

# policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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A = Administrators Only  
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## BOARD-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

The Board strongly encourages staff members to share information on their classroom/activity successes. These successes can be shared with the Board through email. It is strongly encouraged that these successes also be shared publicly at a regular monthly Board meeting.

The Board of Education also has a legitimate interest in maintaining order by directing that employee communications to the School Board move initially through the chain of command to the District Administrator.

### A. Staff Communications to the Board

All communications from staff members related to the performance of their job duties or responsibilities shall be submitted through the following procedure.

1. All employee concerns should first be directed to the immediate supervisor.
2. If the employee does not feel the concerns have been adequately addressed they will have the ability to take their concern to a district level administrator for consideration.
3. If the employee does not feel the concern has been adequately address the concern will need to be forwarded to the District Administrator.
4. If the concern is not addressed at this level the employee will be given the opportunity to express their concern to the Board of Education.
5. Employees are expected to follow the established chain of communication as described in this policy.

### B. Board Communications to Staff

All official communications, policies, and directives of the Board of staff interest and concern to the staff will be communicated through the District Administrator, who shall also keep staff members fully informed of the Board's problems, concerns, and actions.

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006)

Samuelson v. LaPorte Comm. Sch. Dist., 526 F.3d 1046 (7th Cir. 2008)

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## EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF

The Board of Education recognizes that it is vital to the successful operation of the District that positions created by the Board be filled with highly-qualified and competent personnel.

The Board shall approve the employment, and also fix the compensation, and establish the term of employment for each staff member employed by this District.

All applications for employment shall be referred to the WECAN.

Relatives of Board members may be employed by the Board, provided however, if the Board member will benefit financially either directly or indirectly, the Board member may not participate in any way in the discussion or vote on any matter relating to said employment.

Relatives of staff members may be employed by the Board, however arrangements should be made so that the staff member being employed is not placed in a position in which s/he would be supervised directly by or supervise directly the relative staff member.

Any staff member's intentional misstatement of fact material to his/her qualifications for employment or the determination of salary shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

The employment of staff members prior to approval by the Board is authorized when their employment is required to maintain continuity in the educational program. Employment shall be recommended to the Board at the next regular meeting.

The District Administrator shall prepare procedures for the recruitment and selection of all support staff which include reporting newly hired employees to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

20 U.S.C. 6319

No candidate for employment to the professional staff shall receive recommendation for such employment without having proffered visual evidence of proper certification or that application for such certification is in process. For those staff members who will be instructing children in

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reading and/or language arts preschool and/or grades kindergarten through sixth grade, their certificate must verify successful completion of instruction that includes the teaching of phonics.

There must also be verification that a satisfactory background check has been conducted by the Department of Public Instruction or appropriate State agency.

Any person who signs a contract to teach in the District must, within ten (10) days after signing the contract, file in the office of the District Administrator a statement showing the date of expiration and the grade and character of the certificate or license held.

The District Administrator shall prepare procedures for the recruitment and selection of all professional staff which includes reporting newly hired employees to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR TITLE I TEACHERS**

All teachers hired for a Title I supported program must be “highly qualified.”

“Highly Qualified” means:

- A. Full State certification as a teacher or passed State teacher licensing exam and holds current license to teach;
- B. Under an emergency license or permit for the core subjects taught with confirmation from the Board that the teacher:
  1. has demonstrated content knowledge in the core subject(s) that s/he will be teaching through either a major, minor, or completion of the Wisconsin’s Praxis II content test(s);
  2. is enrolled in an approved program that will provide full certification in the subject area in a period of no more than three (3) years;
  3. is provided by the Board high-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom focused before and while teaching; and
  4. is provided by the Board intensive supervision or mentoring while teaching.
- C. For elementary teachers new to the profession, this also requires:

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1. at least a bachelor's degree
  2. passing a rigorous State test on subject knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, math, and other areas of elementary curriculum (State certification test may suffice)
- D. For secondary or middle school teachers new to the profession this also requires:
1. at least a bachelor's degree, and
  2. passing a rigorous State test in each of the subject areas s/he will teach (State certification test may suffice), or
  3. for each academic subject taught, having an academic major, course work equivalent to an undergraduate major, a graduate degree, or advanced certification or credentialing
- E. For elementary, middle, or secondary school teachers with prior experience, this also requires:
1. at least a bachelor's degree, and
  2. meets standards for new teachers (above), or
  3. demonstrates competence in all academic subjects s/he teaches based on a uniform State standard of evaluation (standard for academic subject matter and teaching skills set by the State)

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS IN DISTRICTS RECEIVING TITLE I FUNDING**

All teachers teaching core subjects in a District receiving Title I funds shall be "highly qualified" as described above. Core subject means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, and special education. The District must have a plan and show annual progress towards meeting these teacher qualification requirements.

### **DISTRICT SUPPORTED ALTERNATIVE LICENSING PROGRAMS**

As part of the Board's efforts to provide the highest quality education for all students in all subject areas, the Board authorizes the District Administrator, where appropriate, to support teacher licensure opportunities.

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## **EXPERIENCED-BASED LICENSURE FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The District Administrator may support the application for an experience based license for a teacher to teach in a technical education field, provided that the individual can be credited with at least 100 points using the following system:

- A. The following points for experience in a technical field (must comprise at least twenty-five (25) of the required 100 points):
  1. For a bachelor's degree in any science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field and any teaching license or permit, 100 points.
  2. For a bachelor's degree in any science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field, seventy-five (75) points.
  3. For a bachelor's degree in a field other than any science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or technical or technology education field, sixty-five (65) points.
  4. For industry certification, ninety (90) points.

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5. For industry experience in a trade or technical field, five (5) points per forty (40) hours worked up to a maximum of ninety (90) points.
  6. For an internship in a trade or technical field, twentyfive (25) points.
  7. For being mentored in a trade or technical skill by a colleague or a Wisconsin Technology Education Association approved mentor, twenty-five (25) points.
  8. For an apprenticeship in a trade or technical field, five (5) points per forty (40) hours worked up to a maximum of ninety (90) points.
- B. The following points for pedagogical experience (must be at least twenty-five (25) out of the 100 required points):
1. For a bachelor's degree in technical or technology education, 100 points.
  2. For a bachelor's degree in a field other than any science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or technical or technology education field and any teaching license or permit, seventy-five (75) points.
  3. For credit earned at an accredited institution of higher education or technical college, three (3) points per credit up to a maximum of seventy-five (75) points for technical or technology education courses and science, technology, engineering, or mathematics courses and three (3) points per credit up to a maximum of seventy-five (75) points for education and pedagogical courses.
  4. For completing at least 100 hours of training in pedagogy, five (5) points per fifty (50) hours up to a maximum of seventy-five (75) points.



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Individuals that have sufficient points may be employed by the District under an experience-based license provided that the District Administrator implements a professional development curriculum for the teacher to follow during the three (3) year period of the initial license. The District Administrator shall monitor the teacher's progress in fulfilling the curriculum.

## **PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PERMIT**

The District Administrator may support the teaching license application of an individual to teach a course in engineering, mathematics, science, computer science, art, music, or world languages that do not yet hold a professional teacher license provided that the following criteria are met:

- A. The District is experiencing a shortage in the availability of teachers with professional teaching certification in the subject area and is unable to fill a position with an acceptable licensed teacher.
- B. The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree in engineering, mathematics, science, computer science, art, music, or world languages.
- C. The individual possesses at least five (5) years of verifiable industry experience in the same field as the bachelor's degree.
- D. The individual has completed at least 100 hours of pedagogical training in an alternative teacher licensing program approved by DPI.

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- E. The District Administrator shall implement a plan to provide supervision of the teacher by a teacher that holds regular professional teaching licensure during the two (2) year period of the permit.
- F. The hiring of the teacher under this alternative licensure program will not displace a regularly licensed teacher in the District.

See also AG 3120E

118.19, 118.21, 118.21(2), 121.02, Wis. Stats.  
20 U.S.C. 6319  
20 U.S.C. 7801  
34 C.F.R. 200.55 – 200.56

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## JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Board of Education recognizes that it is essential for District and employee accountability for each staff member to be fully aware of the duties and responsibilities of his/her position. Job descriptions document and describe the essential functions for professional staff positions and thereby promote organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Therefore, the District Administrator shall maintain a current, comprehensive, and coordinated set of job descriptions for all staff positions.

All other job descriptions shall be approved by the District Administrator and will be maintained at the Gerstenkorn Administrative Building.

As long as the provisions of the job descriptions are not inconsistent with Board policies, or with Federal/State law, they will be considered to be an extension of the policy manual and binding upon all employees.

Each job description shall contain the following provision:

"The employee shall remain free of any alcohol or illegal substance in the workplace in compliance with Policy 3122 throughout his/her employment in the District."

Employees will be evaluated, at least in part, against their job descriptions.

Each job description shall include the requirement that the staff member serve as a positive role model for students in how to conduct themselves as citizens and shall indicate the staff member's responsibility to help instill in students the belief in and practice of ethical principles and democratic values.

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The emphasis during the review of the job description with a potential candidate shall be placed upon the essential functions of the position.

From time-to-time, the Board further recognizes that the District Administrator may find it necessary to revise job descriptions.

During the revision of a job description, the District Administrator may seek input from individuals who hold that position; however, their input may or may not be reflected when the revision of said job description is completed.

Following the revision of a job description, staff members who hold the positions for which the essential functions are described in that revised job description shall be provided access to the updated version and the opportunity to discuss the revisions therein with their immediate supervisor.

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## SELECTING STUDENT TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNS

The Board of Education encourages cooperation with State-approved colleges and universities in the training of student teachers and administrative interns, because the public school offers an essential ingredient - direct experience with students and teachers at work in the classroom, but certain safeguards have been found to be necessary for the best interests of all concerned.

Colleges and universities should first make contact with the District Administrator regarding placement of a student teacher or administrative intern.

The District Administrator shall make the final placement of student teachers or administrative interns.

The supervising staff member shall have had no less than four (4) years of successful experience in the area of assignment.

Professional staff members who agree to serve as supervisors of student teachers or administrative interns may accept honoraria or stipends directly from the college/university for those services rendered outside the regular school day and above and beyond the duties and responsibilities specified in their contracts.

The Board also authorizes the District Administrator to provide, in cooperation with appropriate colleges and universities, a "field experience" program in order for selected interns to gain firsthand knowledge of and experience in a school environment.

The District Administrator may terminate a teaching program if one (1) or more aspects of the program are not of high quality or meeting District needs or expectations.

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The District Administrator shall establish appropriate terms and conditions for videotaping or compiling portfolio materials by student teachers within the District.

118.19(3), Wis. Stats.  
P.I. 3.03(7), Wis. Adm. Code

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## EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education may find it necessary to employ, on a part-time basis, coaches or activity sponsors. Employment of coaches in sports governed by the WIAA shall be consistent with WIAA rules and guidelines.

Members of the district professional staff, as per the definitions section, will be afforded first opportunity for coaching positions, provided they are qualified for the position.

The District Administrator shall require that each person employed as a coach or activity sponsor has the appropriate qualifications, has been properly interviewed, and signs a co-curricular appointment letter which specifies the assignment and the stipend associated with the assignment. Any such appointment may be terminated by the Board for any reason that is not arbitrary or capricious. There must also be verification that the District through appropriate State agencies or other applicable means has conducted a satisfactory background check.

Coaching/advisory duties accepted by a member of the teaching staff or administrative staff shall not be incorporated into the staff member's regular teaching or administrative contract. There shall be no guarantee or reasonable expectation that a coach/advisor will receive an offer to coach/advise in the same position the following school year. Compensation for coaching/advising duties shall be determined by the Board. Nonrenewal procedures are not applicable to coaching/advising assignments.

Any coach/advisor not offered similar duties in any subsequent year may not pursue a grievance through Policy 3340 – Grievance Procedure or Policy 4340 – Grievance Procedure.

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## JOB SHARING

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the District to obtain the services of quality professional staff members who may not be available on a full-time basis but wish to offer their knowledge and skills part-time through a job-sharing process.

The District will consider job share requests only if the cost (including benefits) of employing two (2) staff members on a half-time basis does not exceed the cost of employing one full-time staff member.

Half-time positions may be approved in which two (2) currently employed staff members will be allowed to share one (1) full-time position.

The Board authorizes the District Administrator to create a job-sharing program provided it does not impact adversely on the District or any current staff member. The Board shall approve all job-sharing recommendations.



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## CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

To more adequately safeguard students and staff members, the Board of Education requires an inquiry into the background of each applicant the District Administrator recommends for employment on the District's staff. Any contracts with outsourced services, employment agencies or temporary services must require such providers to conduct and retain a criminal history record check of individuals providing service to the District.

All information and records obtained from such inquiries are to be considered confidential and shall not be released or disseminated to those not directly involved in evaluating the applicant's qualifications.

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## NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education does not discriminate in the employment of professional staff on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, age, sex (including transgender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), national origin, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or nonuse of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices.

### District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Peter Hibner  
Assistant Superintendent  
Portage Community School District  
305 E. Slifer Street  
Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-4879 Ext, 4134  
hibnerp@portage.k12.wi.us

Margaret Rudolph  
Director of Business Operations  
Portage Community School District  
305 E. Slifer Street  
Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-4879 Ext, 4121  
rudolphm@portage.k12.wi.us

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and on the School District's web site.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with the applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, and the Genetic

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Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public.

## **Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation**

Employees are expected to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other Supervisory employee so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other Supervisory employee who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO at his/her first opportunity, but no later than two (2) business days.

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community (District employees, students, parent(s), and members of the Board), resident of the District, or a visitor to the District, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin an investigation, or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO must contact the employee within two (2) business days to advise him/her of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

## **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

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Any employee who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Once the complaint process begins, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

### **Complaint Procedure**

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), may file a complaint, either orally or in writing, with a Principal, the CO, District Administrator, or other supervisory employee. Any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall assume the role of CO for such complaints.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a Principal, District Administrator, or other supervisory employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her position to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deems appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate an investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including this Policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO, the District Administrator must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the District Administrator determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, s/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

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A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the District Administrator may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the District Administrator's final decision. In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall review the findings and may meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of its decision. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the employee alleging the misconduct pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

## **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants will be advised that their identities may become known to the Respondent(s) through the investigation process.

During the course of an investigation, the CO will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination/retaliation will be maintained in accordance with the School Board's records retention policy.

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The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law. When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

## **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised their rights, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise of any right granted or protected by those laws.



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## **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

111.31 et seq., 111.335(d)(2), 118.195, 118.20, Wis. Stats.  
Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution  
20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act  
20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974  
20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act  
42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93)  
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635

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## DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The Board of Education believes that quality education is not possible in an environment affected by drugs. It will seek, therefore, to establish and maintain an educational setting which is free from illegal drugs.

Consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the Board prohibits the manufacture, possession, use, distribution, or dispensing of any controlled substance, including alcohol, by any member of the District's staff at any time while on District property or while involved in any District-related activity or event. Any staff member who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District guidelines.

The District Administrator shall establish whatever programs and procedures are necessary to meet the Federal certification requirements and shall provide these to staff.

P.L. 101-126  
Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.  
20 U.S.C. 3224A

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## NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE

The Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of his/her genetic information is also prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity is prohibited.

In accordance with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), the Board shall not request, require or purchase genetic information of employees, their family members or applicants for employment. Further, in compliance with this Act, employees are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to necessary requests for medical information, with the exception that family medical history may be acquired as part of the certification process for FMLA leave, when an employee is asking for leave to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. Applicants for employment are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to requests for medical information as part of the District's application process.

The District recognizes that genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available documents like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, television shows or the Internet. The District prohibits, however, its employees from searching such sources with the intent of finding or obtaining genetic information, or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information.

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"Genetic information," as defined by GINA, means information about: (a) an individual's genetic tests; (b) the genetic tests of that individual's family members; (c) the manifestation of disease or disorder in family members of the individual (i.e., family medical history); (d) an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; or (e) the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of an embryo legally held by an individual or family member using assistive reproductive technology.

If the District either legally and/or inadvertently receives genetic information about an employee or applicant for employment from the employee, applicant for employment or a medical provider it shall be treated as a confidential medical record in accordance with law.

The District Administrator shall appoint a compliance officer who shall be responsible for overseeing the District's compliance with Federal regulations and promptly dealing with any inquiries or complaints. S/He shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 is provided to staff members, and that all District requests for health-related information (e.g., to support an employee's request for reasonable accommodation under the ADA or a request for sick leave) is accompanied by a written warning that directs the employee or health care provider not to collect or provide genetic information. The warning shall read as follows:

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II, including the Board of Education, from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by law. To comply with this law, do not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information (unless the request pertains to a request for FMLA leave for purposes of caring for an immediate family member with a serious health condition). "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic test, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services or participated in clinical research that includes genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

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The District offers health services, including a wellness program. Participation in the services/program is voluntary. Genetic information (such as family medical history) may be obtained as part of an individual's participation in the service/program. If that occurs, individual genetic information may be provided to the individual receiving the services and to his/her health services providers, but only genetic information in aggregate form will be provided to the Board.

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635

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## SECTION 504/ADA

### PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

The Board of Education prohibits discrimination against any employee or applicant based upon his/her disability. As such, the Board will not engage in employment practices or adopt policies that discriminate on the basis of disability, or otherwise discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. The Board further will not limit, segregate or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of disability. Additionally, the Board will not participate in any contractual or other relationships that have the effect of subjecting qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees to discrimination on the basis of disability.

"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, has a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

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The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, use of assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or “auxiliary aides or services,” learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

A qualified person with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position such individual holds or desires and, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question.

The Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the District’s program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not required for an individual who is merely regarded as having a disability.

## Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's 504 COs/ADA Coordinators (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and on the School District's web site.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA"). A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from the COs.

The COs will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints.

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The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. **(See Complaint Procedure below.)**

## Training

The COs will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative guidelines and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.

The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.

## Facilities

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

## Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the COs will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

## Complaint Procedures

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability, the person may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations ("Section 504"), employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of Section 504. In addition,



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employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Internal complaints must be put in writing and must identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint must be filed with COs within the time limits specified below. The COs are available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

## Internal Complaint Procedure

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination based upon disability. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

- A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination on the basis of disability may first discuss the problem with the CO.
- B. If the informal discussion does not resolve the matter, or if the employee skips Step A, the individual may file a formal written complaint with the CO. The written complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to sign for the complainant, describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the CO of the nature and date of the alleged violation, and propose a resolution. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint, unless the time for filing is extended by the District CO for good cause.

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- C. The CO will conduct an independent investigation of the matter (which may or may not include a hearing). This complaint procedure contemplates informal, but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence relevant to the complaint. The CO will provide the complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) work days. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) work days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the District Administrator. The CO shall maintain the District's files and records relating to the complaint.
- D. The District Administrator will, within ten (10) work days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.  
  
The District Administrator will render his/her decision within ten (10) work days of the hearing.
- E. The employee may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.
- F. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

If it is determined that the complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the CO must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

## OCR Complaint

At any time, if an employee believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The OCR can be reached at:

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U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Citigroup Center  
500 W. Madison Street  
Suite 1475  
Chicago, IL 60661  
(312) 730-1560  
FAX: (312) 730-1576  
TDD: (877) 521-2172  
E-mail: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)

## Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

29 C.F.R. Part 1630

29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

34 C.F.R. Part 104

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

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## EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

It will be the responsibility of the District Administrator to ensure that all members of the professional staff, as defined in the definitions section, execute a written employment contract in accordance with the legal requirements related to their position in the District.

The District Administrator is authorized to execute employment contracts for the Board of Education upon approval of employment.

118.21, Wis. Stats.

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## LETTER OF EMPLOYMENT

School year paraprofessional employees shall be given written notice of his/her tentative assignment(s) for the forthcoming school year no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>, unless an emergency situation exists. Such notice shall include tentative work site, work schedule, and job title.

The letter shall not be construed as a limitation upon the District's discretion to change a paraprofessional employee's job assignment.

108.04 (17)(d), Wis. Stats.

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## WISCONSIN QUALITY EDUCATOR INITIATIVE

The Board of Education is committed to having a quality teacher in every classroom and a strong leader in every building. The Board encourages the use of best educational practices to improve instruction and increase student achievement. To this end, the Board requires that the District hire the most qualified and experienced staff available and that all staff be licensed as required by law.

Attaining and maintaining proper State licensure under P.I. 34, which describes the requirements for attaining and maintaining educator's licensing for practicing in the State, is primarily the licensee's responsibility. However, the Board recognizes its responsibilities under P.I. 34 and supports efforts that promote the effectiveness of staff through career-long preparation and learning and performance-based assessment.

Under P.I. 34, the Board is required to develop a licensure support plan providing for, at a minimum, ongoing orientation, support seminars and a qualified mentor for initial educators. Accordingly, the Board directs the District Administrator to develop a licensure support plan consistent with the requirements of P.I. 34.

P.I. 34, Wis. Adm. Code

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## VACANCIES

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to employ the person best suited to perform the duties of a particular District vacancy at any level.

Prior to posting a position, resignations, retirements, or leaves of absence must be Board approved prior to posting the vacant position.

Vacancies will be posted on the District website. Internal candidates may apply to be considered for vacant positions and may be granted an interview. The administration retains the right to recommend to the Board the candidate of their choice based on posting requirements, site needs and personal characteristics fitting to the position. The administration may temporarily fill vacant positions at its discretion.

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## NON-RENEWAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS

If the Board of Education intends to non-renew a contract, it shall give the administrator written preliminary notice by registered mail at least five (5) months prior to the expiration of the contract.

If the administrator files a written request with the Board within seven (7) days after receiving such notice, the administrator has a right to a hearing prior to being given the notice of non-renewal of the contract. The administrator may request a public or private hearing and request that the Board provide its reasons for non-renewal, in writing, prior to the hearing.

At least four (4) months prior to the expiration of the contract of an administrator, the Board shall provide notice, in writing, of either renewal of the contract or refusal to renew such contract. No person may be employed or dismissed except by a majority vote of the full Board.

Non-renewal of administrative contracts shall be consistent with State law and with the provisions of the employment contract between the Board and the administrator.

By mutual agreement of the Board and the administrator, the employment contract may be modified or terminated.

118.24(6), and (7), Wis. Stats.



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## TERMINATION, NON-RENEWAL AND RESIGNATION

### TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

All of the District's professional staff shall be employed under individual written contracts. All employment contracts will be compliant with applicable state statutes. Contracts may only be entered into by the Board and shall be in writing.

Professional staff/teacher contracts may be terminated or non-renewed with just cause upon a majority vote of the full membership of the Board of Education. Termination of employment may occur at any time during the term of a contract for just cause.

Written notice of renewal or refusal to renew the contract for teachers shall be provided by the School Board in accordance with sections 118.22(2) and 118.24(7) of the Wisconsin Statutes (2010).

Selection of staff members for non-renewal of contract for budgetary reasons will be based upon the factors considered in a Reduction of Staff found in the Professional Employee Handbook.

### RESIGNATION

A professional staff member may resign in accordance with the terms of his/her employment contract. A resignation, once submitted and accepted by the Board, is final and may not be rescinded without approval by the Board.

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## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The Board of Education requires any candidate, as a condition of employment, to submit to an examination, including a test for tuberculosis, in order to determine the physical capacity to perform assigned duties. Such examinations shall be done in accordance with 118.25 Wis. Stats., the District Administrator's guidelines.

Employees will be required to execute a release that complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act in order to allow the report of the medical examination to be released to the Board/District Administrator and to allow the District Administrator or his/her designee to speak to the health care provider who conducted the medical examination in order to get clarification (see Form 3160 F2).

Reports of all such examinations or evaluations shall be delivered to the District Administrator, who shall protect their confidentiality. Reports will be discussed with the employee or candidate. In compliance with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and Board Policy 3122.02, the successful candidate who is required to submit to a medical examination, as well as the health care provider that is designated by the Board to conduct the examination, are directed not to collect genetic information or provide any genetic information, including the candidate's family medical history, in the report of the medical examination.

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Employees will be notified of the results of the medical examination upon receipt. Any and all reports of such examination will be maintained in a separate confidential personnel file in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA") and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA).

In the event of a report of a condition that could influence job performance, the District Administrator shall base a nonemployment recommendation to the Board upon a conference with the examining physician and substantiation that the condition is directly correlated to defined job responsibilities and reasonable accommodation will not allow the employee or prospective employee to adequately fulfill those responsibilities. Freedom from tuberculosis in a communicable form is a condition of employment.

The Board shall assume the fees for examinations.

118.25, Wis. Stats.

29 C.F.R., Part 1630

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

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## UNREQUESTED LEAVES OF ABSENCE/FITNESS FOR DUTY

It is the policy of the Board of Education to protect students and employees from the effects of contagious diseases and other circumstances that render staff members unable to perform their duties.

The Board authorizes the District Administrator to place a staff member on unrequested leave of absence for physical or mental inability to perform assigned duties in conformance with the law.

The District Administrator shall require that the staff member submit to an appropriate examination by a healthcare provider designated and compensated by the District.

The staff member will be required to execute a release that complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in order to allow the report of the medical examination to be released to the Board/District Administrator and to allow the District Administrator to speak to the health care provider who conducted the medical examination in order to get clarification. Refusal to submit to an appropriate examination or to execute the HIPAA release will be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

As required by Federal law and regulation and Board Policy 3122.02, the District Administrator shall direct the provider designated by the Board to conduct the examination not to collect genetic information or provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in the report of the medical examination.

Pursuant to State law and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended (ADA) and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), the results of any such examination shall be treated as a confidential medical record and will be exempt from release, except as provided by law. If the District inadvertently receives genetic information about an individual who is required to submit to an appropriate examination from the medical provider, it shall be treated as a confidential medical record as required by the ADA.

If, as a result of such examination, the staff member is found to be unable to perform assigned duties, the staff member shall be placed on leave of absence until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the District Administrator, is furnished.

Should a staff member refuse to submit to the examination requested by the District Administrator such refusal shall subject the staff member to disciplinary action.

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The Board may designate any period of leave under this policy as qualifying leave under State and/or Federal FMLA leave entitlement consistent with Policy 3430.01 as provided by law.

111.32, et seq., the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act  
29 C.F.R., Part 1630  
29 C.F.R., Part 1635  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

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## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Board of Education recognizes alcoholism and drug abuse as treatable illnesses. When such illnesses impair the performance of staff members, the Board recognizes the responsibility to assist in a manner recommended by appropriate specialists in the treatment of those illnesses through the District's Employee Assistance Program.

A staff member having an illness or other problem relating to the use of alcohol or other drugs will receive the same careful consideration and offer of assistance that is presently extended to staff members having any other illness.

The responsibility to correct unsatisfactory job performance or behavior resulting from a suspected alcohol or drug problem rests with the staff member. Failure to do so will result in appropriate corrective or disciplinary action as determined by the Board. The Board will assist an employee with an alcohol or drug problem in developing reasonable accommodations so that the employee may perform his/her work, consistent with State and Federal law. Existence of a substance abuse problem does not excuse misconduct in employment or violation of Board policy.

No staff member will have his/her job security or promotion opportunities jeopardized by his/her request for counseling or referral assistance.

Staff members who suspect they may have an alcohol or other drug abuse problem are encouraged to seek counseling and information on a confidential basis by contacting resources available for such service.

This policy shall be administered in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and applicable State laws.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
Wis. Stat. 111.34

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## STAFF ETHICS

An effective educational program requires the services of men and women of integrity, high ideals, and human understanding. To maintain and promote these essentials, the Board of Education expects all staff members to maintain high standards in their working relationships, and in the performance of their duties, to:

- A. recognize basic dignities of all individuals with whom they interact in the performance of duties;
- B. represent accurately their qualifications;
- C. exercise due care to protect the mental and physical safety of students, colleagues, and subordinates;
- D. keep in confidence legally-confidential information as they may secure;
- E. adhere to the policies of the Board;
- F. avoid accepting anything of value offered by another for the purpose of influencing judgment;
- G. refrain from using position or public property, or permitting another person to use an employee's position or public property for partisan political or religious purposes. This will in no way limit constitutionally or legally protected rights as a citizen.

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## WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The Board of Education expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct, and to comply with applicable State and Federal law, Board policies and administrative procedures. Pursuant to State law, the Board expects instructional staff members to report to their immediate supervisors any violation or suspected violation of any Federal, State or local law, policy, or regulation committed by any employee, or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board, which creates and presents a substantial or specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare. Additionally, pursuant to State law, instructional staff members are expected to report any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board.

It is the responsibility of an employee who is aware of conduct on the part of any Board member or employee that possibly violates Federal or State law, or Board policy, to call this conduct to the attention of his/her immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not responsive or is the employee whose behavior is in question, the employee should report the alleged misconduct to the District Administrator.

After such a report is made, the immediate supervisor will ask that the report be put in writing.

Any employee making such a report shall be protected from discipline, retaliation, or reprisal for making such report as long as the employee made such a report based on a reasonable and good faith belief that the report is accurate and not based on the employee's intent to harm, harass, intimidate, or retaliate against another individual.



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Employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for purposely, knowingly, or recklessly making a false report under this policy. Conversely, employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if they are aware of a violation of Federal, State, or local law that the Board has the authority to correct and they do not make a report confirmed in writing to their immediate supervisor.

If the alleged misconduct that is reported involves a Board member, the employee shall report to the District Administrator who is authorized to engage the Board's legal counsel to manage an investigation concerning the matter. If the report concerns the District Administrator the employee shall make the report to the Board President, who is authorized to engage the Board's legal counsel to manage the investigation.

Upon receipt of a report made by an instructional staff member pursuant to this policy, an investigation shall be commenced as soon as possible and shall be handled expeditiously.

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# policy

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## STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Staff members because of their proximity to students are frequently confronted with situations which, if handled incorrectly, could result in liability to the District, personal liability to the staff member, and/or harm to the welfare of the student(s). It is the intent of the Board of Education to direct the preparation of guidelines that would minimize that possibility.

A staff member, or a person who works or volunteers with children, who is found to have had sexual contact with a student, including a student age sixteen (16) or older, shall be referred to the proper authorities and be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

This policy should not be construed as affecting any obligations on the part of staff to report suspected child abuse under Wis. Stats. 48.981 and Policy 8462.

It is the responsibility of the District Administrator to ensure the maintenance of the following standards:

Each staff member shall maintain a standard of care for supervision, control, and protection of students commensurate with assigned duties and responsibilities.

Each staff member shall immediately report to the principal any accident or safety hazard s/he detects.

Each staff member shall immediately report to the principal any knowledge of threats of violence by students.

A staff member shall not send students on any personal errands.

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A staff member shall not associate with students at any time in a manner which gives the appearance of impropriety, including, but not limited to, the creation or participation in any situation or activity which could be considered abusive or sexually suggestive or involve illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.

This provision should not be construed as precluding a staff member from associating with students in private for legitimate or proper reasons or to interfere with familial relationships that may exist between staff and students.

A staff member shall not transport students in a private vehicle without prior approval.

Staff members wishing to communicate or share information on a school sponsored activity should establish a social media site that is accessible to the general public highlighting that activity.

Staff members are prohibited from engaging current students (friending, communicating directly...) in social media and online networking media from their personal accounts.

Staff members are discouraged from posting any video or picture of students on their personal social networking media or similar forums. Staff members should not identify any specific student (i.e. tagging or identifying students with their full name).

Most information concerning a child in school is a confidential student record under Federal and State laws. Any staff member who shares confidential information with another person not authorized to receive the information may be subject to discipline or civil liability. This includes, but is not limited to, information concerning assessments, grades, behavior, family background, and alleged child abuse (see Policy 8330).

Pursuant to the laws of the State and Board Policy 8462, each staff member shall report to the proper legal authorities immediately, any sign of suspected child abuse or neglect.

48.981, 948, 948.095 Wis. Stats.

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## USE OF TOBACCO BY STAFF

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a tobacco and smoke-free environment. The negative health effects of tobacco use for both users and non-users, particularly in connection with second hand smoke, are well-established. Further, providing a non-smoking and tobacco-free environment is consistent with the responsibilities of teachers and staff to be positive role models for our students. The Board also recognizes, however, the right of individuals under State law to use lawful products, including tobacco, during non-working hours off District premises.

For purposes of this policy, "use of tobacco" means to chew or maintain any substance containing tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, in the mouth to derive the effects of tobacco, as well as all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, any other matter or substances that contain tobacco, in addition to papers used to roll cigarettes and/or the smoking of electronic, "vapor," or other substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes and any other lighted smoking devices for burning tobacco or any other substance. Accordingly, the Board prohibits the use of tobacco in any form on District premises, in District vehicles, within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by the District, and used to provide education or library services to children and at all District-sponsored events.

111.321, Wis. Stats.  
120.12(20), Wis. Stats.  
20 U.S.C. 6081 et seq.  
20 U.S.C. 7182

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## WEAPONS

The Board of Education prohibits staff members from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, a school sponsored event, or in a District vehicle.

### **Concealed Carry Permit Holders**

Nothing in this policy prohibits an employee with a properly issued permit to carry a concealed weapon from exercising his/her rights consistent with Wisconsin's concealed carry law and the State and Federal gun free school zones laws. However, a staff member who is the holder of a concealed carry permit license issued or recognized by the State of Wisconsin may not, by virtue of Wis. Stat. 948.605(2)(b)1r, possess a concealed weapon anywhere in or on school grounds, including parking areas.

A staff member who is a concealed carry permit licensee may not carry a concealed weapon or otherwise store a weapon or ammunition in his or her personal vehicle while transporting students for school sponsored events or school-related purposes in his/her own vehicle. This does not apply to the transportation of students related by blood or marriage to the staff member if only such students are being transported.

### **Definition of "Weapon"**

For this policy, the term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms (including, but not limited to, firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)), guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, (subject to the exceptions below) razors, with unguarded blades, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

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Exceptions to this policy include:

- A. weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel while on duty, or qualified former law enforcement officers, off duty law enforcement officers, or out-of-state law enforcement officers;
- B. theatrical props used in appropriate settings;
- C. starter pistols used in appropriate sporting events.

The District Administrator may refer a staff member who violates this policy to law enforcement officials. The staff member may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, as permitted by applicable Board policy.

Any staff member who has reason to believe that a person has or will violate this policy shall report to the school Principal or their supervisor immediately. Failure to report such information may subject the staff member to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. The staff member may also confront the person if the staff member believes the risk of injury to self or others is minimal or if immediate action is necessary to prevent injury to any person.

120.13(1), Wis. Stats.

175.60, Wis. Stats.

943.13, Wis. Stats.

948.605, Wis. Stats.

18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)

18 U.S.C. 922

20 U.S.C. 7151

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## STAFF EVALUATION AND EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

The Board of Education is responsible for the employment and discharge of all personnel. To carry out this responsibility, it delegates to the District Administrator the function of establishing and implementing staff job descriptions and a program of personnel assessment that identifies specific criteria and a systematic procedure to evaluate staff. This procedure shall include an appropriate and approved Educator Effectiveness program for the evaluation of teachers and Principals in the District.

A staff member shall be given a copy of any documents relating to his/her performance that will be placed in the personnel file.

### Licensed Teachers and Principals

Evaluations shall be conducted in each of the first two (2) years of employment and at a minimum every third year thereafter, or more frequently as determined by the administration or the protocols of the Educator Effectiveness program adopted and used by the Board. Pursuant to Wisconsin's Educator Effectiveness law, the Board delegates to the District Administrator the task of selecting and implementing an approved Educator Effectiveness program such that the District is in compliance with State law.

The Board will use the educator effectiveness model available from CESA 6 to evaluate the performance of all professional staff and will assess, upon the recommendation of the District Administrator, whether to use an alternative program.

Evaluations shall be conducted based on the model in place at the time and consistent with applicable State law and the District's guidelines.

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The administration is authorized to implement additional evaluation procedures for specific personnel in need of additional or alternative evaluation in addition to the educator effectiveness program. A positive rating does not necessarily preclude the District from taking adverse employment action towards an employee for other performance or conduct related reasons, or from implementing remedial or performance improvement measures.

P.I. 8.01(2q), P.I. 47 Wis. Adm. Code  
118.225, 118.30, 121.02 (1) (q) Wis Stats  
20 USC 6311

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## EVALUATION OF PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFF

### Supervision, Evaluation and Feedback

Every paraprofessional employee will be evaluated during their first year of employment and once every two years thereafter. The supervision and evaluation of each employee will be completed by the administrator and/or his/her designee.

All formal evaluations for paraprofessional employees will include a conference and a written evaluation. Any and all observations, including walkthrough observation(s), may be used in the development of the evaluation document.

The paraprofessional employee will acknowledge the receipt of all documents related to the evaluation by signing and dating the document within ten school days. The paraprofessional employee may attach a report with any remarks concerning the document within ten days of reviewing his/her performance evaluation. Acknowledging receipt does not imply agreement with all or part of the documents received.

A paraprofessional employee, whose performance is below the District's expectations, may be placed on a forty-five (45) working day improvement plan of action. If after the forty-five (45) working day improvement plan of action, the paraprofessional employee's performance continues to be unsatisfactory, as deemed by the administration, administration may proceed with further action, including termination.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The proper performance of school business is dependent upon the maintenance of unusually high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and professional conduct by Board members, District employees, officers and agents. This standard is essential to the Board's commitment to earn and keep the public's confidence in the School District.

For these reasons, the Board of Education adopts the following guidelines to ensure that conflicts of interest do not occur. These guidelines apply to all District employees, officers and agents, including members of the Board. These guidelines are not intended to be all inclusive, nor to substitute for good judgment on the part of all professional employees, officers and agents. Employees are expected to perform their duties in a manner free from conflict of interest consistent with 19.59, Wis. Stats.

- A. No employee, officer or agent shall engage in or have financial or other interest, directly or indirectly, in any activity that conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his/her duties and responsibilities in the school system.
- B. Employees, officers and agents shall not engage in business, private practice of their profession, the rendering of services, or the sale of goods of any type where advantage is taken of any professional relationship they may have with any student, client, or parents of such students or clients in the course of their employment or professional relationship with the School District.

Included, by way of illustration, rather than limitation are the following:

1. the provision of any private lessons or services for a fee
2. soliciting on school premises or under circumstances which are coercive for the private sale of goods or services to students or other employees
3. the use, sale, or improper divulging of any privileged information about a student or client granted in the course of the employee's, officer's or agent's employment or professional relationship with the School District through his/her access to School District records

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4. the referral of any student or client for lessons or services to any private business or professional practitioner if there is any expectation of reciprocal referrals, sharing of fees, or other remuneration for such referrals
  5. the requirement of students or clients to purchase any private goods or services provided by an employee, officer or agent or any business or professional practitioner with whom any employee, officer or agent has a financial or other relationship, as a condition of receiving any grades, credits, promotions, approvals, or recommendations
- C. Should exceptions to this policy be necessary in order to provide mandatory services to students or clients of the School District, all such exceptions will be made known to the employee's supervisor and will be disclosed to the District Administrator before entering into any private relationship.
- D. Employees, officers and agents shall not make use of materials, equipment, or facilities of the School District for their own personal financial gain or business interest. Examples would be the use of facilities before, during, or after regular business hours for service to private practice clients, or the checking out of items from an instructional materials center for private practice.
- E. Employees, officers and agents shall not participate in the selection, award and administration of any contract to an entity in which they have a pecuniary interest. No employee may use their position to obtain anything considered a financial gain for themselves, an immediate family member, or for an organization with which he or she is associated.
- Employees, officers and agents cannot solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts.
- F. To the extent that the School District has a parent, affiliate or subsidiary organization, including any charter school authorized by the Board regardless of whether it is an instrumentality of the District or not, that is not a State, local government or Indian tribe, the School District may not conduct a procurement action involving the parent, affiliate or subsidiary organization if the School District is unable, or appears to be unable, to be impartial.
- G. Employees, officers and agents must disclose any potential conflict of interest which may lead to a violation of this policy to the School District. Upon discovery of any potential conflict of interest, the School District will disclose, in writing, the

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potential conflict of interest to the appropriate Federal awarding agency or, if applicable, the pass-through entity.

The District will also disclose, in a timely manner, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity that affect a Federal award to the appropriate Federal awarding agency or, if applicable, the pass-through entity.

- H. Employees, officers and agents found to be in violation of this conflict of interest policy will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

In the event that, within the course of administering a Federally funded grant program or service to the District, any employee that identifies a conflict of interest, a potential conflict of interest, or that the appearance of a conflict of interest may arise in the course of administering the Federal grant funds, the employee must immediately notify either the Federal agency administering the grant in a manner consistent with that particular agencies rules on conflict of interests, or the District employee directly responsible for grant compliance. Such notice shall be provided at the earliest possible time.

It is a violation of this policy to take action or to refrain from taking action, or for an employee to otherwise use his/her public position to obtain a financial gain or anything of substantial value for himself/herself or his/her immediate family.

19.59, Wis. Stats.  
2 C.F.R. 200.12, 2 C.F.R. 200.113, 2 C.F.R. 200.318  
7 C.F.R. 3016.36(b)(3) and 7 C.F.R. 3019.42

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## OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OF STAFF

The Board of Education directs the District Administrator to promulgate the following guidelines so that staff members may avoid situations in which their personal interests, activities, and associations may conflict with the interests of the District. If such situations threaten a staff member's effectiveness within the school system, the District Administrator shall evaluate the impact of such interest, activity, or association upon the staff member's responsibilities.

- A. Staff members should not give work time to an outside interest, activity, or association without valid reason to be excused from assigned duties.
- B. Staff members shall not use school property or school time to solicit or accept customers for private enterprises without written administrative permission.
- C. Staff members shall not campaign on school property during duty hours on behalf of any political issue or candidate for local, State, or National office.
- D. Staff members may not accept fees for tutoring when such tutoring is conducted during the normal work day.
- E. Employees should avoid conduct and associations outside the school which, if known, could have an adverse or harmful effect upon the school community.
- F. Employees should refrain from expressions that would disrupt harmony among their co-workers or interfere with the maintenance of discipline by school officials.

### **Research and Publishing**

- A. Professional staff members are encouraged to contribute articles to professional publications and to engage in approved professional research.

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- B. Materials which might be considered for publication and/or production, which identify the District in any manner, shall be cleared with the District Administrator prior to publication and/or production.
- C. Publications and productions shall be subject to the following copyright provisions:
  - 1. Rights to copyrights or patents of books, materials, devices, etc. developed by professional staff members on their own time will be relinquished by the Board upon request of the staff member provided that:
    - a. the books, materials, devices, etc. were prepared without the use of District data, facilities, and/or equipment;
    - b. the District is granted the privilege of purchasing the materials or products free of any copyright or royalty charges;
    - c. the staff member does not become involved in any way in the selling of the product to the District.

The final decision regarding whether materials were produced independently of any work assignment, and/or without using school equipment, facilities, data, or equipment rests with the District Administrator.

Professional staff members who desire to publish or produce materials on their own time should make such action known to the District Administrator prior to the time such work is started in order that proper procedures can be established to assure that District interests and the interests of the staff member are protected.

- 2. All books, materials, devices, or products which result from the paid work time and/or prescribed duties of professional staff members shall remain the property of the District. The District shall retain all rights and privileges pertaining to the ownership thereof.

In the event that any of these products have commercial possibilities, the District Administrator is authorized to secure copyrights, patents, etc. which will ensure the ownership of the product by the District.

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The District Administrator is authorized to negotiate with appropriate agencies for the production and distribution of products with commercial appeal. Such negotiations shall ensure fair and appropriate compensation, including sharing of royalties, for the staff member(s) who developed the products.

17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.

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## PERSONAL PROPERTY OF STAFF MEMBERS

Employees may bring personal property, including personal communication devices, to school either for reasons associated with their responsibilities or for use during off-duty time. The owner of the personal property bears all responsibility and assumes all risk for loss, damage, or misuse of said personal property while it is on Board of Education property.

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## FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN NON-SCHOOL SETTINGS

The Board of Education acknowledges the right of its staff members, as citizens in a democratic society, to speak out on issues of public concern. When those issues are related to the District, however, including matters related to the performance of their job duties or responsibilities, the staff member's expression must be balanced against the interests of this District.

The following guidelines are adopted by the Board to help clarify and, therefore, avoid situations in which the professional staff member's expression could conflict with the District's interests. In such situations, s/he should:

- A. state clearly that his/her expression, written or verbal, represents personal views and not necessarily those of the School District;
- B. refrain from expressions, written or verbal, that would disrupt harmony among coworkers or interfere with the maintenance of discipline by school officials;
- C. not make threats or abusive or personally-defamatory comments, written or verbal, about coworkers, administrators, or officials of the District;
- D. refrain from making public expressions, written or verbal, which s/he knows to be false or are made without regard for truth or accuracy.

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## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

### Purpose

The purpose of this Grievance Procedure is to provide a way for employees of the Portage Community School District (employer) to resolve grievances concerning discipline, termination, or workplace safety.

This Grievance Procedure is intended to comply with Wis. Stat. § 66.0509(1m). This procedure does not create a contract of employment, and does not change an employee's employment status. Employment disputes that are covered by state or federal statutes and/or administrative enforcement mechanisms are not covered by this Procedure.

### Definitions

**“Grievance”** means a written complaint related to the discipline or termination of an employee or to “workplace safety.”

**“Days”** means calendar days.

**“Employee termination”** shall be narrowly construed to mean a separation from employment by the employer for disciplinary or performance reasons. “Employee termination” does not include layoff, failure to be recalled from layoff, furlough or reduction in workforce, administrator or teacher nonrenewal for the purpose of the elimination of a position or a reduction in staff, job transfer, non-disciplinary demotion, reduction in or elimination of position, resignation, voluntary quit, abandonment, end of employment due to disability, retirement, or death, and end of employment and/or completion of assignment of limited term, temporary, seasonal, substitute, or part-time employees, including co-curricular contracts.

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**“Employee discipline”** shall be narrowly construed to mean a suspension without pay, or a demotion or reduction in rank, pay, or other benefits, imposed by the employer for disciplinary reasons. “Employee discipline” does not include oral or written reprimands, performance evaluations, performance improvement plans, termination, non-renewal of teacher contracts under Wis. Stat. §118.22, non-renewal of administrator contracts under Wis. Stat. §118.24, layoff, failure to be recalled from layoff, furlough or reduction in workforce, administrative leave or suspension with pay, or any other employment action such as wage, benefit or salary adjustments, or change in assignment, which are taken for a nondisciplinary reason.

**“Workplace safety”** shall be narrowly construed to refer to (1) an existing condition that substantially endangers an employee’s health and safety; or (2) any workplace policy or procedure established by state or federal law or the Board to protect the safety and health of employees in the District which is alleged by an employee to have been violated and to have substantially adversely affected the employee’s safety at a District workplace.

## **Time Limits**

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If the grievant fails to comply with any time periods or other procedures of this policy, the grievance will be deemed resolved and the grievant shall have no further right to pursue or appeal a grievance decision. If the employer fails to comply with any time periods or other procedures of this policy, the grievant may advance the grievance to the next level, and there shall be no other consequence or remedy for the employer’s failure to comply with any time periods or other procedures. A grievance may be withdrawn by the employee at anytime. Once a grievance is withdrawn, it cannot be reopened or re-filed. The parties may mutually agree to extend any time deadline. Such extensions shall be non-precedential.

## **Termination of an Employee with a Contract for a Definite Term**

- A. Termination of an Employee with a Contract for a Definite Term. The procedure for terminating an employee where there is an expectation of continued employment, because of the existence of a contract for a definite term, a “cause” standard or another basis in law or fact, is as follows:
  1. The District Administrator or designee (or in the case of the termination of the District Administrator, an individual designated by the Board President) shall notify the employee, in writing, that he/she intends to recommend that the Board terminate the employee’s contract and the basis for that recommendation.

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2. The Board shall provide the employee with such due process as is required by law in making its decision on the termination recommendation.
  3. In making its decision on the recommendation, the Board shall apply the standard established in contract for termination of the contract or, if no standard is set forth in the contract, shall determine whether good and sufficient cause exists for termination of the contract. "Good and sufficient cause" is defined to include, but not be limited to, incompetence or substantial negligence in the performance of job duties or obligation; failure or refusal to perform job duties or obligations; a material violation of state or federal law; violation of Board policies or the employee's job description; dishonest, immoral, fraudulent or criminal conduct or any similar conduct
  4. The Board shall inform the employee in writing of its decision regarding the termination recommendation. If the employee wishes to appeal a termination decision, the employee must file an appeal requesting an "Impartial Hearing" at Step 5.D. of this Grievance Procedure by filing a grievance form with the Board President within seven (7) days of receiving written notice of termination. If no appeal is filed, the Board's decision shall be final.
- B. Non-Renewal of a Teacher or Administrator Contract Governed by §§ 118.22 or 118.24.

The procedures for non-renewal of a teacher or administrator contract set forth in Wis. Stat. §§ 118.22 and 118.24, respectively, shall be followed, if applicable. If the Board non-renews the contract of a teacher or administrator for reasons other than the elimination of the position or a reduction in staff, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 118.22 or 118.24, and the teacher or administrator wishes to appeal the non-renewal decision, the teacher or administrator shall file an appeal requesting an "Impartial Hearing" at Step 5.D. of this Grievance Procedure by filing a grievance form with the Board President within seven (7) days of receiving final, written notice of non-renewal from the Board. If no appeal is filed, the Board's decision shall be final.

## **Process**

- A. Written Grievance Submission

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Only the employee who is subject to the discipline or termination or directly impacted by the issue of workplace safety may file a grievance. The employee must file a grievance within seven (7) days of the date the employee knew or reasonably should have known of the termination, employee discipline or workplace safety issue. The grievance must be in writing on the Employee Grievance Form. On the form, the grievant shall: (1) identify the category of grievance (i.e., termination of an employee without a contract with a definite term, discipline, or workplace safety); (2) identify the facts supporting the grievance; (3) specify the policy, rule, regulation, or law alleged to have been violated, and the rationale supporting the grievance; and (4) describe the relief requested. The grievance must be given to the District Administrator. If the grievant is the District Administrator, the grievance must be given to the Board President.

B. Representatives.

Any party involved in the grievance may have a representative present at all levels once the grievance has been filed in writing.

C. Administrative Decision

The District Administrator shall act on the grievance within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the written grievance, unless the District Administrator is the Grievant in which case the response shall be provided by the Board. The written response shall contain a statement of the basis for the decision to sustain or deny the grievance, and, if denied, the deadline for the Grievant to appeal the grievance to an Impartial Hearing Officer (“IHO”).

D. Impartial Hearing

If the grievant wishes to appeal the administrative decision or Board decision described in section 4. A. or B. above, the grievant must file a written appeal with the Board President within seven (7) days of receipt of the administrative decision or Board decision requesting a hearing before an IHO. The hearing shall take place within a reasonable time. The IHO shall file a written decision within thirty (30) days after the hearing is concluded, including any post-hearing briefing period, unless the IHO notifies the parties that more time is needed and provides the reasons for the extension. Additional information regarding the Impartial Hearing process is found in section 6 below.

E. Appeal of IHO’s Decision

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If either party is aggrieved by the decision rendered by the IHO, the aggrieved party may file a written appeal with the Board within ten (10) days of receiving the IHO's decision. If no appeal is filed within ten (10) days, the decision of the IHO shall become final. Additional information regarding the Board's review on appeal of an IHO's decision is found in section 7 below.

## **Procedure for Impartial Hearing.**

### **A. Standard of Review**

The standard of review to be applied by the IHO to an administrative/Board decision, including a Board decision under Section 4. A. or B., above, shall be based on the following:

1. The review of a Board decision to terminate an employee under Section 4.A., above, shall require deference to the Board's decision and be upheld if it has a reasonable basis in fact.
2. The review of an administrative decision to terminate or discipline an employee under any other circumstance or to non-renew an employee's contract under Section 4.B., above, shall require deference to the administrative/Board decision. The administrative/Board decision shall be upheld if it is not "arbitrary and capricious," which shall be defined as an action which is either so unreasonable as to be without rational basis or the result of unconsidered, willful, or irrational choice.
3. The review of an administrative decision concerning a workplace safety grievance shall require deference to the administrative decision. The decision shall be upheld if it is not "arbitrary and capricious," which shall be defined as an action which is either so unreasonable as to be without rational basis or the result of unconsidered, willful, or irrational choice.

### **B. Impartial Hearing Officer**

The IHO shall not be an officer, agent or employee of the Board at the time of appointment. The Board shall appoint the IHO.

### **C. IHO Responsibilities and Authority**

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The IHO shall do the following:

1. Screen the grievance and determine whether it falls within one of the categories subject to the Grievance Procedure and whether it has been timely filed.
2. Provide reasonable notice to the parties of the time and location for the hearing.
3. When requested by either party, subpoena witnesses as necessary to ensure their testimony.
4. Make evidentiary findings and conclusions. In the case of a grievance related to a termination or discipline, the IHO shall determine whether a full evidentiary hearing is needed to afford the employee the requisite due process, and, if so, shall allow the grievant to present evidence, call and question witnesses, cross-examine adverse witnesses, obtain copies of evidentiary materials and argue his or her case. The rules of evidence shall not apply at any hearing; however, depending on the nature of the hearing, a material fact may not be supported solely by hearsay evidence. Additionally, the IHO may exclude or limit irrelevant, repetitive, or redundant evidence or any evidence lacking probative value. The IHO shall act so as to provide a speedy and inexpensive resolution of any appeal brought before the IHO.
5. If the grievance is sustained in whole or in part, determine the appropriate remedy, provided, however, that the IHO may not award attorney's fees or litigation expenses against the Board at any time.
6. The IHO shall only consider the precise issue(s) submitted on the grievance form and letter of appeal, if applicable, shall apply the applicable standard of review, and shall have no authority to determine any other issue.
7. The IHO has no authority to make any decision which requires the commission of an act prohibited by law.
8. The hearing shall be recorded. The IHO shall consider whether to engage a court reporter in lieu of recording the hearing. The grievant may request the opportunity to have the hearing conducted in open session, subject to such

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other legal requirements relating to confidentiality or privacy which may apply to the subject matter of the hearing.

9. The IHO shall issue a written decision no more than thirty (30) days after the hearing is concluded, including any briefing period, unless the IHO notifies the parties that more time is needed and the reasons therefore.
10. The IHO shall inform the parties that an appeal of the decision may be taken to the Board if filed within ten (10) days of the receipt of the IHO's decision, and that if no timely appeal is filed, the IHO's decision shall become final.

## **Procedure for Board Review on Appeal of IHO's Decision.**

- A. If either party is aggrieved by the IHO's decision, either party has the right to file a written appeal with the Board within ten (10) days of receiving the IHO's decision. If no timely appeal is filed, the IHO's decision shall become final.
- B. The Board President shall provide the parties with ten (10) days notice of any meeting scheduled by the Board to hear the appeal.
- C. The Board shall review the grievance on the record established by the IHO. Each party may make a brief oral presentation to the Board to summarize the party's position as to whether the IHO decision should be sustained, modified or reversed. No factual evidence or argument not presented to the IHO for consideration shall be presented to the Board for review. The appeal meeting shall be held in closed session. If the Board determines more information is necessary to make a decision, it may remand the matter to the IHO for further proceedings.
- D. The Board may affirm, reverse, or modify the IHO's decision. The IHO's decision may be reversed or modified if the decision was:
  1. In excess of the district's statutory authority or jurisdiction;
  2. Based upon improper application or interpretation of Board policies or handbook provisions;
  3. Unsupported by relevant evidence to support the conclusion or is otherwise erroneous;



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4. So unreasonable as to be without a rational basis or the result of unconsidered, willful or irrational choice;
  5. The result of an inappropriate application of the standard of review by the IHO;
  6. Beyond scope of review of IHO; or,
  7. In contravention of public policy considerations.
- E. Procedural errors, which do not have a substantial effect on the rights of the parties, shall not be grounds for reversal of any decision.
- F. The Board's decision shall be final. The Board shall send the grievant and the District Administrator a written statement of its decision within a reasonable time after hearing the appeal.

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## EMPLOYEE ANTI-HARASSMENT

### **Prohibited Harassment**

The Board of Education is committed to a work environment that is free of harassment of any form. The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate action to eliminate it. Any member of the School District community who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our employees.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against harassment based on race, color, national origin, age, sex (including transgender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), national origin, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or nonuse of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices (hereinafter referred to as "Protected Characteristics"), and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board prohibits harassment that affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Harassment may occur employee to employee, employee to student, male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, or female-to-female.

The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where harassment is substantiated, the School Board will take immediate steps calculated to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and, if applicable, remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means individuals subject to the control and supervision of the Board including, but not limited to, students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and Board members, agents, contractors, or other persons.

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For purposes of this policy, "third parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with the District, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off School District property).

## **Definitions**

**"Harassment"** means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a school employee on the basis of the employee's Protected Characteristics that:

- A. places a school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent so as to create a hostile working environment which materially alters the employee's working conditions from the perspective of a reasonable person similarly situated;
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school or any other aspect of the District's operations.

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## **Sexual Harassment**

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, “sexual harassment” is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct based on sex constitutes sexual harassment when:

- A. a supervisory employee engages in harassing behavior towards a subordinate employee, regardless of whether such conduct creates a hostile work environment;
- B. acquiescence in or submission to such conduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment;
- C. an individual's acquiescence in, submission to, or rejection of such conduct becomes the basis for employment decisions affecting that individual;
- D. such conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment;
- E. consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism results in an adverse employment action for another employee or otherwise creates a hostile work environment;
- F. inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the District into a student's personal space and personal life.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

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Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations;
- B. physical and/or sexual assault;
- C. threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, promotion, assignments, or other conditions of employment may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances;
- D. unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls, text messages, or social media postings;
- E. sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings, or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, which may embarrass or offend individuals;
- F. unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures;
- G. a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;
- H. remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history;
- I. consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment; and

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- J. verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual relationships between staff members, where one staff member has supervisory responsibilities over the other, are discouraged as a matter of Board policy. Such relationships have an inherent possibility of being construed as sexual harassment because the consensual aspect of the relationship may be the result of implicit or explicit duress caused by uncertainty regarding the consequences of noncompliance.

Romantic or sexual relationships between District staff (teachers, aides, administrators, coaches or other school authorities) and a student is expressly prohibited. Any school staff member who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of a crime and any information regarding such instances will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

Inappropriate boundary invasions are prohibited and must be reported promptly to one of the District Compliance Officers, as designated in this policy, the Building Principal or the District Administrator.

## **Religious (Creed) Harassment**

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

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## **National Origin Harassment**

Prohibited national origin harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

## **Age Harassment**

Prohibited age based harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's age, being over age forty (40), and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

## **Race/Color Harassment**

Prohibited race/color based harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race and/or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

## **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability, perceived disability, or record of disability, and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's current or past disabling condition or a perceived condition, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

## **Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct**

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Members of the School District community and third parties, which includes all staff, are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor or other School District official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Compliance Officer at his/her first opportunity.

Members of the School District community or third parties who believe they have been harassed by another member of the School District community or a third party are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment unless the complaining individual makes the complaint maliciously or with knowledge that it is false.

Reporting procedures are as follows:

- A. Any employee who believes s/he has been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy is encouraged to report the alleged harassment to the appropriate school official as identified in D below.
- B. Teachers, administrators, and other school officials who have knowledge of or receive notice that an employee has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy shall immediately report the alleged harassment to the appropriate school official as defined in D below.
- C. Any other person with knowledge or belief that an employee has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited by this policy shall be encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school official as identified in D below.



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- D. Appropriate school officials are as follows:
  - 1. Any complaint under this policy shall be reported to the District's Compliance Officer unless the complaint is regarding the Compliance Officer. In such cases, the complaints shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall assume the role of the District Compliance Officer for such complaints.
  - 2. Any complaint under this policy regarding the District Administrator or Board Member that is received by the District Compliance Officer shall be referred to the School Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the District Compliance Officer for such complaints.
- E. The reporting party or complainant shall be encouraged to use a report form available from the Principal of each building or available from the District office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Use of formal reporting forms shall not be mandated. However, all oral complaints shall be reduced to writing. Further, nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment directly to the District Administrator.
- F. To provide individuals with options for reporting harassment to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable, the District shall designate both a male and a female District Compliance Officer.

District Compliance Officers

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The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Peter Hibner  
Assistant Superintendent  
Portage Community School District  
305 E. Slifer Street  
Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-4879 Ext. 4134  
hibnerp@portagek12.wi.us

Margaret Rudolph  
Director of Business Operations  
Portage Community School District  
305 E. Slifer Street  
Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-4879 Ext. 4121  
rudolphm@portage.k12.wi.us

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the parent and staff handbooks, in the School District Annual Report to the public, and on the School District's web site.

A CO will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct.

The COs are assigned to accept complaints of harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or to receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an investigation or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will prepare recommendations or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations. All members of the School District community should report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.

## **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

Any employee or other member of the School District community or visitor to the District who believes that s/he has been subjected to harassment or has witnessed harassment of another may

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seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of harassment was substantiated are set forth below.

Once the complaint process begins, the investigation will be complete in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

## **Complaint Procedure**

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to harassment hereinafter referred to as the "complainant," may file a complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, Principal, CO, District Administrator, or other supervisory employee. As noted above, any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a Principal, District Administrator, or other supervisory employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the CO should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision making process.

All written complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be actively engaging in, harassment; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; and a list of potential witnesses.

If the complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

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Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of work assignment or schedule for the complainant and/or the alleged harasser. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her position to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator. No temporary arrangements shall be disciplinary to either the complainant or respondent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving a complaint, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "respondent", that a complaint has been received.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of this policy shall be provided to the respondent at that time. The respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subject to offensive conduct/harassment.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the complainant;
- B. interviews with the respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

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At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of harassment as provided in this policy and State and Federal law as to whether the complainant has been subject to harassment. The COs recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. The CO may consult with the School Board Attorney before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO, the District Administrator must either issue a final decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the District Administrator shall be final. If the investigation results in disciplinary action, the employee subject to discipline is entitled to file a grievance pursuant to Board Policy 3340. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent an employee from bringing a complaint before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or third party alleging the harassment pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

**Privacy/Confidentiality**

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The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and all the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligation in an investigation of harassment. The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the respondent, and all witnesses in a manner consistent with the School District's legal obligations under State and Federal law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process should be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the respondent.

During the course of an investigation, the CO will determine whether confidentiality during the investigation process is necessary to protect the interests and reputations of those involved and/or to protect the integrity of the investigation and if so shall instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the State or Federal law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the law.

## **Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable law. When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances. In those cases where harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

All sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

## **Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct**

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If the CO has reason to believe that the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement. After such report has been made, the District Administrator shall be advised that local law enforcement was notified.

If the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct and the accused is the District Administrator, such knowledge should be reported by the CO to local law enforcement. After such report has been made, the Board President shall be advised that local law enforcement was notified.

Any reports made to local law enforcement shall not terminate the COs obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the COs may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, the harassment investigation shall not be stopped due to the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the District Administrator.

## **Reprisal**

Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment will not affect the complainant's or reporter's work status or work environment. However, the Board also recognizes that false or fraudulent claims of harassment or false or fraudulent information about such claims may be filed. The Board reserves the right to discipline any person filing a false or fraudulent claim of harassment or false or fraudulent information about such a claim.

The District will discipline or take appropriate action against any member of the School District community who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of harassment prohibited by this policy or participates in a proceeding, investigation, or hearing relating to such harassment. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

## **Miscellaneous**

The District shall conspicuously post a notice including this policy against harassment in each school in a place accessible to the School District community and members of the public. This notice shall also include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the COs, the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the State agency responsible for investigating allegations of discrimination in employment, and the mailing address and telephone number of the United States Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

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A summary of this policy and any related administrative guidelines shall appear in the employee handbook and a copy shall be made available upon request of employees and other interested parties.

## **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of harassment. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District staff at such times as the Board in consultation with the District Administrator determines is necessary or appropriate.

The Board will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individuals against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as practicable, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery, disclosure, or other legal obligations.

Wis. Stats. 111.31, 118.195, 118.20

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004, as amended (commonly known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act)

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX

29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967

29 U.S.C. 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

29 U.S.C. 6101, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.

42 U.S.C. 1983

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act



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## THREATENING BEHAVIOR TOWARD STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education believes that a staff member should be able to work in an environment free of threatening speech or actions.

Threatening behavior consisting of any words or deeds that intimidate a staff member or cause anxiety concerning his/her physical and/or psychological wellbeing is strictly forbidden. Any student, parent, visitor, staff member, or agent of this Board who is found to have threatened a member of the staff will be subject to discipline and reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The District Administrator shall implement guidelines whereby students and employees understand this policy and appropriate procedures are established for prompt and effective action on any reported incidents.

Chapter 947, Wis. Stats.

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## FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE ("FMLA")

### **Introduction**

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board of Education will provide family and medical leave to professional staff. The Board's Family and Medical Leave Act policy is intended to conform to and comply with, but not exceed, the requirements of the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") and the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act ("WFMLA"). To the extent that this policy is ambiguous or conflicts with the FMLA or the WFMLA, the FMLA and the WFMLA will govern.

Family and medical leave taken under this policy may be covered by Federal law, State law, or both. When leave taken by a staff member under this policy is governed by both Federal and State law, the more generous provision will control in the event of a conflict. However, when leaves are governed by State or Federal law, but not both, the applicable law will control under this policy. In this regard, you should note that certain leaves may be covered by both State and Federal law for only a portion of the leave. To the extent permitted by law, leave under the FMLA, leave under the WFMLA and leave granted under the Board's other policies will run concurrently (at the same time).

### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for leave under the FMLA, you must have been employed by the Board for at least twelve (12) months in the past seven (7) years and must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of the requested leave. All full-time instructional staff members are deemed to meet the 1,250 hour requirement.

To be eligible for leave under the WFMLA, you must have been employed for more than fifty-two (52) consecutive weeks and have worked or been paid for at least 1,000 hours in the preceding fifty-two (52) weeks. The kind and amount of leave available to you under this policy, as well as your rights during leave, depend upon whether you satisfy the above requirements.

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## Qualifying Reasons for Leave

The Board provides family and medical leave for eligible staff members under the following circumstances:

- A. for the birth of the eligible staff member's child and to care for a newborn child
- B. for placement with the eligible staff member of a child for adoption or foster care
- C. to care for an eligible staff member's spouse, child or parent with a "serious health condition"

The term "child" generally includes a legal ward or a biological, adopted, foster or stepchild. For leaves governed exclusively by the FMLA, the term also includes a son or daughter for whom you have assumed the day-to-day obligations of a parent. A child must be either under eighteen (18) years of age or unable to care for himself/herself due to a physical or mental disability or, for leave under State law only, unable to care for himself/herself due to a serious health condition.

"Parent" includes a staff member's spouse's legal guardian only if you are requesting leave under the WFMLA.

"Spouse" includes a qualified domestic partner for leaves governed by the WFMLA. Domestic partnerships must be registered with the county of residence and proof of such registration may be requested prior to approval of leave. Unregistered domestic partners must demonstrate that they are 1) both over age eighteen (18); 2) not in a domestic partnership or marriage with another individual; 3) they share a common residence; 4) they are not related in any way that would prohibit marriage under Wisconsin law; 5) they consider each other to be immediate family members and agree to be responsible for the other's living expense.

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- D. because of a serious health condition that makes the eligible staff member unable to perform the essential functions of his/her position
- E. because of a qualifying exigency resulting from active military service by the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent in covered active duty or call to covered active duty in the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard and Reserves

Qualifying exigencies, as defined by Federal regulations, include: 1) short-notice deployment; 2) military events and related activities; 3) childcare and school activities; 4) financial and legal arrangements; 5) counseling; 6) rest and recuperation; (maximum fifteen (15) calendar days); 7) post-deployment activities; 8) caring for a military member's parent who is incapable of self-care when the care is necessitated by the member's covered active duty; and 9) additional activities not encompassed in the other categories, but agreed to by the employer and employee. Covered active duty means deployment with the Armed Forces to a foreign country.

- F. to care for a service member who is the employee's parent, spouse, child or next of kin who, while on active military duty, sustains a serious injury or illness or aggravation of a pre-existing illness or injury while in the line of duty, while on covered active duty in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, in the line of duty which renders the service member medically unfit to perform the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.

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Covered active duty means deployment with the Armed Forces to a foreign country. This leave is also available to care for veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, provided the veteran was a service member at any time within the five (5) years prior to the start of the treatment, recuperation or therapy. In accordance with applicable regulations, a veteran's serious injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of active duty can also be manifested by: 1) a physical or mental condition with a VA Service Disability Rating of 50% or greater and is the condition precipitating the need for leave; or 2) a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the ability to secure or substantially follow a gainful occupation, or would do so absent treatment; or 3) an injury, including psychological, for which the veteran has been enrolled in the Dept. of V.A. Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Care Givers. Leave is available for up to twenty-six (26) weeks in a twelve (12) month period. This type of leave is available for serious injury or illness which results in:

1. inpatient medical treatment, recuperation or therapy;
2. outpatient services at a military treatment facility or assignment to a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of service members receiving outpatient medical services; or
3. assignment to the temporary disability retired list.

The maximum twenty-six (26) weeks of Federal leave to care for a service member includes, and is not in addition to, all other FMLA leave. In other words, employees may not take more than a total of twenty-six (26) weeks of FMLA leave during a single twelve (12) month period for any qualifying reasons under the FMLA. For instance, if an employee takes the maximum twelve (12) weeks of Federal FMLA leave for his/her own serious health condition, the employee may then only take fourteen (14) weeks of FMLA leave within that same twelve (12) month period to care for a military family member injured in the line of duty.

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The District Administrator will determine whether an employee's request for leave qualifies under one (1) of the above categories.

## **Amount of Leave Available**

Under the FMLA, if the staff member satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth above, s/he is entitled to a total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave in a calendar year for any of the reasons stated above, with the exception of leave to care for an injured service member, which is provided as described in (F) above.

Under the WFMLA, if the staff member satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth above, s/he is entitled to ten (10) work weeks of leave in a calendar year as follows:

- A. a total of six (6) weeks of leave for the birth of his/her natural child and/or the placement of a child with the staff member for, or as a precondition to, adoption;
- B. a total of two (2) weeks of leave to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition; and
- C. a total of two (2) weeks of leave due to the staff member's serious health condition.

Board policy calls for concurrent Federal/State leave coverage whenever a staff member is eligible for leave under both the FMLA and WFMLA to the extent available under the law. All periods of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA covered service is counted in determining an employee's eligibility for FMLA leave.

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## Definitions of Serious Health Conditions

In conjunction with the certification provided by a healthcare provider, the Board reserves the right to determine whether an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition constitutes a serious health condition entitling a staff member to family or medical leave under State or Federal law.

In general, a “serious health condition” under this policy means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves one (1) of the following:

A. Hospital Care

Inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital or other care facility, including any period of incapacity or subsequent treatment in connection with or consequent to such inpatient care.

B. Absence Plus Treatment

A period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive calendar days\* (including any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition), that also involves:

1. treatment two (2) or more times by a healthcare provider, a nurse, physician’s assistant or physical therapist under a healthcare provider’s supervision, order or referral as appropriate within thirty (30) days of the first date of incapacity; or
2. treatment by a healthcare provider on at least one (1) occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the healthcare provider and occurs within seven (7) days of the first day of incapacity.

\*Under the WFMLA, leave may also be available for a “serious health condition” of less than three (3) consecutive days in duration.

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C. Pregnancy

Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care.

D. Chronic Conditions Requiring Treatment

A chronic condition which:

1. requires periodic visits of at least two (2) times per year for treatment by a healthcare provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under a healthcare provider's supervision;
2. continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
3. may cause episodic rather than continuing periods of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).

E. Permanent/Long-Term Conditions Requiring Supervision

A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. You or your family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a healthcare provider (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease). The continued existence of such a chronic condition is subject to certification no more than once every six (6) months.



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F. Multiple Treatments (Non-Chronic Conditions)

Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a healthcare provider or by a provider of healthcare services under orders of, or on referral by, a healthcare 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 (3) consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, including: cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.); severe arthritis (physical therapy); or kidney disease (dialysis).

**Required Staff Member Notice**

The staff member must provide the District Administrator with notice in a reasonable and practicable manner before leave taken under this policy is to begin, if the need for leave is foreseeable (e.g., an expected birth, placement or adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for your own serious health condition or that of a family member). When requesting partial or intermittent leave in connection with childbirth or adoption, the staff member must provide at least as much notice as required for taking other non-emergency or non-medical leave, as well as a definite schedule for the leave. Where advance notice is not practical due to uncertainty as to when leave will be required to begin, a change in circumstances or medical emergency, notice must be given as soon as practical. Leave will be accounted for in increments no greater than the smallest increment used for other similar leaves, but in no event greater than one (1) hour increments. Leave entitlement will not be reduced by more than the amount of leave actually taken.

Employees must provide an explanation as to why proper advance notice was not provided in such cases and may be required to verify the explanation. Notice that was not provided timely without reasonable explanation may result in the denial of the leave request.

The staff member must provide a written request for leave, the reasons for the requested leave, and the anticipated beginning date and duration of the leave by submitting a FMLA leave request form to the District Administrator (forms available from the U.S. Department of Labor).

When planning medical treatment, the staff member should consult with his/her supervisor and make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to disrupt unduly the District's operations, subject to the approval of the staff member's healthcare provider. The staff member is ordinarily expected to consult with his/her supervisor in order to work out a treatment schedule which best suits his/her needs, as well as the District's.

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If a staff member must take more leave than originally anticipated, s/he must notify the District Administrator within two (2) business days of learning of the circumstances necessitating the extension.

## **Certification By Healthcare Provider**

If a staff member requests leave due to his/her own serious health condition or the serious health condition of his/her spouse, child or parent, the Board requires that the leave request be supported by certification issued and signed by the healthcare provider for the individual with a serious health condition. For service member leave, any certification permitted under 29 C.F.R. 825.310 shall be allowed. The Board reserves the right to certify all information permitted by law.

The staff member must provide the fully completed certification to the District Administrator within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date that the certification is provided to the staff member, unless it is not practicable to do so despite the staff member's diligent, good faith efforts. If it is not practicable to return the certification within fifteen (15) calendar days, it must be returned to the District Administrator as soon as practicable.

If the staff member fails to submit the certification, the leave or continuation of leave may be delayed until the certification is submitted. Further, any absence prior to the date the certification is furnished may be considered unauthorized. A staff member who is absent without authorization may be disciplined, up to and including termination.

The District Administrator will give a staff member a reasonable opportunity to cure any deficiency in a certification, but not fewer than seven (7) calendar days. It is the responsibility of the staff member or family member with a serious health condition to use a healthcare provider who will complete and furnish an accurate certification in a timely manner.

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A member of the administration, other than the staff member's direct supervisor, may contact the healthcare provider to clarify illegible answers and to authenticate the certification. If the certification is incomplete or otherwise unclear, the administrator must request that the employee obtain updated or completed information from the healthcare provider and return it directly to the administrator.

If the District Administrator doubts the validity of a certification, the District Administrator may require, at the Board's expense, that the staff member obtain a second opinion from a Board designated provider, not regularly employed by the Board. If the opinions of the staff member's and the Board's healthcare providers differ, a third, final and binding opinion may be obtained. The staff member must cooperate in obtaining a second or third opinion including facilitating the transfer of pertinent records to the subsequent healthcare providers.

The District Administrator may request re-certifications on a periodic basis as permitted by law.

## **Designation of Leave**

In all circumstances, it is the responsibility of the District Administrator to designate leave, whether paid or unpaid, as FMLA leave and to give the staff member notice of the designation and his/her rights and responsibilities under this policy.

The District Administrator will give the staff member the notice on each occasion that s/he notifies his/her supervisor of the need for leave that may be FMLA-qualifying, including, but not limited to, when the staff member requests another type of leave for an FMLA-qualifying reason. In the case of intermittent or reduced schedule leave, only one notice will be provided unless the circumstances regarding the leave have changed.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the District Administrator will provide to the employee a "Designation Notice" stating whether a request for leave has been approved or denied within five (5) business days. At a minimum, the staff member will be verbally notified whether leave is being designated as FMLA leave within five (5) business days of the date the staff member provides information to the District Administrator sufficient to enable him/her to determine that the leave is being taken for an FMLA-qualifying reason.

The District Administrator will confirm the verbal notice with the written notice as soon as feasible, but no later than the first payday following the verbal notice (unless the payday is less than one (1) week after the verbal notice, in which case the notice must be no later than the subsequent payday).

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## **Manner In Which Leave Can Be Taken**

Leave available under this policy may be taken in full and, under certain circumstances, may also be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule. Intermittent leave is leave taken in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason. Reduced schedule leave is leave that reduces the usual number of working hours per day or week. The staff member must consult with his/her supervisor and make a reasonable effort to schedule intermittent or reduced schedule leave so it does not unduly disrupt the District's operations.

Intermittent or reduced schedule leave due to a serious health condition must be medically necessary. Medically necessary means there must be a medical need for the leave and the leave can be best accommodated through an intermittent or reduced leave schedule, as certified by the healthcare provider in the Certification.

When leave is governed only by the FMLA, the District Administrator may offer a staff member a temporary transfer to another position for which s/he is qualified with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the intermittent or reduced schedule leave when the need for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment or the staff member takes such leave for the birth of a child or for placement of a child for adoption or foster care. The staff member may reject this offer in which case there will be no adverse effect on the leave or entitlement to return to the same or similar position following leave. Any time spent by the staff member in an alternative position will not count against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

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Instructional staff members (i.e. individuals whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting) who request intermittent leave or a reduced-leave schedule governed only by the FMLA, which would exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total number of working days over the period of anticipated leave, must elect either to:

- A. take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
- B. transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the District Administrator for which the instructional staff member is qualified, and that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates the recurring periods of leave than the staff member's regular position.

The District Administrator may require instructional staff members who take Federal leave near the end of an academic term to extend their leave through the end of the academic term if:

- A. the leave is commenced more than five (5) weeks from the end of the term but the employee intends to return during the final three (3) weeks of the term and the leave is longer than three (3) weeks in duration;
- B. the leave is commenced within five (5) weeks of the end of the term and the employee intends to return during the final two (2) weeks of the term and the leave period was at least two (2) weeks in duration; or
- C. the leave commences within three (3) weeks of the end of a term and the leave was at least five (5) working days in duration.

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Staff members whose leave is extended at the end of an academic term under this section will be charged against their FMLA entitlement only the time that they required for purposes of their leave.

## **Coordinating Leaves - Substitution**

Generally, leave taken under this policy is unpaid. However, for leave governed exclusively by the FMLA, the staff member may use the following leaves provided by the Board, if available:

- A. vacation or personal leave, if available, for any family or medical leave;
- B. accrued paid family leave (i.e., paid leave covering the particular circumstances for which the staff member is seeking leave), if available, for birth, adoption, or to care for a seriously ill family member; and
- C. accrued paid medical or sick leave, if available, to care for a seriously ill family member, or for the staff member's own serious health condition.

A staff member may not substitute paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave taken under this policy in any situation where the Board would not normally provide such paid leave.

For leaves governed by the WFMLA, a staff member may substitute paid or unpaid leave, which s/he have earned and accrued, for leave taken under this policy, if available. The Board reserves the right to deny substitution as permitted by law.

Any paid leave substituted for unpaid FMLA leave or WFMLA leave will decrease, in whole or in part, the staff member's FMLA and/or WFMLA leave entitlement.

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## **Continuation of Benefits**

A staff member will remain eligible for group health insurance benefits under the Board's group health plan during leave taken under this policy under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the staff member had been actively employed during the entire leave. However, the staff member has the option of choosing not to retain such coverage during family or medical leave.

During leave taken under this policy, the Board will continue to pay any portion of group health insurance premiums for coverage that it was responsible for paying immediately prior to the leave as required by law. The staff member will be responsible for paying his/her portion of health insurance premiums regardless of whether his/her family and medical leave is paid or unpaid. It is the staff member's responsibility to make arrangements with the District Administrator for making premium payments for group health insurance during leaves.

To the extent permitted by law, the Board reserves the right to require the staff member to place up to eight (8) weeks of health insurance premiums in escrow prior to leave, or to discontinue coverage if such premiums are received more than thirty (30) days late.

The staff member's entitlement to benefits other than group health benefits during a period of family or medical leave is determined by the Board's policy regarding provision of such benefits when a staff member is on other types of leave.

If a staff member fails to return to work or fails to remain at work for a period provided under the law, the District may recover its portion of the premiums paid for medical benefit coverage during the leave, unless the reason for the staff member's failure to return to work is due to the continuation of the serious health condition or the onset of a new serious health condition.

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## **Accrual of Benefits**

The use of leave under this policy will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of the staff member's leave. A staff member will not continue to accrue seniority or any other employment benefit during leave taken under this policy, except that such benefit shall accrue if the staff member elects to use other leaves provided by the Board, and if such benefits would normally accrue during such leave.

## **Employment Restoration**

A staff member will generally be reinstated to the same position s/he held when leave began or a position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment, if such position remains available, and the staff member possesses the ability to perform the essential functions of the job satisfactorily, with or without any accommodation that may be required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The staff member, however, has no greater right to reinstatement or benefits than if s/he had been actively employed during the leave. Further, if the staff member gives unequivocal notice of intent not to return to work, s/he is not entitled to be reinstated.

A staff member who exceeds his/her FMLA/WFMLA leave, but remains off work under a non-FMLA/WFMLA leave policy, is not entitled to reinstatement to the same or a similar position under the FMLA/WFMLA; however, the staff member may be eligible to be reinstated under the non-FMLA/WFMLA leave policy.

A staff member who is able to return to work prior to the expiration of leave must notify his/her supervisor immediately. Upon such notice, the District Administrator will promptly reinstate the staff member to active employment, provided s/he has the present skill and ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job satisfactorily with or without accommodation. However, the reinstatement need not occur until the third business day following the staff member's notification of his/her ability to return to work.



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## **Fitness For Duty Certification**

If leave is due to the staff member's serious health condition, s/he must present certification to return to work to his/her supervisor upon returning to work. The staff member's principal attending physician must complete the certification. The certification must indicate that the staff member has been released to return to work. It must also specify any physical or other limitation on the staff member's ability to perform regular or other duties and the duration of the limitations. No certification will be required when the staff member returns from intermittent leave, except as otherwise permitted or required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

The certification will be limited to the particular health condition that caused the staff member's need for leave, except as otherwise permitted by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. If the staff member is an "individual with a disability" within the meaning of the ADA, any fitness-for-duty physical examination or inquiry by the District will be job related and consistent with business necessity.

Reinstatement may be delayed until the staff member submits the certification. Under such circumstances, if the staff member does not promptly provide a certification or qualify for another leave of absence, s/he may be disciplined, up to and including termination.

With the staff member's permission, the Board's healthcare provider may contact the staff member's healthcare provider to clarify and authenticate the certification, but no additional information may be requested or required, and the staff member's return to work may not be delayed while the contact is being made. No second or third fitness for duty certification may be required.

## **Confidentiality**

All medical information relating to leave, whether written or verbal, shall be kept confidential to the maximum extent possible. All medical documents including, but not limited to, medical certifications and return-to-work statements must be maintained in confidential, secure files separate from personnel files.

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## **No Discrimination**

Leave under this policy will not be used as a negative factor in employment actions, such as hiring, promotions, disciplinary actions or under attendance policies.

## **Miscellaneous**

The District Administrator may designate another administrator to perform his/her duties under this policy.

A staff member who fraudulently obtains leave under this policy is not protected by this policy's job restoration or maintenance of health benefits provisions.

The District Administrator shall see that the policy is posted properly.

The District Administrator shall provide a copy of the policy upon the request of a staff member.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et. seq.

29 C.F.R. Part 825

103.10, Wis. Stats.

Wis. Admin. Department of Workforce Development (DWD) 225

National Defense Authorization Act of 2010

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## NURSING MOTHERS

As required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) it shall be the policy of the Board to support the decision of staff members to breastfeed their infants by providing unpaid breaks for lactating employees to express breast milk for infants on District premises.

The building administrator shall designate a private area, other than a restroom, where an employee can express breast milk. The designated area shall be a space where intrusion from coworkers, students, and the public can be prevented, and one where an employee who is using this area can be shielded from view.

Prior to returning to work from maternity leave, the employee shall notify her supervisor of her intent to continue breastfeeding her infant(s), and of her need to express milk during work hours. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to keep her supervisor informed of her needs in this regard throughout the period of lactation.

The employee can express milk during regularly scheduled unpaid break periods. The building administrator or employee's supervisor shall make accommodation in the event that the time of regular breaks needs to be adjusted or, in the event that additional and/or longer unpaid breaks are needed. In the event that the number and duration of the unpaid breaks requires modification to the employee's work schedule, the building administrator or the employee's supervisor shall work with the employee to determine the necessary modifications.

29 U.S.C. 207 (Section 4207)

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## JOB-RELATED EXPENSES

The Board of Education may provide for the payment of the actual and necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, of any staff member of the District reasonably and necessarily incurred in the course of performing services for the District, whether within or outside the District, under the direction of the Board.

The validity of payments for job-related expenses shall be determined by the Director of Business Services.

Employees are expected to exercise the same care incurring travel expenses that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business and expending personal funds. Unauthorized costs and additional expenses incurred for personal preference or convenience will not be reimbursed.

Unauthorized expenses include but are not limited to alcohol, movies, fines for traffic violations, and the entertainment/meals/lodging of spouses or guests.

Travel payment and reimbursement provided from Federal funds must be authorized in advance and must be reasonable and consistent with the District's travel policy.

The Board shall pay the expenses of staff members when they attend meetings approved in accordance with the policy of this Board.

2 C.F.R. 200.474

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## USE OF SCHOOL CARS BY STAFF MEMBERS OR VOLUNTEERS

Portage Community School District vehicles are to be used by school personnel or volunteers recognized by the Board of Education in lieu of their own cars for transportation at approved meetings, supervisory duties, athletic competition, instruction at outlying schools, and other school-related purposes. No personal use of school vehicles shall be allowed.

Requests to use school vehicles are available on the District's intranet website. Such requests shall be submitted to the Director of Buildings & Grounds at least five (5) days prior to the date of the request. The only exception to this requirement is vehicles scheduled on a year-round basis (e.g. delivery to outlying schools). Employees or recognized volunteers shall adhere to any/all guidelines listed on the vehicle request forms.

In order for vehicles be available for staff, any cancellations of scheduled vehicles shall be made at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Such cancellations shall be made in writing to the Director of Buildings & Grounds. If cancellations are not made on a timely basis, staff may lose the privilege of requesting a school vehicle for the next thirty (30) days. Such personnel shall be required to use their own personal vehicle without district mileage reimbursement.

If a timely request for a vehicle has been made but no vehicles are available, the school district shall reimburse at the current IRS rate. A mileage reimbursement form shall be filled out, signed by the employee or volunteer's supervisor, and turned in to the Business Office for approval.

Each weekend the security department shall check to make sure all vehicles are properly fueled. During the week (Monday - Friday), it is the responsibility of the employee to make sure the vehicle is properly fueled at all times (i.e. system gauge shall not fall below one-half (1/2) full). Instructions and designated gas station information for refueling are posted in each vehicle.

Vehicles are to be picked up and returned to their assigned parking lot. In certain circumstances, arrangements may be made to have a vehicle available at another building location.

An employee or volunteer who requests the use of a school vehicle shall be required to have a driver physical every three (3) years and a signed "Safety Policy Statement" on file with the Director of Buildings & Grounds. The employee must also complete an application to drive school vehicles, which includes an analysis of the employee's driving record of the last three (3) years.

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