Personal Illness Leave
414.2 Classified Employee Personal Illness Leave

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES GOVERNED BY THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED they are subject to the school district's drug and alcohol testing program for pre-employment drug testing and random, reasonable suspicion and post-accident drug and alcohol testing as outlined in the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program policy, its supporting administrative documents and the law.

Employees who operate school vehicles are subject to drug and alcohol testing if a commercial driver's license is required to operate the school vehicle and the school vehicle transports sixteen or more persons including the driver or the school vehicle weighs twenty-six thousand, one pounds or more. For purposes of the drug and alcohol testing program, "employees" also includes applicants who have been offered a position to operate a school vehicle. The employees operating a school vehicle are subject to the drug and alcohol testing program beginning the first day they operate or are offered a position to operate a school vehicle and continue to be subject to the drug and alcohol testing program.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to inform employees of the drug and alcohol testing program requirements. Employees with questions regarding the drug and alcohol testing requirements will contact the school district contact person.

EMPLOYEES GOVERNED BY THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that employees violating this policy, its supporting documents or the law may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

EMPLOYEES GOVERNED BY THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that information related to drug or alcohol violations will be reported to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Clearinghouse.

EMPLOYEES GOVERNED BY THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED it is a condition of their continued employment to comply with the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program policy, its supporting documents and the law. It is a condition of continued employment for employees operating a school vehicle to notify their supervisor of any prescription medication they are using. Drug and alcohol testing records about a driver are confidential and are released in accordance with this policy, its supporting documents or the law.

DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I, (Name of Employee), have received a copy, read and understand the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program policy of the _____ School District and its supporting documents.

I understand that if I violate the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program policy, its supporting documents or the law, I may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

I also understand that I must inform my supervisor of any prescription medication I use.

In addition, I have received a copy of the U.S. DOT publication, "What Employees Need to Know about DOT Drug & Alcohol Testing," and have read and understand its contents.

Furthermore, I know and understand that I am required to submit to a controlled substance (drug) test, the results of which must be received by this employer before being employed by the school district and before being allowed to perform a safety-sensitive function. I also understand that if the results of the pre-employment test are positive, that I will not be considered further for employment with the school district.

I further understand that drug and alcohol testing records and information about me are confidential, and may be released at my request or in accordance with the district's drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting documents or the law.

(Signature of Employee)

(Date)

DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING
WRITTEN CONSENT TO SHARE INFORMATION

I, (Name of Employee), understand that as part of my employment in a position that requires a commercial driver's license in the _____ District, I grant consent for the District to conduct queries of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA") Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse to determine whether drug or alcohol violation information about me exists in the Clearinghouse. I further consent to the District sharing information related to my drug and alcohol testing results with prior, current and future employers, as well as the FMCSA Clearinghouse in accordance with state and federal laws.

I understand that the District will check and perform queries of my drug and alcohol testing results prior to my employment in any position which requires the use of a commercial driver's license. I further understand the District will check and perform queries of my testing results annually and is required to report any drug and alcohol violations of this policy to the FMCSA Clearinghouse.

I understand that I am not required to consent to the query of the FMCSA Clearinghouse or the District sharing of drug and alcohol testing information with past, present or future employers or the FMCSA Clearinghouse; but that without my consent I understand I will be prohibited from performing safety sensitive functions, including driving a commercial motor vehicle, as required by FMCSA's drug and alcohol program regulations.

I hereby give my consent to the District to perform queries of the FMCSA Clearinghouse and share my drug and alcohol testing results with past, present and future employers, as well as the FMCSA Clearinghouse.

(Signature of Employee)

(Date)

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

- A. Questions regarding the drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting administrative regulations or the drug and alcohol testing program may be directed to the school district contact person, the superintendent of schools, at 510 9th Ave. SW, Britt, IA, (641) 843-3833.
- B. Covered Drivers.
1. A driver is covered by the drug and alcohol testing program if the driver:
 - a. Drives a vehicle transporting sixteen or more persons, including the driver, OR drives a vehicle weighing over twenty-six thousand one pounds; and
 - b. Is required to hold a commercial driver's license for the driver position.
 2. Covered drivers include:
 - a. Applicants seeking a position as a driver.
 - b. Full time, regularly employed drivers;
 - c. Casual, intermittent, occasional or substitute drivers;
 - d. Leased drivers and independent, owner-operator contractors who are either directly employed by or under lease to a school district or who operate a school vehicle at the direction of or with the consent of a school district.
 3. Drivers are subject to the drug and alcohol testing program and its requirements throughout the year, including the times when school is not in session or when the driver is on leave.
- C. Prohibited Driver Conduct.
1. Drivers shall not report to duty or remain on duty with a 0.04 alcohol concentration or greater.
 2. Drivers shall not report for duty or remain on duty when using any drug except
 - a. When a licensed medical practitioner has advised the driver that the drug does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a school vehicle; and
 - b. The school district is informed in writing of the medication and licensed medical practitioner's opinion.
 3. Drivers shall not use alcohol at least four hours prior to, or during the performance of a safety-sensitive function.
 4. Drivers shall not possess alcohol while on duty. This includes possessing prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines containing alcohol unless the packaging seal is unbroken.
 5. Drivers required to take a post-accident alcohol test shall not use alcohol within eight hours following the accident or prior to undergoing a post-accident alcohol test, whichever comes first.
 6. Drivers shall not refuse to submit to a drug or alcohol test. A refusal to test is considered a positive test resulting in suspension from duties pending termination of the driver.
 7. Drivers shall not report for duty or remain on duty performing a safety-sensitive function if the driver has a positive drug test result.
- D. Alcohol Breath Testing Procedures.
1. Driver's breath or saliva is tested for alcohol.
 2. The screening alcohol test is conducted with an evidentiary breath testing device or a saliva testing device.
 - a. The screening alcohol breath or saliva test determines whether the driver's alcohol concentration is less than 0.02.
 - (1) A screening alcohol test result of less than 0.02 alcohol concentration allows the driver to continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - (2) A screening alcohol test result of 0.02 alcohol concentration or greater requires a confirmation test.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

3. The confirmation alcohol test is conducted only by an evidentiary breath alcohol testing device to determine whether the driver can continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - a. A confirmation alcohol test result of less than 0.02 alcohol concentration allows the driver to continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - b. A confirmation alcohol test result of 0.02 alcohol concentration but less than 0.04 alcohol concentration requires the driver to cease performing a safety-sensitive function for twenty-four hours.
 - c. A driver will be terminated for a confirmation alcohol test result of 0.04 breath alcohol concentration or greater.
4. Alcohol testing is conducted at collection sites which provide privacy to the driver and contain the necessary equipment, personnel and materials.
 - a. Alcohol testing is conducted at a designated collection site unless the situation requires another location.
 - b. In the event privacy cannot be assured, privacy will be provided to the extent practical.
5. Screening alcohol testing steps.
 - a. Once the driver is notified to submit to an alcohol test, the driver must complete the Alcohol/Drug Test Notification Form and proceed immediately to the collection site. Collection site personnel contact the superintendent of schools immediately when a driver does not arrive at the specified time. Failure to arrive at the collection site in a timely manner is considered a refusal to test.
 - b. Upon arrival, the driver must provide a photo identification. Repeated failure of the driver to produce a photo identification is considered insubordination as well as a refusal to test.
 - c. The testing procedure is explained to the driver by the collection site person.
 - d. The breath alcohol technician (BAT) or saliva test technician (STT) and the driver complete and sign the appropriate sections of the alcohol testing form.
 - e. Evidentiary breath alcohol testing device procedures.
 - (1) The driver forcefully blows into the mouthpiece for at least six seconds or until an adequate amount of breath has been obtained.
 - (2) The screening alcohol test is stopped when the driver fails twice to provide an adequate amount of breath. In that case:
 - (a) A refusal of the driver to try a second time to provide adequate breath is considered a refusal to test.
 - (b) A physician analyzes the driver's inability to provide adequate breath.
 - (c) Failure to provide adequate breath is considered a refusal to test unless the physician determines a medical condition caused the failure to provide adequate breath.
 - (3) The results of the screening alcohol test are shared with the driver.
 - f. Saliva alcohol testing device procedures.
 - (1) The driver and the STT review the expiration date of the saliva alcohol testing device, and if the date is valid, the packaging is opened.
 - (2) The driver or STT places the swab in the driver's mouth until the swab is completely saturated. If the alcohol test is started again, only the STT may place the swab in the driver's mouth.
 - (3) The saliva alcohol testing device is activated with the saturated swab in place.
 - (4) The saliva alcohol test is stopped when the driver fails twice to provide an adequate amount of saliva. In that case:
 - (a) The school district is informed.
 - (b) The driver must submit to a breath alcohol test immediately.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

- (5) The saliva testing device results are read two minutes, and no later than fifteen minutes, after the saliva testing device was activated.
- (6) The results of the screening alcohol test are shared with the driver.
- g. The driver and breath alcohol technician must sign the alcohol testing form following
The breath alcohol technician provides the superintendent of schools with a copy of the breath alcohol testing form if written communication was not used to report the test results.
- h. Screening alcohol testing steps
 - (1) An alcohol test result of less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is reported to the school district in a confidential manner and the driver may continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - (2) An alcohol test result of 0.02 alcohol concentration or more requires a confirmation alcohol test between fifteen and thirty minutes of the screening test
 - (3) The breath alcohol technician provides the superintendent of schools with a copy of the breath alcohol testing form if written communication was not used to report the test results.
- 6. Confirmation alcohol testing steps.
 - a. The driver is instructed to not eat, drink, put any object or substance in his or her mouth, and, to the extent possible, not belch during the fifteen-minute waiting period to avoid accumulation of mouth alcohol leading to an artificially high reading.
 - b. The confirmation alcohol test is done between fifteen and twenty minutes of the screening alcohol test whether or not the driver followed the requirements.
 - c. If a different collection site is used, the driver must be under the observation of the collection site person or school district person while in transit to the confirmation alcohol testing site or while waiting for the confirmation alcohol test.
 - d. If a different collection site person conducts the confirmation alcohol test, the driver must again provide photo identification.
 - e. The testing procedure is explained to the driver by a BAT.
 - f. The BAT and the driver complete and sign the appropriate sections of the alcohol testing form.
 - (1) Refusal of the driver to sign the form prior to the confirmation alcohol test is considered a refusal to test.
 - (2) The school district is notified immediately of the refusal to sign.
 - g. The driver forcefully blows into the evidentiary breath testing device mouthpiece for at least six seconds or until an adequate amount of breath has been obtained.
 - h. The confirmation alcohol test results, which are the final and official test results, are shared with the driver.
 - i. The driver and BAT must sign the alcohol testing form following completion of the alcohol test. Failure to sign the form after the alcohol test is not considered a refusal to test. However, in the remarks section of the form, the BAT notes the driver's refusal to sign.
 - j. The BAT informs the superintendent of schools of the results of the test in a confidential manner.
 - (1) An alcohol test result of less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is reported to the school district in a confidential manner and the driver may continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - (2) The BAT notifies the superintendent of schools immediately of confirmation alcohol test results of 0.02 alcohol concentration or more.
 - (3) The collection site person provides the superintendent of schools with a copy of the breath alcohol testing form if written communication was not used to report the test results.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

- k. Potentially incomplete or invalid breath alcohol tests are repeated with corrected procedures.
 - l. The breath alcohol test is stopped when the driver fails twice to provide an adequate amount of breath. In that case:
 - (1) A physician analyzes the driver's inability to provide adequate breath.
 - (2) Failure to provide adequate breath is considered a refusal to test unless the physician determines a medical condition caused the failure to provide adequate breath.
 - (3) A refusal of the driver to try a second time to provide adequate breath is considered a refusal to test.
- E. Drug Testing Procedures.
- 1. Driver's urine is tested for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and phencyclidine.
 - 2. A split specimen urine drug test, often called "split sample test," is used to conduct the drug test.
 - a. A negative drug test result allows the driver to continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - b. A positive drug test result on the primary sample requires the driver to be removed from performing a safety-sensitive function.
 - c. A positive drug test result on the primary sample allows the driver an opportunity to request the split sample be tested by another certified laboratory only for the specific drug found in the primary sample. A negative drug test result on the split sample results in a negative drug test result.
 - d. The driver will be terminated for a positive drug test result.
 - 3. Drivers taking medication at a licensed medical practitioner's direction may perform a safety-sensitive function if the licensed medical practitioner determines there is not an adverse effect on performing a safety-sensitive function and the school district is informed in writing of the medication and the licensed medical practitioner's opinion.
 - (1) An alcohol test result of less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is reported to the school district in a confidential manner and the driver may continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - (2) The BAT notifies the superintendent of schools immediately of confirmation alcohol test results of 0.02 alcohol concentration or more.
 - (3) The collection site person provides the superintendent of schools with a copy of the breath alcohol testing form if written communication was not used to report the test results.
 - 4. Drug testing is conducted at collection sites which provide privacy to the driver and where the necessary equipment, personnel and materials are located.
 - a. Drug testing is conducted at a designated collection site unless the situation requires another location. Public restrooms can be used as collection sites in exceptional circumstances.
 - b. In the event privacy cannot be assured, privacy is provided to the extent practical. However, direct observation is allowed if:
 - (1) Reasons exist to believe the driver may alter or substitute the specimen.
 - (2) The driver presents a specimen with a temperature outside the allowed range and does not provide an oral body temperature or the oral body temperature varies from the specimen provided.
 - (3) The last specimen provided by the driver was determined by the laboratory to not meet specific gravity and urine creatinine concentration criteria.
 - (4) The collection site person observes conduct of the driver to substitute or adulterate the specimen.

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- c. Direct observation is approved by the supervisor of the collection site person or the designated school district representative. Non-medical personnel performing direct observation must be of the same gender as the driver.
- 5. Drug testing steps.
 - a. The superintendent of schools makes arrangements with the collection site for the test.
 - b. Once the driver is notified to submit to a drug test, the driver must complete the Alcohol/Drug Test Notification Form and proceed immediately to the collection site. The collection site person contacts the superintendent of schools immediately when a driver does not arrive at the specified time. Failure to arrive at the collection site in a timely manner is considered a refusal to test.
 - c. Upon arrival, the driver must provide a photo identification. Repeated failure of the driver to produce a photo identification is considered insubordination as well as a refusal to test. The driver may require the collection site person to provide proof of identification.
 - d. The driver may keep his or her wallet but must remove any unnecessary outer garments, purses, briefcases and similar items at the request of the collection site person.
 - e. Immediately prior to providing a urine specimen, the driver must wash his or her hands.
 - f. The driver must then provide forty-five milliliters of urine and deliver it immediately to the collection site person.
 - (1) Drivers who cannot provide an adequate amount of urine receive instructions for drinking water and trying again.
 - (2) The drug test is stopped when the driver fails twice to provide an adequate amount of urine.
 - (3) Failure to provide adequate urine is considered a refusal to test unless the physician determines a medical condition caused the failure to provide adequate urine.
 - g. The specimen is kept in view of the driver and the collection site person.
 - h. Upon receipt of the specimen, the collection site person immediately, and in no event later than four minutes from the time of urination, measures the temperature of the specimen.
 - i. The driver may volunteer to have his or her oral temperature taken to provide evidence against alteration or substitution if there is some question about the temperature of the specimen.
 - j. The collection site person inspects the specimen for color and other signs of contaminants and notes any unusual findings in the remarks section of the chain of custody form.
 - k. Another specimen is required as soon as possible under direct observation if adulteration substitution is suspected by the collection site person. Specimens suspected of adulteration or substitution are also sent to the laboratory for testing.
 - l. The specimen is divided into the primary and the split specimen, sealed and labeled. The label is initialed by the driver.
 - m. The driver is required to read and sign the statement on the chain of custody form certifying the specimens are the driver's.
 - n. The collection site person is required to note on the chain of custody form any unusual behavior or appearance of the driver and any failure to cooperate.
 - o. The collection site person completes the chain of custody form and the driver signs the form indicating the collection is complete. Failure of the driver to sign the form after the drug test is not considered a refusal to test. However, the collection site person notifies the school district contact person and notes the driver's failure to sign on the form.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

- p. The specimens are packaged for shipping to the laboratory and are shipped immediately or placed in secure storage until they can be shipped.
- 6. Laboratory.
 - a. The laboratory used by the school district's drug and alcohol testing program is certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Certified laboratories meet the testing procedures, personnel and record keeping requirements of the law.
 - b. Upon arrival of the specimen at the laboratory, the split specimen is stored and the primary specimen is tested.
 - (1) A positive drug test result on the initial test of the primary specimen requires a confirmation drug test of the primary specimen.
 - (2) The split specimen is discarded if the primary specimen has a negative drug test result
- 7. Medical Review Officer (MRO) reviews drug test results.
 - a. The MRO may release drug testing records of a driver to unauthorized individuals only with the written consent of the driver.
 - b. The MRO keeps a record of negative drug test results and reports negative drug test results to the school district, usually within two working days.
 - c. The primary role of the MRO is to review and interpret positive drug test results to determine whether a legitimate explanation exists for the positive drug test result.
 - (1) After reviewing the chain of custody form and the laboratory drug test results, the MRO contacts the driver to discuss the positive drug test result prior to notifying the school district and to ask whether the driver requests a drug test of the split sample. The driver's request for a drug test of the split sample must be made within seventy-two hours of talking with the MRO.
 - (2) Upon request of the driver, the split specimen is sent to a second certified laboratory to test only for the drug found in the primary specimen.
 - (3) The MRO contacts the superintendent of schools for assistance if the driver cannot be reached.
 - (4) The superintendent of schools must confidentially inform the driver to contact the MRO.
 - (5) Upon contacting the driver, the superintendent of schools must inform the MRO that the driver was contacted.
 - (6) Drivers who cannot be contacted are placed on temporary medically unqualified status or medical leave.
 - d. The MRO may verify a positive drug test without talking to the driver if:
 - (1) The driver declines the opportunity to discuss the positive drug test.
 - (2) The driver fails to contact the MRO within five days after the superintendent of schools has contacted the driver.
 - (3) MRO verification of positive drug test results under these circumstances can be challenged by the driver if the driver presents the MRO with information documenting a serious illness, injury or other circumstances unavoidably preventing the driver from timely contacting the MRO. The MRO, based on this additional information, may find a legitimate explanation for the positive drug test result and declare the drug test negative.
 - e. The driver is notified of the drugs found in a positive drug test result by the MRO, the superintendent of schools or by certified mail to the driver's last known address.
 - f. The school district receives a written report of the negative and positive drug test results from the MRO.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

F. Pre-employment Testing.

1. Drivers shall submit to a drug test if a job offer is made. The job offer is contingent upon:
 - a. A negative drug test result; and
 - b. A signed written statement authorizing former employers to release all information on the driver related to drugs and alcohol.
2. Prior to allowing a driver to perform a safety-sensitive function, and no later than fourteen days after performing a safety-sensitive function, information must be obtained, or a good faith effort must have been made to obtain the information about the driver's drug and alcohol history.
 - a. The following information must be obtained about the driver for the two year period preceding the date of the application.
 - (1) An alcohol test results of 0.04 breath alcohol concentration or greater;
 - (2) Positive drug test results; and
 - (3) Refusals to be tested.
 - b. The information must be obtained, or a good faith effort made to obtain, the information is the driver is currently performing and will continue to perform a safety-sensitive function.
 - c. The information must be obtained or a good faith effort made to obtain the information if the driver performed a safety-sensitive function and is no longer employed by the school district.
 - d. The information does not need to be obtained if the driver did not perform a safety-sensitive function and is no longer employed by the school district.
 - e. The school district may obtain information held by the prior employer for the two-year period preceding the date of application even if the information came from other employers.
 - f. A good faith effort requires the school district to request and hopefully receive the information prior to the driver driving and no later than fourteen days after first driving by taking the following steps:
 - (1) Obtain the driver's written consent immediately after a conditional employment offer is made.
 - (2) Send a completed consent for Release of Information signed by the driver to prior employers via certified mail.
 - (3) Contact the prior employers' drug and alcohol testing program managers about the status of the request if no response is received within a reasonable period.
 - (4) Take appropriate action (i.e., follow-up with a SAP, terminate employment) if the information received, whether prior to or after the fourteen day period, requires.
 - (5) Document and maintain the documentation of the steps taken to obtain the information when it is not received or the prior employer refuses to submit the information.

G. Random Testing.

1. Annually, ten percent of the average number of drivers are selected for random alcohol tests, and fifty percent of the average number of drivers are selected for random drug tests.
2. The drivers' identification numbers are selected by a scientific method giving each driver an equal chance to be selected.
3. Random tests are unannounced and spread throughout the year.
4. Drivers selected for random alcohol testing are notified just before, during or just after performing a safety-sensitive function. The school district documents why some, if any, drivers were selected but not notified.
5. Drivers selected for random drug testing are notified at any time. The school district must document why some, if any, drivers were selected but not notified.

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6. Once the driver is notified of being selected for a random test, the driver must proceed immediately to the collection site. However, drivers performing a safety-sensitive function must safely stop and proceed to the collection site as soon as possible.
- H. Reasonable Suspicion Testing.
1. A driver may be required to submit to a reasonable suspicion drug test at any time.
 2. A driver may be required to submit to a reasonable suspicion alcohol test just before, during or just after the driver performs a safety-sensitive function or just before, during or just after the time the driver is required to be in compliance with the drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting administrative regulations or the law.
 - a. A reasonable suspicion alcohol test is performed within two hours and no later than eight hours of determining reasonable suspicion.
 - b. If the alcohol test is not given within two hours, the reasons for the delay must be documented.
 - c. If the alcohol test is not given within eight hours, attempts to test are stopped and the reason for not testing must be documented.
 3. A reasonable suspicion test request is made by an employee who received training to determine reasonable suspicion. The reasons for the reasonable suspicion must be documented within twenty four hours or prior to the release of the test results. If more than one employee trained to determine reasonable suspicion observes the driver, that employee must also document their reasons. The school district will provide transportation for the driver to the collection site for testing if reasonable suspicion exists.
- I. Post-Accident Testing.
1. Drivers are subject to both post-accident drug and alcohol testing as soon as possible after an accident in which:
 - a. A fatality, other than the driver, occurred.
 - b. The driver was cited **and** bodily injury occurred to a person who, as a result of the injury, required immediate medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
 - c. The driver was cited **and** one or more motor vehicles incurred disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring a motor vehicle to be transported away from the accident scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
 - (1) "Disabling damage" is damage which precludes the departure of a motor vehicle from the scene of the accident in its usual manner in daylight after simple repairs. It includes damage to motor vehicles that could have been driven but would have been further damaged if so driven.
 - (2) "Disabling damage" excludes damage which can be remedied temporarily at the scene of the accident without special tools or parts.
 - (a) Tire disablement without other damage even if no spare tire is available.
 - (b) Headlight or taillight damage.
 - (c) Damage to turn signals, horn, or windshield wipers which make them inoperative.
 2. Drivers must remain readily available for post-accident testing.
 - a. Drivers who leave the scene or who do not remain readily available are deemed to have refused to test.
 - b. Necessary medical treatment cannot and should not be denied to a driver waiting to complete post-accident drug and alcohol tests.
 3. Alcohol testing requirements.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM REGULATION

- a. The alcohol test is administered within two hours and no later than eight hours of the accident.
 - b. The reasons for administering the test later than two hours after the accident must be documented.
 - c. The reasons for not administering the test within eight hours of the accident must be documented.
 - d. Drivers are prohibited from consuming alcohol for eight hours after the accident or until the alcohol test is completed.
4. Drug testing requirements.
- a. The drug test is administered as soon as possible and no later than 32 hours after the accident.
 - b. The reasons for not administering the test must be documented.
5. Results of drug or alcohol testing conducted by law enforcement officers or other officials on the scene with independent authority to conduct such tests are presumed valid if the testing conforms with the law. The school district must receive a copy of the results to use them.
- J. School district responsibilities.
1. Provide drivers with information on the drug and alcohol testing requirements of the drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting administrative regulations and the law, including the driver's obligations.
 2. Supervisors of drivers or employees designated to determine reasonable suspicion must receive sixty minutes of training on alcohol misuse and sixty minutes of training on drug use. The training must address the physical, behavioral, speech and performance indicators of probable alcohol misuse and drug use. The reasonable suspicion training certificate must be maintained by the school district until the employee leaves employment of the school district or is no longer authorized to make reasonable suspicion determination.
 3. Provide drivers with instructions prior to the driver operating a school vehicle to enable the driver to comply with the drug and alcohol testing requirements.
 4. Disallow drivers to report to work or perform a safety-sensitive function when the school district has actual knowledge of a driver's drug use whether or not a drug test was conducted.
 5. Disallow drivers to report to work or perform a safety-sensitive function when the school district has actual knowledge of a driver with 0.02 alcohol concentration or greater whether or not an alcohol test was conducted.
 6. Ensure, through the school district's drug and alcohol testing program service provider, that the quality assurance plan, developed by the manufacturer and approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the evidentiary testing device or saliva alcohol testing device used for alcohol testing of its drivers, describes the inspection, maintenance and calibration requirements and intervals for the device.
 7. Ensure, through the school district's drug and alcohol testing program service provider, that the collection site person using an evidentiary breath testing device is a certified breath alcohol technician (BAT) or saliva test technician.
 8. Ensure, through the school district's drug and alcohol testing program service provided, that the collection site person using a saliva alcohol testing device is a certified BAT or saliva Test Technician (STT).

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- K. Consequences of violating the drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting administrative regulations or the law.
1. Each violation is dealt with based on the circumstances surrounding the violation. The following consequences may result from a violation.
 - a. Drivers may be disciplined up to and including termination.
 - b. Drivers may not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions.
 - c. Drivers may be advised of the resources available to them in evaluating and resolving problems associated with the misuse of alcohol or use of drugs.
 - d. Drivers refusing to submit to drug and/or alcohol testing are considered insubordinate and are subject to termination.
 - e. Drivers/applicants who refuse to submit to or cooperate with the drug and/or alcohol testing process and requirements shall be disqualified from further consideration.
 2. Nothing in the drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting administrative regulations or the law relating to drug and alcohol testing limits or restricts the right of the board or superintendent to discipline, up to and including termination, a driver for conduct which violates the school district's policies, supporting administrative regulations and procedures.
- L. Drug and Alcohol Testing Records.
1. Drug and alcohol testing records are stored in locked files at limited access locations separate and apart from the driver's general personnel records.
 2. The records are released only with the written consent of the driver. Only those records specifically authorized for release may be released. However:
 - a. Records may be released to appropriate government agencies without a driver's written consent.
 - b. Records may be released to appropriate school district employees without a driver's written consent.
 - c. School districts may, without a driver's written consent, make a driver's drug and alcohol test records available to a decision maker in a lawsuit, grievance or other proceeding initiated by or on behalf of the driver and arising from the result of an alcohol or drug test under the drug and alcohol testing program policy, its supporting regulations or the law or from the school district's determination that the driver violated the drug and alcohol testing program, its supporting regulations, or the law.
 3. With a written request, drivers may access and copy their drug and alcohol test records in accordance with the board policy related to employee records. A driver is not denied access to these records for failure to pay fees associated with other records.
 4. The following records of the school district's drug and alcohol testing programs are maintained for the time period indicated.
 - a. One year:
 - (1) Records of negative and canceled drug test results and alcohol test results of less than 0.02 alcohol concentration.
 - (2) Records related to a driver's test results.
 - (3) Records related to other violations of the law.
 - (4) Records related to substance abuse evaluations.
 - b. Two years:
 - (1) Records related to the alcohol and drug collection process, except calibration of evidentiary breath testing devices, and training.
 - c. Five years:
 - (1) Alcohol test results of 0.02 alcohol concentration and greater;

- (2) Verified positive drug test results;
 - (3) Documentation of refusals to take required alcohol and/or drug tests;
 - (4) Evidentiary breath testing device calibration documentation;
 - (5) Driver substance abuse evaluations and referrals; and
 - (6) Annual calendar year summary.
 - (7) Records related to the administration of the drug and alcohol testing program.
- d. Forever or as designated below:
- (1) Reasonable suspicion training certificates must be retained two years after the employee is no longer authorized to make a reasonable suspicion determination.
 - (2) Records related to the education and training of drivers must be retained two years after the employee ceases to perform a safety-sensitive function.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Air blank - a reading by an evidentiary breath testing device (EBT) of ambient air containing non alcohol.

Alcohol - the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol, ethyl alcohol, or other low molecular weight alcohols including methyl and isopropyl alcohol.

Alcohol concentration (or content) - the alcohol in a volume of breath expressed in terms of grams of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath as indicated by an evidentiary breath alcohol test or saliva alcohol test under the law.

Alcohol use - the consumption of any beverage, mixture or preparation, including any medication, containing alcohol.

BAC - breath alcohol concentration.

Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT) - an individual who instructs and assists drivers in the alcohol testing process and operates an evidentiary breath testing device.

Canceled or invalid test - in drug testing it is a drug test that has been declared invalid by a Medical Review Officer or a specimen that has been rejected for testing by a laboratory. In alcohol testing it is a test that is deemed to be invalid under the law. A canceled test drug or alcohol test is neither a positive nor a negative test.

Chain of Custody - procedures to account for the integrity of each urine specimen by tracking its handling and storage from point of specimen collection to final disposition of the specimen. With respect to drug testing, these procedures require that an appropriate drug testing custody form be used from time of collection to receipt by the laboratory and that upon receipt by the laboratory an appropriate laboratory chain of custody form(s) account(s) for the sample or sample aliquots within the laboratory.

Collection site - a place where drivers present themselves for the purpose of providing body fluid or a tissue sample to be analyzed for specific drugs or breath alcohol concentration.

Confirmation test - for alcohol testing it is a second test following a screening alcohol test with a result of 0.02 breath alcohol concentration or greater that provides quantitative data of alcohol concentration. For drug testing it is a second analytical procedure (GC/MS) to identify the presence of a specific drug or metabolite which is independent of the initial test and which uses a different technique and chemical principle from that of the initial test in order to ensure reliability and accuracy.

Controlled substances/Drugs - marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and phencyclidine.

Driver - any person who operates a school vehicle. This includes, but is not limited to: full time, regularly employed drivers; casual, intermittent or occasional drivers; leased drivers and independent, owner-operator contractors who are either directly employed by or under lease to the school district or who operate a school vehicle at the direction of or with the consent of the school district. For the purposes of pre-employment/pre-duty testing only, the term "driver" includes applicants for drivers of school vehicles positions.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Initial test (or screening test) - in drug testing it is an immunoassay screen to eliminate "negative" urine specimens from further consideration. In alcohol testing it is an analytic procedure to determine whether a driver may have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in a breath specimen.

Licensed medical practitioner - a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable federal, state, local, or foreign laws and regulations, to prescribe controlled substances and other drugs.

Medical review officer (MRO) - a licensed physician (medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy) responsible for receiving laboratory results generated by an employer's drug testing program who has knowledge of substance abuse disorders and has appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate a driver's confirmed positive test result together with the driver's medical history and any other relevant bio-medical information.

Non-suspicion-based post-accident testing - testing of a driver after an accident without regard to whether there is any reasonable suspicion of drug usage, reasonable cause to believe the driver has been operating the school vehicle while under the influence of drugs, or reasonable cause to believe the driver was at fault in the accident and drug usage may have been a factor.

Performing a safety-sensitive function - a driver is considered to be performing a safety-sensitive function during any period in which the driver is actually performing, ready to perform, or immediately available to perform any safety-sensitive function. (Alcohol tests may only be administered just before, during or just after the performance of a safety-sensitive function. At this time the U.S. Department of Transportation is interpreting this language to mean thirty minutes before or thirty minutes after the performance of a safety-sensitive function.)

Random Selection Process - when drug and alcohol tests are unannounced and every driver has an equal chance of being selected for testing.

Reasonable suspicion - when the school district believes the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the driver are indicative of the use of drugs or alcohol.

Refusal to test - when a driver (1) fails to provide adequate breath for alcohol testing without a valid medical explanation after he or she has received notice of the requirement for breath testing in accordance with the provisions of the law, (2) fails to provide adequate urine for drug testing without a valid medical explanation after he or she has received notice of the requirement for urine testing in accordance with the provisions of the law, or (3) engages in conduct that clearly obstructs the testing process. A refusal to test is treated as a positive drug test result or an alcohol test result of 0.04 alcohol concentration or greater.

Safety-sensitive function - all time from the time when a driver begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time the driver is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work. (Alcohol tests may only be administered just before, during or just after the performance of a safety-sensitive function. At this time the U.S. Department of Transportation is interpreting this language to mean thirty minutes before or thirty minutes after the performance of a safety-sensitive function.)

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Saliva test technician (STT) - an individual who has successfully completed U. S. DOT approved training for saliva alcohol testing who instructs and assists drivers in the initial (screening) alcohol testing process and operates a non-evidentiary breath testing or saliva testing device.

School vehicle - a vehicle owned, leased, and/or operated at the direction or with the consent of the school district which transports sixteen or more persons, including the driver, or weighs over twenty-six thousand one pounds and requires the driver to have/possess a commercial driver's license in order to operate the vehicle.

Split specimen/split sample - the division of the urine specimen into thirty milliliters in a specimen bottle (the primary sample) and into at least fifteen milliliters in second specimen bottle (the split sample).

Substance abuse professional (SAP) - a licensed physician (medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy) or a licensed or certified psychologist, social worker, employee assistance professional, or addiction counselor (certified by the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Certification Commission) with knowledge of, and clinical experience in, the diagnosis and treatment of alcohol and controlled substances-related disorders.

SMOKING AND NONSMOKING EMPLOYEE WORK AREAS

School district premises shall be off limits for smoking and use of other tobacco products at all times. The buildings, grounds, and vehicles shall be designated as smoke-free at all times. School district personnel who do smoke or use other tobacco products may do so only during their lunch break or preparation periods and may not do so in district facilities. School district personnel who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

It shall be the responsibility of all school district personnel to enforce this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 98A, 279.9, 297 (2015).

Cross Reference: 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being
502.7 Smoking, Drinking, and Drugs

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

The board recognizes the contribution of good health to the performance and well-being of the employee and the school district. The board supports and encourages a wellness program.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the school nurse, to develop, oversee, and maintain a wellness program.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND APPEARANCE

Employees are role models for the students who come in contact with them during and after school hours. The board recognizes the positive effect employees can have on students in this capacity. To this end, the board strongly suggests and encourages employees to dress themselves, groom themselves and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the educational environment.

Employees will conduct themselves in a professional manner. Employees will dress in attire appropriate for their position. Clothing should be neat, clean, and in good taste. Discretion and common sense call for an avoidance of extremes which would interfere with or have an effect on the educational process.

Licensed employees of the school district, including administrators, will follow the code of ethics for their profession as established by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2015).
282 I.A.C. 13.

Cross Reference: 307 Administrator Code of Ethics
401.1 Employee Orientation
403.6 Harassment
403.7 Substance-Free Workplace
407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS REGULATION

CHAPTER 25

282—25.1(272) Scope of standards. This code of professional conduct and ethics constitutes mandatory minimum standards of practice for all licensed practitioners as defined in Iowa Code chapter 272. The adherence to certain professional and ethical standards is essential to maintaining the integrity of the education profession.

282—25.2(272) Definitions. Except where otherwise specifically defined by law:

“Administrative and supervisory personnel” means any licensed employee such as superintendent, associate superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, associate principal, assistant principal, or other person who does not have as a primary duty the instruction of pupils in the schools.

“Board” means the Iowa board of educational examiners.

“Discipline” means the process of sanctioning a license, certificate or authorization issued by the board.

“Ethics” means a set of principles governing the conduct of all persons governed by these rules.

“Fraud” means knowingly providing false information or representations on an application for licensure or employment, or knowingly providing false information or representations made in connection with the discharge of duties.

“License” means any license, certificate, or authorization granted by the board.

“Licensee” means any person holding a license, certificate, or authorization granted by the board.

“Practitioner” means an administrator, teacher, or other licensed professional, including an individual who holds a statement of professional recognition, who provides educational assistance to students.

“Responsibility” means a duty for which a person is accountable by virtue of licensure.

“Right” means a power, privilege, or immunity secured to a person by law.

“Student” means a person, regardless of age, enrolled in a prekindergarten through grade 12 school, who is receiving direct or indirect assistance from a person licensed by the board.

“Teacher” means any person engaged in the instructional program for prekindergarten through grade 12 children, including a person engaged in teaching, administration, and supervision, and who is required by law to be licensed for the position held.

[ARC 7979B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 9/2/09]

282—25.3(272) Standards of professional conduct and ethics. Licensees are required to abide by all federal, state, and local laws applicable to the fulfillment of professional obligations. Violation of federal, state, or local laws in the fulfillment of professional obligations constitutes unprofessional and unethical conduct which can result in disciplinary action by the board. In addition, it is hereby deemed unprofessional and unethical for any licensee to violate any of the following standards of professional conduct and ethics:

25.3(1) Standard I—conviction of crimes, sexual or other immoral conduct with or toward a student, and child and dependent adult abuse. Violation of this standard includes:

a. *Fraud.* Fraud means the same as defined in rule 282—25.2(272).

b. *Criminal convictions.* The commission of or conviction for a criminal offense as defined by Iowa law provided that the offense is relevant to or affects teaching or administrative performance.

(1) Disqualifying criminal convictions. The board shall deny an application for licensure and shall revoke a previously issued license if the applicant or licensee has, on or after July 1, 2002, been convicted of, has pled guilty to, or has been found guilty of the following criminal offenses, regardless of whether the judgment of conviction or sentence was deferred:

1. Any of the following forcible felonies included in Iowa Code section 702.11: child endangerment, assault, murder, sexual abuse, or kidnapping;

2. Any of the following criminal sexual offenses, as provided in Iowa Code chapter 709, involving a child:

- First-, second- or third-degree sexual abuse committed on or with a person who is under the age of 18;
- Lascivious acts with a child;
- Assault with intent to commit sexual abuse;
- Indecent contact with a child;
- Sexual exploitation by a counselor;
- Lascivious conduct with a minor;
- Sexual exploitation by a school employee;
- Enticing a minor under Iowa Code section 710.10; or
- Human trafficking under Iowa Code section 710A.2;

3. Incest involving a child as prohibited by Iowa Code section 726.2;

4. Dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to minors as prohibited by Iowa Code section 728.2;

5. Telephone dissemination of obscene material to minors as prohibited by Iowa Code section 728.15;

6. Any offense specified in the laws of another jurisdiction, or any offense that may be prosecuted in a federal, military, or foreign court, that is comparable to an offense listed in subparagraph 25.3(1) "b"(1); or

7. Any offense under prior laws of this state or another jurisdiction, or any offense under prior law that was prosecuted in a federal, military, or foreign court, that is comparable to an offense listed in subparagraph 25.3(1) "b"(1).

(2) Other criminal convictions and founded child abuse. In determining whether a person should be denied a license or whether a licensee should be disciplined based upon any other criminal conviction, including a conviction for an offense listed in 25.3(1) "b"(1) which occurred before July 1, 2002, or a founded report of abuse of a child, the board shall consider:

1. The nature and seriousness of the crime or founded abuse in relation to the position sought;

2. The time elapsed since the crime or founded abuse was committed;

3. The degree of rehabilitation which has taken place since the crime or founded abuse was committed;

4. The likelihood that the person will commit the same crime or abuse again;

5. The number of criminal convictions or founded abuses committed; and

6. Such additional factors as may in a particular case demonstrate mitigating circumstances or heightened risk to public safety.

c. Sexual involvement or indecent contact with a student. Sexual involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following acts, whether consensual or nonconsensual: fondling or touching the inner thigh, groin, buttocks, anus or breasts of a student; permitting or causing to fondle or touch the practitioner's inner thigh, groin, buttocks, anus, or breasts; or the commission of any sex act as defined in Iowa Code section 702.17.

d. Sexual exploitation of a minor. The commission of or any conviction for an offense prohibited by Iowa Code section 728.12, Iowa Code chapter 709 or 18 U.S.C. Section 2252A(a)(5)(B).

e. Student abuse. Licensees shall maintain professional relationships with all students, both

inside and outside the classroom. The following acts or behavior constitutes unethical conduct without regard to the existence of a criminal charge or conviction:

- (1) Committing any act of physical abuse of a student;
- (2) Committing any act of dependent adult abuse on a dependent adult student;
- (3) Committing or soliciting any sexual or otherwise indecent act with a student or any minor;
- (4) Soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student;
- (5) Furnishing alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs or drug paraphernalia to any student or knowingly allowing a student to consume alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs in the presence of the licensee;
- (6) Failing to report any suspected act of child or dependent adult abuse as required by state law; or
- (7) Committing or soliciting any sexual conduct as defined in Iowa Code section 709.15(3)“b” or soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic relationship with any person who was a student within 90 days prior to any conduct alleged in the complaint, if that person was taught by the practitioner or was supervised by the practitioner in any school activity when that person was a student.

25.3(2) Standard II—alcohol or drug abuse. Violation of this standard includes:

- a. Being on school premises or at a school-sponsored activity involving students while under the influence of, possessing, using, or consuming illegal or unauthorized drugs or abusing legal drugs.
- b. Being on school premises or at a school-sponsored activity involving students while under the influence of, possessing, using, or consuming alcohol.

25.3(3) Standard III—misrepresentation, falsification of information. Violation of this standard includes:

- a. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding professional qualifications, criminal history, college credit, staff development credit, degrees, academic award, or employment history when applying for employment or licensure.
- b. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding compliance reports submitted to federal, state, and other governmental agencies.
- c. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information submitted in the course of an official inquiry or investigation.
- d. Falsifying any records or information submitted to the board in compliance with the license renewal requirements imposed under 282—Chapter 20.
- e. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding the evaluation of students or personnel, including improper administration of any standardized tests, including, but not limited to, changing test answers, providing test answers, copying or teaching identified test items, or using inappropriate accommodations or modifications for such tests.

25.3(4) Standard IV—misuse of public funds and property. Violation of this standard includes:

- a. Failing to account properly for funds collected that were entrusted to the practitioner in an educational context.
- b. Converting public property or funds to the personal use of the practitioner.
- c. Submitting fraudulent requests for reimbursement of expenses or for pay.
- d. Combining public or school-related funds with personal funds.
- e. Failing to use time or funds granted for the purpose for which they were intended.

25.3(5) Standard V—violations of contractual obligations.

- a. Violation of this standard includes:
 - (1) Asking a practitioner to sign a written professional employment contract before the practitioner has been unconditionally released from a current contract, unless the practitioner provided notice to the practitioner’s employing board as set forth in subparagraph 25.3(5)“b”(2).
 - (2) Abandoning a written professional employment contract without prior unconditional release

by the employer.

(3) As an employer, executing a written professional employment contract with a practitioner which requires the performance of duties that the practitioner is not legally qualified to perform.

(4) As a practitioner, executing a written professional employment contract which requires the performance of duties that the practitioner is not legally qualified to perform.

b. In addressing complaints based upon contractual obligations, the board shall consider factors beyond the practitioner's control. For purposes of enforcement of this standard, a practitioner will not be found to have abandoned an existing contract if:

(1) The practitioner obtained a release from the employing board before discontinuing services under the contract; or

(2) The practitioner provided notice to the employing board no later than the latest of the following dates:

1. The practitioner's last work day of the school year;
2. The date set for return of the contract as specified in statute; or
3. June 30.

25.3(6) Standard VI—unethical practice toward other members of the profession, parents, students, and the community. Violation of this standard includes:

- a.* Denying the student, without just cause, access to varying points of view.
- b.* Deliberately suppressing or distorting subject matter for which the educator bears responsibility.
- c.* Failing to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the student or creating conditions harmful to student learning.
- d.* Conducting professional business in such a way that the practitioner repeatedly exposes students or other practitioners to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
- e.* Engaging in any act of illegal discrimination, or otherwise denying a student or practitioner participation in the benefits of any program on the grounds of race, creed, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or national origin.
- f.* Soliciting students or parents of students to purchase equipment, supplies, or services from the practitioner for the practitioner's personal advantage.
- g.* Accepting gifts from vendors or potential vendors where there may be the appearance of or an actual conflict of interest.
- h.* Intentionally disclosing confidential information including, but not limited to, unauthorized sharing of information concerning student academic or disciplinary records, health and medical information, assessment or testing results, or family income. Licensees shall comply with state and federal laws and local school board policies relating to the confidentiality of student records, unless disclosure is required or permitted by law.
- i.* Refusing to participate in a professional inquiry when requested by the board.
- j.* Aiding, assisting, or abetting an unlicensed person in the completion of acts for which licensure is required.
- k.* Failing to self-report to the board within 60 days any founded child abuse report, or any conviction for a criminal offense listed in 25.3(1) "b"(1) which requires revocation of the practitioner's license.
- l.* Delegating tasks to unqualified personnel.
- m.* Failing to comply with federal, state, and local laws applicable to the fulfillment of professional obligations.
- n.* Allowing another person to use one's practitioner license for any purpose.
- o.* Performing services beyond the authorized scope of practice for which the individual is licensed or prepared or performing services without holding a valid license.

- p. Falsifying, forging, or altering a license issued by the board.
- q. Failure of the practitioner holding a contract under Iowa Code section 279.13 to disclose to the school official responsible for determining assignments a teaching assignment for which the practitioner is not properly licensed.
- r. Failure of a school official responsible for assigning licensed practitioners holding contracts under Iowa Code section 279.13 to adjust an assignment if the practitioner discloses to the official that the practitioner is not properly licensed for an assignment.

25.3(7) Standard VII—compliance with state law governing obligations to state or local governments, child support obligations, and board orders. Violation of this standard includes:

- a. Failing to comply with 282—Chapter 8 concerning payment of debts to state or local governments.
- b. Failing to comply with 282—Chapter 10 concerning child support obligations.
- c. Failing to comply with a board order.

25.3(8) Standard VIII—incompetence. Violation of this standard includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Willfully or repeatedly departing from or failing to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing educational practice in the state of Iowa.

- b. Willfully or repeatedly failing to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

CODE OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGULATION

CHAPTER 26

282—26.1(272) Purpose. The code of professional conduct and ethics in 282—Chapter 25 defines unprofessional and unethical conduct justifying disciplinary sanction. The board acknowledges that the discharge of professional obligations should occur in recognition of certain fundamental rights and responsibilities. Accordingly, the board recognizes the following rights and responsibilities of all educators licensed under IOWA CODE Ch. 272 and agrees that the exercise of these rights and responsibilities may present mitigating facts and circumstances in the board's evaluation of allegations of unprofessional or unethical conduct.

282—26.2(272) Rights. Educators licensed under IOWA CODE Ch. 272 have the following rights:

1. The educator has a right to be licensed and endorsed under professional standards established and enforced by the board.
2. The educator has a right to refuse assignments for which the educator is not legally authorized, in terms of holding a valid Iowa license with the appropriate endorsement(s) or approval(s).
3. The educator has a right, subject to board and administrator authority, to exercise professional judgment in the evaluation, selection, and use of teaching methods and instructional materials appropriate to the needs, abilities, and background of each student.

282—26.3(272) Responsibilities. Educators licensed under IOWA CODE Ch. 272 have the following responsibilities:

1. The educator has a responsibility to maintain and improve the educator's professional competence.
2. The educator has a responsibility to accept only those assignments for which the educator is legally authorized.
3. The educator has a responsibility to provide conditions that are conducive to teaching and student learning.
4. The educator shall protect students from conditions harmful to learning or to health or safety.
5. The educator shall not, without just cause, restrain a student from independent action in the pursuit of learning and shall not, without just cause, deny a student access to varying points of view.
6. The educator shall not use professional relationships with students for personal advantage.
7. The educator shall not discriminate against any student on the grounds of national or ethnic origin, religion, age, sex, disability, membership in a definable minority, or marital status, nor grant any discriminatory consideration or advantage.
8. The educator shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession.
9. The educator shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information regarding a student or the student's family members that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure is required by law or is necessary for the personal safety of the student or others.
10. The educator who has reasonable basis to believe that a student has been abused, as defined by law, shall make all reports required by law and the IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE and which are necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the student.
11. In the administration of discipline, the educator shall treat all students with respect and in compliance with all policies of the school district served by the educator.
12. The educator shall provide accurate, truthful, and complete information to the board and to the local education system concerning all licensure transactions.
13. The educator shall not refuse to participate in a professional inquiry, when requested by the board.
14. The educator shall not require or direct another educator to violate any provisions of the code of professional conduct and ethics or any rights of a student, parent, educator or citizen.
15. The educator shall not delegate assigned tasks to unqualified personnel.

These rules are intended to implement IOWA CODE § 272.2(1) "a."

LICENSED EMPLOYEE QUALIFICATIONS, RECRUITMENT, SELECTION

Persons interested in a licensed position, other than administrative positions which will be employed in accordance with board policies in Series 300, "Administration," will have an opportunity to apply and qualify for licensed positions in the school district in accordance with applicable laws and school district policies regarding equal employment. Job applicants for licensed positions will be considered on the basis of the following:

- Training, experience, and skill;
- Nature of the occupation;
- Demonstrated competence; and
- Possession of, or ability to obtain, state license if required for the position.

All job openings shall be submitted to the Iowa Workforce Development for posting on IowaWORKS.gov the online state job posting system. Additional announcements of the position is in a manner which the superintendent believes will inform potential applicants about the position. Applications for employment may be obtained from and completed applications are returned to the school district administrative office. Whenever possible, the preliminary screening of applicants will be conducted by the administrator who will be directly supervising and overseeing the person being hired.

The board will employ licensed employees after receiving a recommendation from the superintendent. However, the superintendent will have the authority to employ a licensed employee on a temporary basis until a recommendation can be made and action can be taken by the board on the position.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e, 12101 *et seq.*
Iowa Code §§ 20; 35C; 84A.6(4)(b); 216; 279.13;
281 I.A.C. 12.
282 I.A.C. 14.

Cross Reference: 401.2 Equal Employment Opportunity
405 Licensed Employees - General
410.1 Substitute Teachers

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed May 20, 2024

Revised May 20, 2024

LICENSED EMPLOYEE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS

The board will enter into a written contract with licensed employees, other than administrators, employed on a regular basis.

Each contract will be for a period of one year.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to complete the contracts for licensed employees and present them to the board for approval. The contracts, after being signed by the board president, are returned to the superintendent. The superintendent will obtain the employee's signature. After being signed, the contract is filed with the board secretary.

Legal Reference: Harris v. Manning Independent School District of Manning, 245 Iowa 1295, 66 N.W.2d 438 (1954).
 Shackelford v. District Township of Beaver, Polk County, 203 Iowa 243, 212 N.W. 467 (1927).
 Burkhead v. Independent School District of Independence, 107 Iowa 29, 77 N.W. 491 (1898).
 Iowa Code chs. 20; 279 (2015).

Cross Reference: 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
 405.4 Licensed Employee Continuing Contracts
 407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTINUING CONTRACTS

Contracts entered into with licensed employees, other than an administrator, will continue from year to year except as modified or terminated as provided by law. The board may issue temporary and nonrenewable contracts in accordance with law.

Licensed employees whose contracts will be recommended for termination by the board will receive due process as required by law. The superintendent will make a recommendation to the board for the termination of the licensed employee's contract.

Licensed employees who wish to resign, to be released from a contract, or to retire must comply with applicable law and board policies.

Legal Reference: Ar-We-Va Community School District v. Long and Henkenius, 292 N.W.2d 402 (Iowa 1980).
 Bruton v. Ames Community School District, 291 N.W.2d 351 (Iowa 1980).
 Hartman v. Merged Area VI Community College, 270 N.W.2d 822 (Iowa 1978).
 Keith v. Community School District of Wilton in the Counties of Cedar and Muscatine, 262 N.W.2d 249 (Iowa 1978).
 Iowa Code § 272; 279

Cross Reference: 405.3 Licensed Employee Individual Contracts
 405.9 Licensed Employee Probationary Status
 407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE WORK DAY

The work day for licensed employees will begin each day of the school year at a time established by the superintendent. Licensed employees who are employed only during the academic year will have the same work day as other licensed employees. "Day" is defined as one work day regardless of full-time or part-time status of an employee.

Licensed employees are to be in their assigned school building during the work day. Advance approval to be absent from the school building must be obtained from the principal whenever the licensed employees must leave the school building during the work day.

The building principal is authorized to make changes in the work day in order to facilitate the education program. These changes are reported to the superintendent.

The work day outlined in this policy is a minimum work day. Nothing in this policy prohibits licensed employees from working additional hours outside the work day.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8

Cross Reference: 200.3 Powers of the Board of Directors

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT

Determining the assignment of each licensed employee is the responsibility of and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments the board will consider the qualifications of each licensed employee and the needs of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make recommendations to the board regarding the assignment of licensed employees.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ ~~20.9~~; 279.8

Cross Reference: 200.2 Powers of the Board of Directors

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE TRANSFERS

Determining the location where an employee's assignment will be carried out is the responsibility and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments the board will consider the qualifications of each licensed employee and the needs of the school district.

A transfer may be initiated by the employee, the principal, or the superintendent.

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between the West Hancock Education Association and the board regarding transfers of employees will be followed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ ~~20-9~~; 216.14; 279.8

Cross Reference: 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
405.6 Licensed Employee Assignment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Evaluation of licensed employees on their skills, abilities, and competence is an ongoing process supervised by the building principals and conducted by approved evaluators. The goal of the formal evaluation of licensed employees, other than administrators, but including extracurricular employees, is to improve the education program, to maintain licensed employees who meet or exceed the board's standards of performance, to clarify the licensed employee's role, to ascertain the areas in need of improvement, to clarify the immediate priorities of the board, and to develop a working relationship between the administrators and other employees.

The formal evaluation criteria is in writing and approved by the board. The formal evaluation will provide an opportunity for the evaluator and the licensed employee to discuss performance and the future areas of growth. The formal evaluation is completed by the evaluator, signed by the licensed employee and filed in the licensed employee's personnel file. This policy supports, and does not preclude, the ongoing informal evaluation of the licensed employee's skills, abilities and competence.

Licensed employees will be required to:

- Demonstrate the ability to enhance academic performance and support for and implementation of the school district's student achievement goals.
- Demonstrate competency in content knowledge appropriate to the teaching position.
- Demonstrate competency in planning and preparation for instruction.
- Use strategies to deliver instruction that meets the multiple learning needs of students.
- Use a variety of methods to monitor student learning.
- Demonstrate competence in classroom management.
- Engage in professional growth.
- Fulfill professional responsibilities established by the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure licensed employees are evaluated. New and probationary licensed employees are evaluated at least twice each year.

Legal Reference: Aplington Community School District v. PERB, 392 N.W.2d 495 (Iowa 1986).
Saydel Education Association v. PERB, 333 N.W.2d 486 (Iowa 1983).
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279
281 I.A.C. 83; 12.3

Cross Reference: 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
405.9 Licensed Employee Probationary Status

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE PROBATIONARY STATUS

The first three consecutive years of a licensed employee's contract is a probationary period unless the employee has already successfully completed the probationary period in an Iowa school district. New employees who have successfully completed a probationary period in a previous Iowa school district will serve a two year probationary period. For purposes of this policy, an employee will have met the requirements for successfully completing a probationary period in another Iowa school district if, at the teacher's most recent performance evaluation, the teacher received at least a satisfactory or better evaluation and the individual has not engaged in conduct which would disqualify the teacher for a continuing contract.

Only the board, in its discretion, may waive the probationary period. The board may extend the probationary period for one additional year with the consent of the licensed employee. The board will make the decision to extend or waive a licensed employee's probationary status based upon the superintendent's recommendation. During this probationary period the board may terminate the licensed employee's contract at the end of the year without cause or discharge the employee consistent with applicable law and board policies.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279

Cross Reference: 405.4 Licensed Employee Continuing Contracts
405.8 Licensed Employee Evaluation

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

The board will establish compensation for licensed employees' positions keeping in mind the financial condition of the school district, the education and experience of the licensed employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, and other factors deemed relevant by the board.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually regarding licensed employee compensation. The base wages of licensed employees are subject to review and modification through the collective bargaining process.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8

Cross Reference: 405 Licensed Employees - General
406.2 Licensed Employee Salary Schedule Advancement

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised March 19, 2018

LICENSED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ADVANCEMENT

The board will determine if licensed employees will advance in compensation for their licensed employees' positions, keeping in mind the financial condition of the school district, the education and experience of the licensed employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, and other considerations as determined by the board.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board for the advancement of licensed employees.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8

Cross Reference: 405 Licensed Employees - General
406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised September 17, 2018

LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTINUED EDUCATION CREDIT

Continued education on the part of licensed employees may entitle them to advancement in compensation. Licensed employees who have completed additional hours may be considered for advancement. The board may determine which licensed employees will advance in compensation for continued education keeping in mind the financial condition of the school district, the education and experience of the licensed employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, and any other items deemed relevant by the board.

Licensed employees who wish to obtain additional education for advancement must notify the superintendent by June 1 of the school year preceding the actual year when advancement occurs. The superintendent has the discretion to approve credit outside the employee's area of endorsement or responsibility.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board for the advancement of a licensed employee.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8

Cross Reference: 405 Licensed Employees - General
406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised March 19, 2018

LICENSED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION FOR EXTRA DUTY

A licensed employee may volunteer or be required to take on extra duty, with the extra duty being secondary to the major responsibility of the licensed employee. The board may, in its sole discretion, establish compensation for extra duty licensed employee positions, keeping in mind the financial condition of the school district, the education and experience of the licensed employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, and other considerations as determined by the board.

Vacant extra duty positions, for which extra compensation will be earned, will be posted to allow qualified licensed employees to volunteer for the extra duty. If no licensed employee volunteers for extra duty, the superintendent will assign the extra duty positions to qualified licensed employees. The licensed employee will receive compensation for the extra duty required to be performed.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually as to which licensed employees will have the extra duty, and the compensation for extra duty, for the board's review.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8, .13-.15, .19A-B

Cross Reference: 405 Licensed Employees - General
406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised March 19, 2018

LICENSED EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Licensed employees may be eligible for group benefits as determined by the board and required by law. The board will select the group benefit program(s) and the insurance company or third party administrator which will provide or administer the program.

In accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the board will offer licensed employees who work an average of at least thirty (30) hours per week or one hundred thirty (130) hours per month, based on the measurement method adopted by the board, with minimum essential coverage that is both affordable and provides minimum value. The board will have the authority and right to change or eliminate group benefit programs, other than the group health plan, for its licensed employees.

Licensed employees who work an average of at least thirty (30) hours per week or one hundred thirty (130) hours per month, based on the measurement method adopted by the board, are eligible to participate in the group health plan. Licensed employees who work 30 hours per week are eligible to participate in other ancillary benefits. Employers should maintain documents regarding eligible employees acceptance and rejection of coverage.

Regular part-time employees (i.e., employees who work less than 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month for health benefit purposes or employees who work less than 30 hours per week for benefits other than health) who wish to purchase coverage may participate in group benefit programs by meeting the requirements of the applicable plan. Full-time and regular part-time licensed employees who wish to purchase coverage for their spouse or dependents may do so by meeting the requirements of the applicable plan.

Licensed employees and their spouse and dependents may be allowed to continue coverage of the school district's group health program if they cease employment with the school district by meeting the requirements of the plan.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 85; 85B; 279.12, .27; 509; 509A; 509B (~~2013~~);
Internal Revenue Code § 4980H(c)(4); Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-1(a)(21)(ii).
Shared Responsibility for Employers Regarding Health Coverage, 26 CFR Parts 1, 54 and 301, 78 Fed. Reg. 217, (Jan 2, 2013).
Shared Responsibility for Employers Regarding Health Coverage, 26 CFR Parts 1, 54 and 301, 79 Fed. Reg. 8543 (Feb. 12, 2014).

Cross Reference: 405.1 Licensed Employee Defined
706.2 Payroll Deductions

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE TAX SHELTER PROGRAMS

Employees may elect to have amounts withheld from their pay for items authorized by law, subject to agreement of the district. The board may authorize the administration to make a payroll deduction for licensed employees' tax-sheltered annuity premiums purchased from a company or program if chosen by the board.

Licensed employees wishing to have payroll deductions for tax-sheltered annuities will make a written request to the superintendent. Requests for purchase of change of tax-sheltered annuities may be made during the open enrollment period ending May 15th.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 260C; 273; 294.16
1988 Op. Att'y Gen. 38.
1976 Op. Att'y Gen. 462, 602.
1966 Op. Att'y Gen. 211, 220.

Cross Reference: 706 Payroll Procedures

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised March 19, 2018

LICENSED EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION

A licensed employee who wishes to resign must notify the superintendent in writing within the following time frame:

- twenty-eight (28) days of the date of issuance of the contracts for the subsequent school year, if contracts have been issued on or before April 15
- twenty-one (21) days of the date of issuance of the contracts for the subsequent school year, if contracts have been issued after April 15.

Extensions beyond these periods of time will not be granted. This applies to regular contracts for the licensed employee's regular duties and for an extracurricular contract for extra duty. Resignations of this nature will be accepted by the board.

The board may require an individual who has resigned from an extracurricular contract to accept the resigned position for only the subsequent school year when the board has made a good faith effort to find a replacement and the licensed employee is continuing to be employed by the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 279.13, .19A (2015).

Cross Reference: 405.3 Licensed Employee Individual Contracts
405.4 Licensed Employee Continuing Contracts
407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised September 19, 2016

LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTRACT RELEASE

Licensed employees who wish to be released from an executed contract must give at least twenty-one days notice to the superintendent. Licensed employees may be released at the discretion of the board. Only in unusual and extreme circumstances will the board release a licensed employee from a contract. The board will have sole discretion to determine what constitutes unusual and extreme circumstances.

Release from a contract will be contingent upon finding a suitable replacement. Licensed employees requesting release from a contract after it has been signed and before it expires may be required to pay the board the cost of advertising or other reasonable administrative costs incurred to locate and hire a suitable replacement. Upon written mutual agreement between the employee and the superintendent, and to the extent allowed by law, the costs may be deducted from the employee's salary. Payment of these costs is a condition for release from the contract at the discretion of the board. Failure of the licensed employee to pay these expenses may result in a cause of action being filed in small claims court.

The superintendent is required to file a complaint with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners against a licensed employee who leaves without proper release from the board.

NOTE: School districts may charge employees for costs incurred in finding a replacement. Employees can only be charged costs, not "penalties." The costs cannot be withheld from money owed the employee unless the employee agrees. If costs are not withheld from moneys owed to the employee, the school district must bill the employee. If the employee fails to pay, the school district's only option for reimbursement is to file a claim in small claims court. The school district also has the option of filing a complaint with the Board of Educational Examiners stating the employee has engaged in unprofessional conduct.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 91A (1); 216; 272; 279.13, .19A, .46.

Cross Reference: 405.3 Licensed Employee Individual Contracts
405.4 Licensed Employee Continuing Contracts
407.3 Licensed Employee Retirement

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed June 19, 2023

Revised June 19, 2023

LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTRACT RELEASE

1. Event.
 - a. The birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's birth;
 - b. The placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's placement;
 - c. To care for the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee if the spouse, son, daughter or parent has a serious health condition; or
 - d. Employee's serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position.
2. Medical certification.
 - a. When required:
 - (1) Employees will be required to present medical certification of the employee's serious health condition and inability to perform the essential functions of the job.
 - (2) Employees will be required to present medical certification of the family member's serious health condition and that it is medically necessary for the employee to care for the family member.
 - b. Employee's medical certification responsibilities:
 - (1) The employee must obtain the certification from the health care provider who is treating the individual with the serious health condition.
 - (2) The school district may require the employee to obtain a second certification by a health care provider chosen by and paid for by the school district if the school district has reason to doubt the validity of the certification an employee submits. The second health care provider cannot, however, be employed by the school district on a regular basis.
 - (3) If the second health care provider disagrees with the first health care provider, then the school district may require a third health care provider to certify the serious health condition. This health care provider must be mutually agreed upon by the employee and the school district and paid for by the school district. This certification or lack of certification is binding upon both the employee and the school district.
 - c. Medical certification will be required at the time the employee completes the late resignation application.

The superintendent is authorized to file a complaint with the Board of Educational Examiners against a licensed employee who leaves without proper release from the board.

LICENSED EMPLOYEE APPLICATION FOR LATE RESIGNATION

I, _____, hereby apply for late resignation from my teaching contract for the _____ contract year. As such, I agree to reimburse the West Hancock Community School District for expenses incurred to locate and hire a suitable replacement. I also understand that if the District is unable to secure a suitable replacement, I still am responsible for reimbursing the West Hancock Community School District for expenses incurred in searching for a suitable replacement. These expenses, as determined by the superintendent based on current costs, include the following items and amounts:

- a. Up to two weeks of advertising in the Sunday Des Moines Register. \$ _____
 - b. Up to three days of salary and fixed charges for the affected building principal who is responsible for screening letters of intent and credentials. \$ _____
 - c. Up to two days of salary and fixed charges for other administrators (other than the superintendent) who may be part of the interviewing team. \$ _____
 - d. Up to two days of salary and fixed charges for teachers who may be part of the interviewing team, up to a maximum of four teachers. \$ _____
 - e. Postage and supply expenses. \$ _____
- TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO THE DISTRICT \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

___ I have attached a cashier's check or money order for the Total Amount Due to the District.

___ I am owed sufficient salary by the District and hereby authorize payroll deduction(s) by the District for the Total Amount Due.

Signature of Employee

Signature of Disinterested Party

Date Submitted to the Superintendent _____

If the licensed employee feels there is justification for the late resignation as allowed in Policy 407.2, Form 407.2E2 must be completed.

LICENSED EMPLOYEE APPLICATION FOR LATE RESIGNATION

I understand the board has the right to waive or amend any of the provisions of Policy 407.2 if it is in the best interests of the district to do so, and that special consideration may be given to employees who resign for certain events, which are consistent with the guidelines meeting the provisions of the Family Medical Act of 1993. I hereby request approval of my Application for Late Resignation due to the following event:

- a. The birth of a son or daughter in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's birth;
- b. The placement of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's placement;
- c. To care for my spouse, son, daughter or parent who has a serious health condition;
- d. My personal serious health condition that makes me unable to perform the essential functions of the my position.

If event c or d applies, I present the following with the Application for Late Resignation:

- a. Medical certification of my personal serious health condition and inability to perform the essential functions of the job.
- b. Medical certification of the family member's serious health condition and that it is medically necessary for me to care for the family member.

Medical certification was obtained according to one or more of the following:

- a. The employee must obtain the certification from the health care provider who is treating the individual with the serious health condition.
- b. The school district may require the employee to obtain a second certification by a health care provider chosen by and paid for by the school district if the school district has reason to doubt the validity of the certification an employee submits. The second health care provider cannot, however, be employed by the school district on a regular basis.
- c. If the second health care provider disagrees with the first health care provider, then the school district may require a third health care provider to certify the serious health condition. This health care provider must be mutually agreed upon by the employee and the school district and paid for by the school district. This certification or lack of certification is binding upon both the employee and the school district.

Signature of Employee

Signature of Disinterested Party

Date Submitted to the Superintendent

LICENSED EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

Licensed employees who will complete their current contract with the board may apply for retirement. No licensed employee will be required to retire at a specific age.

Application for retirement will be considered made when the licensed employee states in writing to the superintendent, no later than the date set by the board for the return of the employee's contract to the board, the intent of the employee to retire. The letter must state the employee's desire to retire and be witnessed by another party other than the principal or the superintendent. Applications made after the date set by the board for the return of the employee's contract to the board may be considered by the board if special circumstances exist. It is within the discretion of the board to determine whether special circumstances exist.

Board action to approve a licensed employee's application for retirement is final and such action constitutes nonrenewal of the employee's contract for the next school year.

Licensed employees who retire under this policy may qualify for retirement benefits through the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System.

Licensed employees and their spouse and dependents are allowed to continue coverage in the school district's group health insurance program at their own expense by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 97B; 216; 279.46
581 I.A.C. 21.

Cross Reference: 401.14 Recognition for Service of Employees

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised February 17, 2020

LICENSED EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION

Licensed employees will perform their assigned job, respect and follow board policy and obey the law. The superintendent is authorized to suspend a licensed employee pending board action on a discharge, for investigation of charges against the employee, and for disciplinary purposes. It is within the discretion of the superintendent to suspend a licensed employee with or without pay.

In the event of a suspension, appropriate due process will be followed.

Legal Reference: Northeast Community Education Association v. Northeast Community School District, 402 N.W.2d 765 (Iowa 1987).
McFarland v. Board of Education of Norwalk Community School District, 277 N.W.2d 901 (Iowa 1979).
Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24; 279.13, .15-.19, .27 (2015).

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
 407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

LICENSED EMPLOYEE REDUCTION IN FORCE

The board has the exclusive authority to determine the appropriate number of licensed employees. A reduction of licensed employees may occur as a result of, but not be limited to, changes in the education program, staff realignment, changes in the size or nature of the student population, financial situation considerations, and other reasons deemed relevant by the board.

The reduction in licensed employees, other than administrators, will be done through normal attrition if possible. If normal attrition does not meet the necessary reduction in force required, the board may terminate licensed employees.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for termination to the board. The process for reduction in force shall be as follows:

The superintendent shall consider the following criteria in making the recommendations:

- Endorsements and educational preparation within the grade level and subject areas in which the employee is now performing;
- Relative skills, ability and demonstrated performance;
- Qualifications for co-curricular programs; and
- Number of continuous years of service to the school district. This will be considered only when the foregoing factors are relatively equal between licensed employees..

Due process for terminations due to a reduction in force will be followed.

Legal Reference Iowa Code §§ 20.

Cross Reference: 407.4 Licensed Employee Suspension
 413.6 Classified Employee Reduction in Force
 703 Budget

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

LICENSED EMPLOYEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The board encourages licensed employees to attend and participate in professional development activities to maintain, develop, and extend their skills. The board will maintain and support an in-service program for licensed employees. Professional development activities will include activities that promote and/or teach about compliance with applicable Iowa laws.

For all professional development programs, the district requires employees to take, the district will provide to the employee notice indicating the section of the law, or rules adopted by the state board of education or board of educational examiners that the district determines requires the employee to participate in the professional development program.

Requests for attendance or participation in a development program, other than those development programs sponsored by the school district, are to the building principal. Approval by the building principal must be obtained prior to attendance by a licensed employee in a professional development program when the attendance would result in the licensed employee being excused from their duties or when the school district pays the expenses for the program.

The building principal or the superintendent will have discretion to allow or disallow licensed employees to attend or participate in the requested event. When making this determination, the value of the program for the licensed employee and the school district, the effect of the licensed employee's absence on the education program and school district operations and the school district's financial situation as well as other factors deemed relevant in the judgment of the superintendent. Requests that involve unusual expenses or overnight travel must also be approved by the superintendent.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8
281 I.A.C. 12.7

Cross Reference:
414.10 Classified Employee Professional Purposes Leave

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised November 21, 2022

LICENSED EMPLOYEE PUBLICATION OR CREATION OF MATERIALS

Materials created by licensed employees and the financial gain there from are the property of the school district if school materials and time were used in their creation and/or such materials were created in the scope of the licensed employee's employment. The licensed employee must seek prior written approval of the superintendent concerning such activities.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.3 Employee Conflict of Interest
606.6 Student Production of Materials and Services

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

LICENSED EMPLOYEE TUTORING

Every effort will be made by the licensed employees to help students with learning problems before recommending that the parents engage a tutor. Since there are exceptional cases when tutoring will help students overcome learning deficiencies, tutoring by licensed employees may be approved by the superintendent.

Licensed employees may only tutor students other than those for whom the teacher is currently exercising teaching, administrative or supervisory responsibility unless approved by the superintendent.

Tutoring for a fee may not take place within school facilities or during regular school hours unless approved by the superintendent.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 401.3 Employee Conflict of Interest
402.7 Employee Outside Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

EMPLOYEE VACATION - HOLIDAYS

The board will determine the amount of vacation and holidays, that will be allowed on an annual basis for employees.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually on vacations and holidays, for employees.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 1C; 4.1(34); 20.9

Cross Reference:
601.1 School Calendar

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised August 17, 2020

EMPLOYEE LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The board will offer the following leave to full-time regular licensed employees:

- Personal Illness (Sick) Leave – Leave for medically-related disability or illness
- Family Sick Leave_- Leave to care for a sick member of the employee’s immediate family
- Bereavement Leave – Leave to mourn the loss of a family member
- Personal Leave – Leave to accomplish personal business that cannot be conducted outside the work day
- Jury Duty Leave – Leave to be excused for jury duty
- Military Leave – Leave for military service, including the national guard
- Political Leave – Leave to run for elective public office
- *Professional Leave- leave for professional training, classes, and conferences
- *Other Leave - To excuse an involuntary absence not provided for in other leave policies of the board

The board will offer the following leave to full-time regular classified employees:

- Personal Illness (Sick) Leave – Leave for medically-related disability or illness
- Family Sick Leave – Leave to care for a sick member of the employee’s immediate family
- Bereavement Leave – Leave to mourn the loss of a family member
- Personal Leave – Leave to accomplish personal business that cannot be conducted outside the work day
- Jury Duty Leave – Leave to be excused for jury duty
- Military Leave – Leave for military service, including the national guard
- Political Leave – Leave to run for elective public office
- *Professional leave- leave for professional training, classes, and conferences
- *Other Leave - To excuse an involuntary absence not provided for in other leave policies of the board

The provisions of each leave offering will be detailed in the Employee Handbook.

Leave offered by the district will not be less than what is required by law. In the event of an emergency or unforeseen circumstance, the superintendent may authorize additional paid leave.

Legal Reference:

- 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et seq.
- Pub.L. 116–127
- 29 C.F.R. §§ 825; 826.
- Iowa Code §§ 20; 29A; 55; 85; 216; 279.40; 607A.
- Whitney v. Rural Ind. School District, 232 Iowa 61, 4 N.W.2d 394 (1942).
- Bewley v. Villisca Community School District, 299 N.W. 2d 904 (Iowa 1980).

Cross Reference:	403.2	Employee Injury on the Job
	409.3	Licensed Employee Family and Medical Leave
	409.9	Licensed Employee Unpaid Leave

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised May 17, 2021

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Unpaid family and medical leave will be granted up to 12 weeks per year to assist employees in balancing family and work life. For purposes of this policy, year is defined as a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave. Requests for family and medical leave will be made to the superintendent.

Employees may be allowed to substitute paid leave for unpaid family and medical leave by meeting the requirements set out in the family and medical leave administrative rules. Employees eligible for family and medical leave must comply with the family and medical leave administrative rules prior to starting family and medical leave. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative rules to implement this policy.

This policy is consistent with federal law regarding family and medical leave. The links below are to applicable forms on the U.S. Department of Labor's website:

- [Compliance Poster \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-380-E Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-380-F Certification of Health Care Provider for Family Member's Serious Health Condition \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-381 Notice of Eligibility and Rights & Responsibilities \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-382 Designation Notice \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-384 Certification of Qualifying Exigency For Military Family Leave \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-385 Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of Covered Service member – for Military Family Leave \(PDF\)](#)

Legal Reference:

29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.*

29 C.F.R. § 825.

Iowa Code §§ 20; 85; 216; 279.40.

Whitney v. Rural Ind. School. District, 232 Iowa 61, 4 N.W.2d 394 (1942).

Cross Reference: 409.2 Employee leave of Absence

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised August 17, 2020

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

This document is available at <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/legacy/files/fmlaen.pdf>

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FORM

Date: _____

I, _____, request family and medical leave for the following reason:

(check all that apply)

- for the birth of my child;
- for the placement of a child for adoption or foster care;
- to care for my child who has a serious health condition;
- to care for my parent who has a serious health condition;
- to care for my spouse who has a serious health condition; or
- because I am seriously ill and unable to perform the essential functions of my position.
- because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

I acknowledge my obligation to provide medical certification of my serious health condition or that of a family member in order to be eligible for family and medical leave within 15 days of the request for certification.

I acknowledge receipt of information regarding my obligations under the family and medical leave policy of the school district.

I request that my family and medical leave begin on _____ and I request leave as follows: (check one)

continuous I anticipate that I will be able to return to work on _____.

intermittent leave for the:

- birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
- serious health condition of myself, parent, or child when medically necessary;
- because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___spouse; ___ son or daughter;
- parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Details of the needed intermittent leave:

I anticipate returning to work at my regular schedule on _____.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FORM

_____ reduced work schedule for the:

- _____ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
- _____ serious health condition of myself, parent, or child when medically necessary;
- _____ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- _____ because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Details of needed reduction in work schedule as follows:

I anticipate returning to work at my regular schedule on _____.

I realize I may be moved to an alternative position during the period of the family and medical intermittent or reduced work schedule leave. I also realize that with foreseeable intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, subject to the requirements of my health care provider, I may be required to schedule the leave to minimize interruptions to school district operations.

While on family and medical leave, I agree to pay my regular contributions to employer sponsored benefit plans. My contributions will be deducted from moneys owed me during the leave period. If no monies are owed me, I will reimburse the school district by personal check or cash for my contributions. I understand that I may be dropped from the employer-sponsored benefit plans for failure to pay my contribution.

I agree to reimburse the school district for any payment of my contributions with deductions from future monies owed to me or the school district may seek reimbursement of payments of my contributions in court.

I acknowledge that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____

Date _____

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

A. School district notice.

1. The school district will post the notice in Exhibit 409.3E1 regarding family and medical leave.
2. Information on the Family and Medical Leave Act and the board policy on family and medical leave, including leave provisions and employee obligations will be provided annually. The information will be in the employee handbook.
3. When an employee requests family and medical leave, the school district will provide the employee with information listing the employee's obligations and requirements. Such information will include:
 - a. a statement clarifying whether the leave qualifies as family and medical leave and will, therefore, be credited to the employee's annual 12-week entitlement or 26 week entitlement depending on the purpose of the leave;
 - b. a reminder that employees requesting family and medical leave for their serious health condition or for that of an immediate family member must furnish medical certification of the serious health condition and the consequences for failing to do so or proof of call to active duty in the case of military family and medical leave;
 - c. an explanation of the employee's right to substitute paid leave for family and medical leave including a description of when the school district requires substitution of paid leave and the conditions related to the substitution; and
 - d. a statement notifying employees that they must pay and must make arrangements for paying any premium or other payments to maintain health or other benefits.

B. Eligible employees.

Employees are eligible for family and medical leave if three criteria are met.

1. The employee has worked for the school district for at least twelve months or 52 weeks (the months and weeks need not be consecutive); and
2. The employee has worked at least 1,250 hours year during the 12 months immediately before the date FMLA leave is to begin. Full-time professional employees who are exempt from the wage and hour law may be presumed to have worked the minimum hour requirement.

If the employee requesting leave is unable to meet the above criteria, the employee is not eligible for family and medical leave.

C. Employee requesting leave -- two types of leave.

1. Foreseeable family and medical leave.
 - a. Definition - leave is foreseeable for the birth or placement of an adopted or foster child with the employee or for planned medical treatment.
 - b. Employee must give at least thirty days notice for foreseeable leave. Failure to give the notice may result in the leave beginning thirty days after notice was received. For those taking leave due to military family and medical leave, notice should be given as soon as possible

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

- c. Employees must consult with the school district prior to scheduling planned medical treatment leave to minimize disruption to the school district. The scheduling is subject to the approval of the health care provider.
2. Unforeseeable family and medical leave.
 - a. Definition - leave is unforeseeable in such situations as emergency medical treatment or premature birth.
 - b. Employee must give notice as soon as possible but no later than one to two work days after learning that leave will be necessary.
 - c. A spouse or family member may give the notice if the employee is unable to personally give notice.
- D. Eligible family and medical leave determination. The school district may require the employee giving notice of the need for leave to provide reasonable documentation or a statement of family relationship.
1. Six purposes.
 - a. The birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's birth;
 - b. The placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's placement;
 - c. To care for the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee if the spouse, son, daughter or parent has a serious health condition; or
 - d. Employee's serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position.
 - e. because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that an employee's ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
 - f. because the employee is the spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
 2. Medical certification.
 - a. When required:
 - (1) Employees shall be required to present medical certification of the employee's serious health condition and inability to perform the essential functions of the job.
 - (2) Employees shall be required to present medical certification of the family member's serious health condition and that it is medically necessary for the employee to take leave to care for the family member.
 - (3) Employees shall be required to present certification of the call to active duty when taking military family and medical leave.
 - b. Employee's medical certification responsibilities:
 - (1) The employee must obtain the certification from the health care provider who is treating the individual with the serious health condition.
 - (2) The school district may require the employee to obtain a second certification by a health care provider chosen by and paid for by the school district if the school district has reason to doubt the validity of the certification an employee submits. The second health care provider cannot, however, be employed by the school district on a regular basis.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

- (3) If the second health care provider disagrees with the first health care provider, then the school district may require a third health care provider to certify the serious health condition. This health care provider must be mutually agreed upon by the employee and the school district and paid for by the school district. This certification or lack of certification is binding upon both the employee and the school district.
- c. Medical certification will be required fifteen days after family and medical leave begins unless it is impracticable to do so. The school district may request recertification every thirty days. Recertification must be submitted within fifteen days of the school district's request.
- d. Employees taking military caregiver family and medical leave to care for a family service member cannot be required to obtain a second opinion or to provide recertification.

Family and medical leave requested for the serious health condition of the employee or to care for a family member with a serious health condition which is not supported by medical certification will be denied until such certification is provided.

E. Entitlement.

1. Employees are entitled to twelve weeks unpaid family and medical leave per year. Employees taking military caregiver family and medical leave to care for a family service member are entitled to 26 weeks of unpaid family and medical leave but only in a single 12 month period.
2. Year is defined as a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.
3. If insufficient leave is available, the school district may:
 - a. Deny the leave if entitlement is exhausted
 - b. Award leave available

F. Type of Leave Requested.

1. Continuous - employee will not report to work for set number of days or weeks.
2. Intermittent - employee requests family and medical leave for separate periods of time.
 - a. Intermittent leave is available for:
 - ___ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
 - ___ serious health condition of myself, parent, or child when medically necessary;
 - ___ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves;
 - ___ because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
 - b. In the case of foreseeable intermittent leave, the employee must schedule the leave to minimize disruption to the school district operation.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

- c. During the period of foreseeable intermittent leave, the school district may move the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits.
3. Reduced work schedule - employee requests a reduction in the employee's regular work schedule.
 - a. Reduced work schedule family and medical leave is available for:
 - ___ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
 - ___ serious health condition of myself, parent, or child when medically necessary;
 - ___ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves;
 - ___ because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
 - b. In the case of foreseeable reduced work schedule leave, the employee must schedule the leave to minimize disruption to the school district operation.
 - c. During the period of foreseeable reduced work schedule leave, the school district may move the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits.

G. Special Rules for Instructional Employees.

1. Definition - an instructional employee is one whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group or an individual setting. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, coaches, driver's education instructors and special education assistants.
2. Instructional employees who request foreseeable medically necessary intermittent or reduced work schedule family and medical leave greater than twenty percent of the work days in the leave period may be required to:
 - a. Take leave for the entire period or periods of the planned medical treatment; or
 - b. Move to an available alternative position, with equivalent pay and benefits, but not necessarily equivalent duties, for which the employee is qualified.
3. Instructional employees who request continuous family and medical leave near the end of a semester may be required to extend the family and medical leave through the end of the semester. The number of weeks remaining before the end of a semester does not include scheduled school breaks, such as summer, winter or spring break.
 - a. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave for any purpose more than five weeks before the end of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last at least three weeks and the employee would return to work during the last three weeks of the semester if the leave was not continued.
 - b. If the employee begins family and medical leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last five weeks of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last more than two weeks and the employee would return to work during the last two weeks of the semester.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

c. If the employee begins family and medical leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last three weeks of the semester and the leave will last more than five working days, the school district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester.

4. The entire period of leave taken under the special rules is credited as family and medical leave. The school district will continue to fulfill the school district's family and medical leave responsibilities and obligations, including the obligation to continue the employee's health insurance and other benefits, if an instructional employee's family and medical leave entitlement ends before the involuntary leave period expires.

H. Employee responsibilities while on family and medical leave.

1. Employee must continue to pay health care benefit contributions or other benefit contributions regularly paid by the employee unless employee elects not to continue the benefits.
2. The employee contribution payments will be deducted from any money owed to the employee or the employee will reimburse the school district at a time set by the superintendent.
3. An employee who fails to make the health care contribution payments within thirty days after they are due will be notified that their coverage may be canceled if payment is not received within an additional 15 days.
4. An employee may be asked to re-certify the medical necessity of family and medical leave for the serious medical condition of an employee or family member once every thirty days and return the certification within fifteen days of the request.
5. The employee must notify the school district of the employee's intent to return to work at least once each month during their leave and at least two weeks prior to the conclusion of the family and medical leave.
6. If an employee intends not to return to work, the employee must immediately notify the school district, in writing, of the employee's intent not to return. The school district will cease benefits upon receipt of this notification.

I. Use of paid leave for family and medical leave.

An employee may substitute unpaid family and medical leave with appropriate paid leave available to the employee under board policy, individual contracts or the collective bargaining agreement. Paid leave includes, but is not limited to, sick leave, family illness leave, vacation, personal leave, bereavement leave and professional leave. When the school district determines that paid leave is being taken for an FMLA reason, the school district will notify the employee within two business days that the paid leave will be counted as FMLA leave.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

Active Duty - duty under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referring to in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, U.S. Code.

Common Law Marriage - according to Iowa law, common law marriages exist when there is a present intent by the two parties to be married, continuous cohabitation, and a public declaration that the parties are husband and wife. There is no time factor that needs to be met in order for there to be a common law marriage.

Contingency Operation - has the same meaning given such term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, U.S. Code.

Continuing Treatment - a serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes any one or more of the following:

- A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from) of more than three consecutive calendar days and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition that also involves:
 - treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders of, or in referral by, a health care provider; or
 - treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of a the health care provider.
- Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care.
- Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
 - requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
 - Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
 - May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).
- Any period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's, a severe stroke or the terminal stages of a disease.
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery from) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).

Covered Service member - a current 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.

Eligible Employee - The employee has worked for the district for at least twelve months and has worked at least 1250 hours within the previous year.

Essential Functions of the Job - those functions which are fundamental to the performance of the job. It does not include marginal functions.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

Employment Benefits - all benefits provided or made available to employees by an employer, including group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits, and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by a practice or written policy of an employer or through an "employee benefit plan."

Family Member - individuals who meet the definition of son, daughter, spouse or parent.

Group Health Plan - any plan of, or contributed to by, an employer (including a self-insured plan) to provide health care (directly or otherwise) to the employer's employees, former employees, or the families of such employees or former employees.

Health Care Provider-

- A doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery by the state in which the doctor practices; or
- 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; and
- Nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives, and clinical social workers who are authorized to practice under state law and who are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under state law; and
- Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts;
- Any health care provider from whom an employer or a group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits;
- A health care provider as defined above who practices in a country other than the United States who is licensed to practice in accordance with the laws and regulations of that country.

In Loco Parentis - individuals who had or have day-to-day responsibilities for the care and financial support of a child not their biological child or who had the responsibility for an employee when the employee was a child.

Incapable of Self-Care - that the individual requires active assistance or supervision to provide daily self-care in several of the "activities of daily living" or "ADLs." Activities of daily living include adaptive activities such as caring appropriately for one's grooming and hygiene, bathing, dressing, eating, cooking, cleaning, shopping, taking public transportation, paying bills, maintaining a residence, using telephones and directories, using a post office, etc.

Instructional Employee - an employee employed principally in an instructional capacity by an educational agency or school 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, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal function actual teaching or instructing, nor auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily noninstructional employees.

Intermittent Leave - leave taken in separate periods of time due to a single illness or injury, rather than for one continuous period of time, and may include leave or periods from an hour or more to several weeks.

Medically Necessary - certification for medical necessity is the same as certification for serious health condition.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

"Needed to Care For" - the medical certification that an employee is "needed to care for" a family member encompasses both physical and psychological care. For example, where, because of a serious health condition, the family member is unable to care for his or her own basic medical, hygienic or nutritional needs or safety or is unable to transport himself or herself to medical treatment. It also includes situations where the employee may be needed to fill in for others who are caring for the family member or to make arrangements for changes in care.

Next of Kin - an individual's nearest blood relative

Outpatient Status - the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to –

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

Parent - a biological parent or an individual who stands in loco parentis to a child or stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a child. Parent does not include parent-in-law.

Physical or Mental Disability - a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual.

Reduced Leave Schedule - a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee.

Serious Health Condition - an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

- Inpatient care (i.e. an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility including any period of incapacity (for purposes of this section, defined to mean inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from), or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or
- Continuing treatment by a health care provider. A serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes:
 - A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from) of more than three consecutive calendar days, including any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:
 - Treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders or, or on referral by, a health care provider; or
 - Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the health care provider.
 - Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care.
 - Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
 - Requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
 - Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and,
 - May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

- A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's a severe stroke or the terminal stages of a disease.
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery from) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).
- Treatment for purposes of this definition includes, but is not limited to, examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluation of the condition. Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations or dental examinations. Under this definition, a regimen of continuing treatment includes, for example, a course of prescription medication (e.g., an antibiotic) or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g., oxygen). A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed rest, drinking fluids, exercise and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.
- Conditions for which cosmetic treatments are administered (such as most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required or unless complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomach, ulcers, headaches other than migraine, routine dental or orthodontia problems, periodontal disease, etc., are examples of conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify for FMLA leave. Restorative dental or plastic surgery after an injury or removal of cancerous growths are serious health conditions provided all the other conditions of this regulation are met. Mental illness resulting from stress or allergies may be serious health conditions, but only if all the conditions of this section are met.
- Substance abuse may be a serious health condition if the conditions of this section are met. However, FMLA leave may only be taken for treatment for substance abuse by a health care provider or by a provider of health care on referral by a health care provider. On the other hand, absence because of the employee's use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify for FMLA leave.
- Absence attributable to incapacity under this definition qualify for FMLA leave even though the employee or the immediate family member does not receive treatment from a health care provider during the absence, and even if the absence does not last more than three days. For example, an employee with asthma may be unable to report for work due to the onset of an asthma attack or because the employee's health care provider has advised the employee to stay home when the pollen count exceeds a certain level. An employee who is pregnant may be unable to report to work because of severe morning sickness.

Serious Injury or Illness - an injury or illness incurred by a member of the Armed forces, including the National Guard or Reserves in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.

Son or daughter - a biological child, adopted child, foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis. The child must be under age 18 or, if over 18, incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

Spouse - a husband or wife recognized by Iowa law including common law marriages.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The board recognizes the need for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers shall be licensed to teach in Iowa.

It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to maintain a list of substitute teachers who may be called upon to replace regular contract licensed employees. Individuals whose names do not appear on this list will not be employed as a substitute without specific approval of the superintendent. It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to fill absences with substitute teachers immediately.

Substitute teachers will be paid a per diem rate. Substitutes employed for fifteen or more consecutive days in the same position shall be paid based upon qualifications and experience. Substitute licensed employees are expected to perform the same duties as the licensed employees.

Legal Reference: Iowa Association of School Boards v. PERB, 400 N.W.2d 571 (Iowa 1987).
Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4(5), .9 (2015).
281 I.A.C. 12.4.

Cross Reference: 405.1 Licensed Employee Defined
405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised March 19, 2018

SUMMER SCHOOL LICENSED EMPLOYEES

The West Hancock CSD shall offer summer school options in accordance with law and may, in its discretion offer additional programming during the summer recess. Licensed employees who volunteer or who are appointed to deliver the summer education program are compensated in addition to their regular duties during the school academic year, unless such arrangements are made prior to determining the employee's compensation for the year.

Licensed employees will be given the opportunity to volunteer for the positions available. If the board determines a course must be offered and no licensed employee volunteers for the position, the board will make the necessary arrangements to fill the position. The board will consider applications from volunteers of current licensed employees in conjunction with other applications.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board regarding the need for and the delivery of the summer education program.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.14

Cross Reference: 603.2 Summer School Instruction
505.2 Student Promotion- Retention-Acceleration

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

TRUANCY OFFICER

The board will appoint a licensed employee from each school building to serve as the building's truancy officer.

The principal will notify the truancy officer when a student is truant. The truancy officer will investigate the cause of a student's truancy and attempt to ensure the student's attendance. The truancy officer may take the student into custody. A student taken into custody will be placed in the custody of the principal. The truancy officer will attempt to contact the student's parents when the student is taken into custody.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 299.10-.11, .15 (2015).

Cross Reference: 501.10 Truancy - Unexcused Absences

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

EDUCATION ASSOCIATE

The board may employ education associates or other instructional support personnel to assist licensed personnel in nonteaching duties, including, but not limited to:

- managing and maintaining records, materials and equipment;
- attending to the physical needs of children; and
- performing other limited services to support teaching duties when such duties are determined and directed by the teacher.

Education associates who hold a teaching certificate are compensated at the rate of pay established for their position as an education associate. Education aides who hold a teaching license will not automatically be employed in teaching vacancies, as the teaching vacancies will be filled according to the needs of the district as well as the needs of the specific building. It is the responsibility of the principal to supervise education associates.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.3, .14 (2015).
281 I.A.C. 12.4(9); .5(9).

Cross Reference: 411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

SHARED LICENSED PERSONNEL

The board may make arrangements for sharing school district personnel with neighboring districts in order to expand the opportunities available in the educational program and the operation of the school district. It shall be within the discretion of the board to determine when and with which school district sharing agreements will be made.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to bring to the board's attention opportunities for sharing school district personnel with neighboring school districts.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 28E, 256.13, 280.15, 282.7(1), 442.39 (2015).
281 I.A.C. 7.

Cross Reference: 606.1 Shared Students

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

STUDENT TEACHERS - INTERNSHIPS

The board will cooperate with post-secondary educational institutions to assist in the practical preparation of teachers and other licensed personnel positions. Student teachers and other student internships may be accepted for duties in the school district.

Licensed personnel shall not be required to accept student teachers or student interns. Experienced teachers and teachers in good standing shall be allowed to have student teachers or student interns.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make arrangements with the post-secondary educational institutions for student teachers and student internships. Such arrangements shall safeguard the interest of the student teachers and student interns, the post-secondary educational institution, and the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the post-secondary educational institution to provide sufficient supervision over the work of these student teachers to make their presence profitable.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 260.27, .30 (2015).
281 I.A.C. 19.15(3).
1936 Op. Att'y Gen. 462.
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 6, 7415.

Cross Reference: 906 Other Interdistrict Relations

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE DEFINED

Classified employees are employees who are not administrators or employees in positions which require a teaching license issued by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and who are employed to fulfill the duties listed on their job description on a monthly or hourly basis. Classified employees will include, but not be limited to, teacher and classroom aides, custodial and maintenance employees, clerical employees, food service employees, bus drivers, and temporary help for summer or other maintenance. The position may be full-time or part-time.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to establish job specifications and job descriptions for classified employee positions. Job descriptions may be approved by the board.

Classified employees required to hold a license for their position must present evidence of their current license to the board secretary prior to payment of wages each year.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8

Cross Reference: 405.1 Licensed Employee Defined
411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
412.3 Classified Employee Group Insurance Benefits

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE - QUALIFICATIONS, RECRUITMENT, SELECTION

Persons interested in a classified employee position will have an opportunity to apply and qualify for classified employee positions in the school district in accordance with applicable laws and school district policies regarding equal employment. Job applicants for classified employee positions will be considered on the basis of the following:

- Training, experience, and skill;
- Nature of the occupation;
- Demonstrated competence; and
- Possession of, or ability to obtain, state or other license or certificate, if required, for the position.

All job openings shall be submitted to the Iowa Workforce Development for posting on IowaWORKS.gov the online state job posting system. Additional announcements of the position may occur through means the superintendent believes will inform potential applicants about the position. Whenever possible, the preliminary screening of applicants will be conducted by the administrator who directly supervises and oversees the position.

The superintendent will recommend employment of classified employees to the board for approval.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.*
Iowa Code §§ 35C; 84A.6(4)(b); 216; 279.8; 294.1 (2015).
281 I.A.C. 12

Cross Reference: 401.2 Equal Employment Opportunity
411 Classified Employees - General

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed May 20, 2024

Revised May 20, 2024

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS

The board may enter into written contracts with classified employees or may issue letters of assignment to classified employees who are employed on a regular basis. The contract or letter of assignment will state the terms of employment.

Each contract or letter of assignment will include a two week cancellation clause. Either the employee or the board must give notice of the intent to cancel the contract at the end of two weeks. This notice will not be required when the employee is terminated during a probationary period or for cause.

Classified employees will receive a job description stating the specific performance responsibilities of their position.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to draw up and process the classified employee contracts letter of assignment and present them to the board for approval. The contract or letters of assignment, after being signed by the board president, shall be filed with the board secretary.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.7A; 285.5(9) (2015).

Cross Reference: 411 Classified Employees - General
412.1 Classified Employee Compensation
412.2 Classified Employee Wage and Overtime Compensation
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE LICENSING/CERTIFICATION

Classified employees who require a special license or other certification will keep them current at their own expense. Licensing requirements needed for a position will be considered met if the employee meets the requirements established by law for the position.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 272; 285.5(9)
281 I.A.C. 12.4(10); 36; 43

Cross Reference: 411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised October 16, 2017

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT

Determining the assignment of each classified employee is the responsibility of the superintendent and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments each year the superintendent will consider the qualifications of each classified employee and the needs of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to assign classified employees and report such assignments to the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 200.3 Powers of the Board of Directors
411.6 Classified Employee Transfers

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TRANSFERS

Determining the location where a classified employee's assignment will be performed is the responsibility of the superintendent and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments each year the superintendent will consider the qualifications of each classified employee and the needs of the school district.

A transfer may be initiated by the employee, the principal or the superintendent.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to transfer classified employees and report such transfers to the board.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (2004).
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.* (2004)
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (2004).
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 35C; 216; 279.8; 294.1 (2015).

Cross Reference: 411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
411.5 Classified Employment Assignment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Evaluation of classified employees on their skills, abilities, and competence is an ongoing process supervised by the superintendent. The goal of the formal evaluation of classified employees is to maintain classified employees who meet or exceed the board's standards of performance, to clarify each classified employee's role, to ascertain the areas in need of improvement, to clarify the immediate priorities of the board, and to develop a working relationship between the administrators and other employees.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure classified employees are formally evaluated annually. New and probationary classified employees are formally evaluated at least twice a year.

Legal Reference: Aplington Community School District v. PERB, 392 N.W.2d 495 (Iowa 1986).
Saydel Education Association v. PERB, 333 N.W.2d 486 (Iowa 1983).
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.14 (2015).
281 I.A.C. Ch 83; 12.3(4).

Cross Reference: 411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
411.8 Classified Employee Probationary Status

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised September 15, 2008

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE PROBATIONARY STATUS

The first year of a newly employed classified employee's contract is a probationary period. "Day" is defined as one work day regardless of full-time or part-time status of the employee. New employees, regardless of experience, are subject to this probationary period.

"New" employees includes individuals who are being hired for the first time by the school district and those who may have been employed by the school district in the past, but have not been employed by the board during the school year prior to the one for which contracts are being issued.

Only the board, in its discretion, may waive the probationary period.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 411.3 Classified Employee Contracts
411.7 Classified Employee Evaluation

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

The board will determine the compensation to be paid for the classified employees' positions, keeping in mind the education and experience of the classified employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, the financial condition of the school district and any other considerations as deemed relevant by the board.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually regarding the compensation of classified employees.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8 (2015).

Cross Reference: 411.3 Classified Employee Contracts
412.2 Classified Employee Wage and Overtime Compensation

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE WAGE AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Each non-exempt employee compensated on an hour-by-hour basis, whether full-or part-time, permanent or temporary, will be paid no less than the prevailing minimum wage. Whenever a non-exempt employee must work more than forty hours in a given work week, the employee is compensated at one and one-half times their regular hourly wage rate. This compensation is in the form of overtime pay or compensatory time. Overtime will not be permitted without prior authorization of the superintendent.

Each non-exempt employee paid on an hour-by-hour basis must complete, sign, and turn in a daily time record showing the actual number of hours worked. Failure of the employee to maintain, or falsification of, a daily time record will be grounds for disciplinary action.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to maintain wage records.

Legal Reference: Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority, 469 U.S. 528 (1985).
29 U.S.C. §§ 206 *et seq.* (2004).
29 C.F.R. Pt. 511-800 (2004).

Cross Reference: 411.3 Classified Employee Contracts
412.1 Classified Employee Compensation

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Classified employees may be eligible for group benefits as determined by the board and required by law. The board will select the group insurance benefit program(s) and the insurance company or third party administrator which will provide or administer the program.

In accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the board will offer classified employees, who are expected to work an average of at least thirty (30) hours per week or one hundred thirty (130) hours per month, based on the measurement method adopted by the board, with minimum essential coverage that is both affordable and provides minimum value. The board will utilize the applicable measurement period to determine whether variable hourly employees qualify for an offer of insurance coverage under the district's group health plan. The board will have the authority and right to change or eliminate group benefit programs, other than the group health plan, for its licensed employees.

Classified employees who work 30 hours per week are eligible to participate in the group health insurance plan. Regular part-time classified employees who wish to purchase insurance coverage may participate in group insurance programs by meeting the requirements of the insurer. Regular classified employees who wish to purchase insurance coverage for their spouse or dependents may do so by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

Classified employees, who work an average of at least thirty (30) hours per week or one hundred thirty (130) hours per month, based on the measurement method adopted by the board, are eligible to participate in the group health plan. Classified employees who work 30 hours per week are eligible to participate in other ancillary benefits. Employers should maintain documents regarding eligible employees acceptance and rejection of coverage.

Regular part-time classified employees (i.e., employees who work less than 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month for health benefit purposes or employees who work less than 30 hours per week for benefits other than health) who wish to purchase coverage may participate in group benefit programs by meeting the requirements of the applicable plan. Full-time and regular part-time classified employees who wish to purchase coverage for their spouse or dependents may do so by meeting the requirements of the applicable plan.

Classified employees and their spouse and dependents may be allowed to continue coverage of the school district's group health insurance program if they cease employment with the school district by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 85; 85B; 279.12; 509; 509A; 509B (2013).
Internal Revenue Code § 4980H(c)(4); Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-1(a)(21)(ii).
Shared Responsibility for Employers Regarding Health Coverage, 26 CFR Parts 1, 54 and 301, 78 Fed. Reg. 217, (Jan 2, 2013).
Shared Responsibility for Employers Regarding Health Coverage, 26 CFR Parts 1, 54 and 301, 79 Fed. Reg. 8543 (Feb. 12, 2014).

Cross Reference: 411.1 Classified Employee Defined

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised August 16, 2021

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TAX SHELTER PROGRAMS

Employees may elect to have amounts withheld from their pay for items authorized by law, subject to agreement of the district. The board may authorize the administration to make a payroll deduction for classified employees' tax-sheltered annuity premiums purchased from a company or program if chosen by the board

Classified employees wishing to have payroll deductions for tax-sheltered annuities will make a written request to the superintendent. Requests for purchase or change of tax-sheltered annuities may be made during the open enrollment period ending May 15th.

Legal Reference: Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, Section 1450(a), repealing portions of IRS REG § 1.403(b)-1(b)(3).
Iowa Code §§ 260C; 273; 294.16
1988 Op. Att'y Gen. 38.
1976 Op. Att'y Gen. 462, 602.
1966 Op. Att'y Gen. 211, 220.

Cross Reference: 706 Payroll Procedures

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised March 19, 2018

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION

Classified employees who wish to resign during the school year will give the board notice of their intent to resign and final date of employment and cancel their contract two weeks prior to their last working day. The superintendent may recommend a notice of less than two weeks if there are extenuating circumstances.

Notice of the intent to resign will be in writing to the superintendent.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 279.19A; 285.5(9) (2015).

Cross Reference: 411.3 Classified Employee Contracts
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

Classified employees who will complete their current contract with the board may apply for retirement. No classified employee will be required to retire at any specific age.

Application for retirement will be considered made when the classified employee states in writing to the superintendent, no later than the date set by the board for the return of the employee's contract to the board if applicable, the employee's intent to retire. The letter must state the employee's desire to retire and be witnessed by another party other than the principal or the superintendent.

Board action to approve a classified employee's application for retirement is final, and such action constitutes termination of the employee's contract effective the day of the employee's retirement.

Classified employees and their spouse and dependents who have group insurance coverage through the school district may be allowed to continue coverage of the school district's group health insurance program, at their own expense, by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621 *et seq.* (2004).
Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 97B; 216; 279.19A, .46 (2015).
581 I.A.C. 21.
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 247.
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 11, 322.

Cross Reference: 401.14 Recognition for Service of Employees

Approved June 12, 1995

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Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION

Classified employees will perform their assigned job, respect and follow board policy and obey the law. The superintendent is authorized to suspend a classified employee with or without pay pending board action on a discharge or during investigation of charges against the employee or for disciplinary purposes. It is within the discretion of the superintendent to suspend a classified employee with or without pay.

In the event of a suspension, due process will be followed.

Legal Reference: Northeast Community Education Association v. Northeast Community School District, 402 N.W.2d 765 (Iowa 1987).
McFarland v. Board of Education of Norwalk Community School District, 277 N.W.2d 901 (Iowa 1979).
Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2015).

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE DISMISSAL

The board believes classified employees should perform their jobs, respect board policy and obey the law. A classified employee may be dismissed upon two weeks notice or immediately for cause. Due process procedures will be followed.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for dismissal to the board. A classified employee may be dismissed for any reason, including, but not limited to, incompetence, willful neglect of duty, reduction in force, willful violation of board policy or administrative regulations, or a violation of the law.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2015).

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
413.4 Classified Employee Suspension
413.6 Classified Employee Reduction in Force

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised _____

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REDUCTION IN FORCE

It is the exclusive power of the board to determine when a reduction in classified employees is necessary. Employees who are terminated due to a reduction in force will be given two weeks notice. Due process will be followed for terminations due to a reduction in force.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for termination to the board. The superintendent will consider the relative qualifications, skills, ability and demonstrated performance through evaluation procedures in making the recommendations.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2015).

Cross Reference: 407.6 Licensed Employee Reduction in Force
413.4 Classified Employee Suspension
413.5 Classified Employee Dismissal
703 Budget

Approved June 12, 1995

Reviewed February 19, 2024

Revised July 12, 1999