



# EOA of OHIO

## TEMPLATES

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

### EMPLOYMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Board of Education vests the primary responsibility for administration of this District in the Superintendent of Schools. The appointment of that officer is, therefore, one of the most important functions the Board can perform.

Whenever the position of Superintendent shall be vacant, the Board shall

- ( ) upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of the Education Service Center

appoint a Superintendent of Schools as chief executive officer and fix his/her salary and term of office which shall be no more than five (5) years.

The Board shall actively seek the best qualified and most capable candidate for the position of District Superintendent.

[ ] It may be aided in this task by:

- ( ) a committee of Board members;
- ( ) the services of professional consultants;
- ( ) the counsel of the out-going Superintendent;
- ( ) the participation of members of the community.

Recruitment procedures shall be prepared in advance of the search and shall include the following:

- ( ) the preparation of a written job specification for the position of Superintendent
- ( ) preparation of written specifications of qualification in addition to proper State licensing
- ( ) preparation of informative material describing this District and its educational goals



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already in place

(+)

where feasible, the opportunity for applicants to visit the schools of this District

(+)

the requirement that each selected candidate for the position be interviewed by Board members in a format that encourages him/her to express his/her educational philosophy

(+)

solicitation of applications from a wide geographical area

(+)

~~consideration of all applicants fairly without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, ethnic background, disability, or other condition unrelated to the position of Superintendent~~

(+)

**consideration of all applicants fairly without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes"), or other condition unrelated to the position of Superintendent**

~~The Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a one-year temporary educator license to a proposed candidate for the superintendency providing the candidate is of good moral character and has earned at least a baccalaureate degree in finance or administration from an accredited institution of higher learning or has at least five (5) years of recent work experience in education, management, or administration.~~ **The Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a two (2) year alternative superintendent license to a proposed candidate for the superintendency, provided the candidate is of good moral character and meets the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education.**





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- [ ] No person may be employed as Superintendent of this District unless s/he has signed an employment contract with the Board.
- ( ) Such contract shall include:
- ( ) the term for which employment is contracted, including beginning and ending dates;
  - ( ) the salary which the Superintendent shall be paid and the intervals at which s/he shall be paid;
  - ( ) the benefits to which s/he is entitled;
  - ~~( )~~ **a specification of any powers and duties assigned by the Board to the Superintendent pursuant to R.C. 3319.031;**
  - ( ) such other matters as may be necessary to a full and complete understanding of the employment contract.
- ( ) The contract shall not contain tenure provisions.
- [ ] The Superintendent so appointed shall devote himself/herself exclusively to the duties of his/her office and maintain his/her principal residence within the District, unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- [ ] Any candidate's intentional misstatement of fact material to his/her qualification for employment or the determination of his/her salary shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for his/her dismissal.
- [ ] The person selected for the position of Superintendent shall be required to undergo a physical examination reasonably related to the duties s/he will be required to perform, the cost of which shall be borne
- ( ) by the District.
  - ( ) by the candidate.



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Prior to employment, the candidate selected must also pass a background check performed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

| R.C. ~~2909.34~~, 3313.18, 3319.01, **3319.031**, **3319.27**~~3319.225~~  
A.C. 3301-23-19

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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

### EMPLOYMENT OF THE TREASURER

The Board of Education shall seek a person both capable and licensed to fill the position of Treasurer, whenever that position may be vacant. The Board shall appoint a Treasurer as chief fiscal officer and fix his/her salary and term of office which shall be not more than five (5) years.

All persons considered for the position of Treasurer shall provide evidence of their training and experience in the fields of government accounting, State and Federal laws related to school district budgeting and financing, financial report preparation, and budget and accounting management as required by statute and the standards of the State Board of Education.

The Board may, in recruiting a Treasurer, utilize the services of:

- ( ) a committee of Board members;
- ( ) a professional consultant;
- ( ) the retiring Treasurer;
- ( ) a committee of community lay persons.

To aid in the search, the Board may use:

- ( ) a written job description for the position;
- ( ) informative materials describing the School District;
- ( ) a written specification of the salary and benefits;
- ( ) the opportunity for each applicant to visit the District should s/he so desire.





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- ☐ Any candidate's intentional misstatement of fact material to his/her qualifications for employment or the determination of his/her salary shall be considered to constitute grounds for dismissal.
- ☐ The person selected for the position of Treasurer shall be required to undergo a physical examination reasonably related to the duties s/he will be required to perform, the cost of which shall be borne by the
  - ☐ District.
  - ☐ candidate.
- ☐ No person may be employed as Treasurer of this District unless s/he has signed an employment contract with the Board.
  - ☐ Such contract shall include:
    - ☐ the term for which employment is contracted, including beginning and ending dates;
    - ☐ the salary which the Treasurer shall be paid and the intervals at which s/he shall be paid;
    - ☐ the benefits to which s/he is entitled;
    - ☒ **a specification of any powers and duties assigned by the Board to the Treasurer pursuant to R.C. 3319.031;**
    - ☐ such other matters as may be necessary to a full and complete understanding of the employment contract.
- ☐ The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the District.
- ☐ The Treasurer so appointed shall devote himself/herself exclusively to the duties of his/her office and maintain his/her principal residence within the District, unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- ☐ The Treasurer shall report to and is subject to the direction of the Board.
- ☐ The Treasurer shall direct and assign employees directly engaged in the day-to-day fiscal operations of the District, as those employees are so designated by the Board.



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- [ ] Before entering upon the duties of the office, the Treasurer of the Board shall execute a bond, in an amount and with surety to be approved by the Board, payable to the State, and conditioned for the faithful performance of all official duties required of the Treasurer. Such bond shall be deposited with the President of the Board, and a copy thereof, certified by the Treasurer, shall be filed with the County Auditor.

Prior to employment, the candidate selected must also pass a background check performed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

| R.C. 2909.34, 3301.074, 3313.22, 3313.24, 3313.25, **3319.031**  
A.C. 3301-5-01

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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

## EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS

The Board of Education recognizes that it is vital to the successful operation of the District that administrative positions created by the Board be filled with highly qualified and competent personnel. The Board may contract with the governing board of the educational service center from which it otherwise receives services to conduct searches and recruitment of candidates for assistant superintendent, Principal, assistant principal, and other administrator positions.

The Board shall approve the employment, determine the compensation, and establish the term of said employment for each administrator employed by the Board. Individuals may be employed as administrators pursuant to a limited contract for a term not to exceed three (3) years, unless the individual has been employed by the Board as an administrator in the District for three (3) or more years, in which case his/her term of the contract shall be for not more than five (5) years and, unless the Superintendent recommends otherwise, not less than two (2) years. If, however, the Superintendent so recommends, the term of the contract of an individual who has been employed as an administrator in the District for three (3) years or more may be one year. All subsequent contracts granted to such individual must be for a term of not less than two (2) years and more than five (5) years.

The Board shall only employ those candidates nominated by the Superintendent, unless otherwise authorized by law (see below).

Individuals employed in the following categories shall be considered members of the administrative staff:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*No Athletic*  
*No grounds/ground personnel*





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☒ In accordance with the provisions of R.C. 3319.031, the Board may assign specified powers and duties to one or more administrators.

Any person employed as an assistant superintendent, Principal, assistant principal, or other administrator shall possess a valid certificate/license issued pursuant to Ohio law and shall file a copy of his/her certificate/license with the District.

~~To the extent permitted by law, the Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a one (1) year temporary educator license to a candidate recommended by the Superintendent for an administrative position, provided the candidate is of good moral character and has earned at least a baccalaureate degree in a field related to finance or administration from an accredited institution of higher learning or has at least five (5) years of recent work experience in education, management, or administration.~~ **To the extent permitted by law, the Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a two (2) year alternative administrative specialist license or a one (1) year alternative principal license to a candidate recommended by the Superintendent for an administrative position, provided the candidate is of good moral character and meets the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education.**

Relatives of Board members may be employed by the Board, provided the member of the Board does not participate in any way in the discussion or vote on the employment when such a conflict of interest is involved.

- ☐ An individual who is related to [a] staff member[s] may be employed as an administrator by the Board provided the administrator is not placed in a position in which s/he will supervise directly the staff member to whom s/he is related.
- ☐ Applications for employment as an administrator will not be accepted from any current Board member. If a Board member wishes to apply for a position on the administrative staff, his/her resignation must be accepted by the Board prior to submitting an application.
- ☐ The employment of administrative 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.

Prior to employment, the candidate selected must pass a background check performed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



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The Superintendent may recommend and the Board may approve the reemployment of an administrative staff member at any regular or special meeting held during the period beginning on the first day of January of the calendar year immediately preceding the year of expiration of the employment contract and ending on the first day of June in the year the employment contract expires.

The Board may, by a three-fourth's (3/4's) majority vote of its full membership, reemploy an assistant superintendent, Principal, assistant principal, or other administrator whom the Superintendent refuses to nominate. If need be, and to the extent permitted by law, the Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a **two (2) year alternative administrative specialist license or a one (1) year alternative principal** ~~one (1) year temporary educator license~~ to an administrator whom the Superintendent has refused to nominate for reemployment in an administrative position, provided the candidate is of good moral character and **meets the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education.** ~~has earned at least a baccalaureate degree in a field related to finance or administration from an accredited institution of higher learning or has at least five (5) years of recent work experience in education, management, or administration.~~

Before taking action to renew or non-renew the contract of any administrator and prior to the first day of June of the year in which the administrator's contract expires, the Board shall notify each such administrator of the date his/her contract expires and inform the administrator that s/he may request a meeting with the Board to discuss its reasons for considering renewal or non-renewal of his/her contract. Upon the request of the administrator, the Board shall meet with him/her in executive session. The administrator shall be permitted to have a representative of his/her choice present at that meeting.



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If the Board fails to provide the evaluations as required by Board Policy or if the Board fails to provide, following the request of the administrator, a meeting for the purpose of discussing the Board's reasons for considering renewal or non-renewal of the administrator's contract, then the administrator shall be automatically reemployed at the same salary plus any increments that may be authorized by the Board, and the term of reemployment shall be one (1) year, unless the individual has been employed as an administrator by the District for three (3) years or more in which case the reemployment shall be for a term of two (2) years.

Furthermore, an administrator shall be deemed reemployed upon expiration of his/her contract term unless the administrator notifies the Board to the contrary on or before the fifteenth day of June, or unless the Board either reemploys the administrator for a succeeding term or gives written notice of its intent not to reemploy the administrator on or before the first day of June in the year in which said contract expires. In such instances, the reemployment shall be at the same salary plus any increments that may be authorized by the Board, and the term of reemployment shall be one (1) year, unless the individual has been employed as an administrator by the District for three (3) years or more in which case the reemployment shall be for a term of two (2) years.

- [ ] Any administrator's intentional misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or reemployment, or to the determination of salary, shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.
- [ ] All administrators shall become familiar with the policies of the Board and other such guidelines, regulations, memoranda, bulletins, and handbooks that pertain to their duties in the District. Any administrator employed by the Board who shall be guilty of any willful violation of the policies of the Board shall be guilty of gross insubordination and shall be subject to dismissal or such lesser penalty as the Board may prescribe.

Except by mutual agreement of the parties thereto, no administrator shall be transferred during the term of his/her contract to a position of lesser responsibility. Furthermore, no contract may be terminated or suspended except in accordance with State law.





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The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines for the recruitment and selection of administrative staff.

R.C. ~~2909.34~~, 3319.01, 3319.02, **3319.031**, 3319.07, 3319.16, 3319.17, 3319.171  
R.C. ~~3319.225~~, 3319.27, 3319.36

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**NEW POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

**FMLA LEAVE**

**Qualifying Reasons for FMLA and Military Family Leave**

In accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, ("FMLA"), eligible staff members may take up to twelve (12) work weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave if the staff member has earned or accrued it, for the following reasons:

- A. the birth and/or care of a newborn child of the staff member, within one (1) year of the child's birth;
- B. the placement with the staff member of a child for adoption or foster care, within one (1) year of the child's placement;
- C. the staff member is needed to provide physical and/or psychological care for a spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition;
- D. the staff member's own serious health condition makes him/her unable to perform the functions of his/her position; or
- E. any qualifying exigency (as defined in applicable Federal regulations) arising out of the fact that the staff member's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces ("Qualifying Exigency Leave"). Covered active duty is defined in AG 1630.01.



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In addition, an eligible staff member who is a spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness may take up to a total of twenty-six (26) work weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave if the staff member has earned or accrued it, during a "single twelve (12) month period" to provide physical and/or psychological care for the covered service member ("Military Caregiver Leave") as described more fully in AG 1630.01.

### Eligible Employees

Staff members are "eligible" if they have worked for the Board for at least twelve (12) months, and for at least 1,250 hours over the twelve (12) months prior to the leave request, ~~and are employed at a work site where fifty (50) or more employees are employed by the Board within seventy-five (75) miles of that work site.~~ **[NOTE: only include this option if it is possible an employee in the District may not meet this criteria; in most, if not all, schools districts in Ohio, this criteria will be met.]** All full-time instructional employees are deemed to meet the 1,250 hour requirement. Months and hours that employees who performed USERRA covered service would have worked if they had not been called up for military service counts towards the staff member's eligibility for FMLA leave. While the twelve (12) months of employment need not be consecutive, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven (7) years or more will not be counted unless the break is occasioned by the staff member's fulfillment of his/her USERRA-covered service obligation, or a written agreement **[NOTE: this includes a collective bargaining agreement]** exists concerning the Board's intention to rehire the staff member after the break in service.

### Twelve (12) Month Period

Twelve (12) month period is defined as

- ( ) the calendar year.
- ~~(X)~~ a fixed twelve (12) month period (i.e. the "leave year" is identical for all staff members -- e.g. a fiscal year or calendar year).
- ( ) the twelve (12) month period measured forward from the date the staff member's first FMLA leave begins (i.e. the "leave year" is specific to each individual staff member).
- ( ) a rolling twelve (12) month period measured backward from the date the staff member uses FMLA leave (i.e. the "leave year" is specific to each individual staff member).





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### **Serious Health Condition**

Serious health condition is defined as an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care or continuing treatment by a healthcare provider. As utilized in this policy, the term "incapacity" means an inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment therefore, or recovery therefrom. The term "treatment" includes (but is not limited to) examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluations of the condition. (Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations, or dental examinations.)

- A. Inpatient care means an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical-care facility, including any period of incapacity or subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care.



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- B. Continuing treatment by a healthcare provider, includes any one or more of the following: 1.) "incapacity and treatment"; 2.) any incapacity related to pregnancy, or for prenatal care; 3.) any incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition; 4.) a period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective (e.g. Alzheimer's, a severe stroke, terminal stages of a disease); or 5.) 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 for a.) restorative surgery after an accident, or other injury or b.) a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), or kidney disease (dialysis).
1. "Incapacity and treatment" involves a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves a.) treatment two (2) or more times, within thirty (30) days of the first day of incapacity, unless extenuating circumstances exist, by a healthcare provider, by a nurse under direct supervision of a healthcare provider, or by a provider of healthcare services (e.g. physical therapist) under orders of, or on referral by, a healthcare provider, or b.) treatment by a healthcare provider on at least one (1) occasion that results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the healthcare provider.
- a. Treatment by a healthcare provider as referenced above involves an in-person visit to a healthcare provider. The first (or only) in-person treatment visit must take place within seven (7) days of the first day of incapacity. The healthcare provider is responsible for determining whether additional treatment visits or a regimen of continuing treatment is necessary within the thirty (30) day period.



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- b. Regimen of continuing treatment includes a course of prescription medication (e.g. antibiotics), or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g. oxygen).
  - c. A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed-rest, drinking fluids, exercise, and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a healthcare provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.
- 2. A period of incapacity related to pregnancy need not involve a visit to the healthcare provider for each absence, and the absence need not last more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days.
- 3. A chronic serious health condition is one that: a.) requires periodic visits (i.e. at least twice a year) for treatment by a healthcare provider, or by a nurse under direct supervision of a healthcare provider; b.) continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and c.) may cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.). A visit to a healthcare provider is not necessary for each absence, and each absence need not last more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days.
- 4. With regard to permanent or long-term conditions, the employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a healthcare provider.



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- C. Conditions for which cosmetic treatment are administered (e.g. most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required or complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomachs, minor ulcers, headaches other than migraines, routine dental or orthodontia problems, periodontal disease, etc., are conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify for FMLA leave.

### **Intermittent and Reduced Schedule Leave**

The Superintendent may allow a staff member to take FMLA leave intermittently (i.e. leave in separate blocks of time for a single qualifying reason) or on a reduced schedule leave (i.e. reducing the employee's usual weekly or daily work schedule) for reason (A) or (B) on page one. A staff member is entitled to take FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule leave when medically necessary as indicated in reasons (C) and (D) on page one. A staff member may also take FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule leave for Qualifying Exigency Leave (i.e. reason (E) on page one). Finally, Military Caregiver Leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced schedule leave when medically necessary. Regardless, the taking of FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule leave results in the total reduction of the twelve (12) or twenty-six (26) weeks only by the amount of leave actually taken. If the intermittent or reduced schedule leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee, a family member or a covered service member, the Superintendent may require the staff member to transfer temporarily, during the period the intermittent or reduced schedule leave is required, to an available alternative position for which the staff member is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the staff member's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but not necessarily equivalent duties. The Superintendent may also transfer the staff member to a part-time job with the same hourly rate of pay and benefits, provided the staff member is not required to take more leave than is medically necessary. 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 schedule leave because of reasons (C) or (D) on page one or pursuant to Military Caregiver Leave and the leave 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





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- B. transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the Superintendent 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.

When leave is needed for planned medical treatment, the staff member must make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the District's operations, subject to the approval of the healthcare provider.

If the Superintendent agrees to permit FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule leave for reason (A) or (B) on page one, the Board may also require the staff member to transfer temporarily, during the period the intermittent or reduced schedule leave is required, to an available alternative position for which the staff member is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the staff member's regular position.

**Staff Member Notice Requirements** (Forms available at the U.S. Department of Labor Website: [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov))

Staff members seeking to use FMLA leave (including Military Caregiver Leave) are required to provide thirty (30) days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable and such notice is practicable. If leave is foreseeable less than thirty (30) days in advance, the staff member must provide notice as soon as practicable - generally, either the same or next business day. When the need for leave is not foreseeable, the staff member must provide notice as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Absent unusual circumstances, staff members must comply with the Board's usual and customary notice and procedural requirements for requesting leave. Failure to provide timely notice may result in the leave being delayed or denied, and/or possible disciplinary action.

Staff members must provide "sufficient information" for the Superintendent to determine whether the FMLA may apply to the leave request. Depending on the situation, such information may include that the employee is incapacitated due to pregnancy, has been hospitalized overnight, is unable to perform the functions of the job, that the staff member or his/her qualifying family member is under the continuing care of a healthcare provider, that the requested leave is for a particular qualifying exigency related to a qualifying family member's covered active duty or call to covered active duty status, or that the leave is due to a qualifying family member who is a covered service member with a serious injury or illness. The information may also include the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.



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When a staff member seeks leave for a FMLA-qualifying reason for the first time, the staff member need not expressly assert FMLA rights or even mention the FMLA. When an employee seeks leave, however, due to a FMLA-qualifying reason for which the District has previously provided the staff member FMLA-protected leave, the staff member must specifically reference either the qualifying reason for leave or the need for FMLA leave.

### Substitution of Paid Leave

☒ The Board shall require the staff member

The staff member may request

to "substitute" (i.e. run concurrently) any of his/her earned or accrued paid leave (e.g. sick leave, personal leave, ~~( )~~ assault leave, vacation leave, ~~( )~~ compensatory time ( ) family leave) for unpaid FMLA leave. An employee's ability to substitute accrued paid leave is determined by the terms and conditions of the District's normal leave policy. A staff member electing to use any type of paid leave concurrently with FMLA leave must follow the same terms and conditions of the Board's policy that apply to other employees for use of such leave. The staff member is always entitled to unpaid FMLA leave if s/he does not meet the Board's conditions for taking paid leave. On occasion the Board may waive any procedural requirements for the taking of any type of paid leave.

☒ If a staff member requests and is permitted to use accrued compensatory time to receive pay for time taken off for an FMLA reason, or if the Superintendent requires such use pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, the time taken will be counted against the staff member's FMLA leave entitlement.

If the staff member has not earned or accrued adequate paid leave to encompass the entire twelve (12) work week period of FMLA leave or a twenty-six (26) work week period of Military Caregiver Leave, the additional weeks of leave to obtain the twelve (12) work weeks of FMLA leave or twenty-six (26) work weeks of Military Caregiver Leave the staff member is entitled to shall be unpaid. Whenever a staff member uses paid leave in substitution for unpaid FMLA leave/Military Caregiver Leave, such leave counts toward the twelve (12) work week/twenty-six (26) work week maximum leave allowance provided by this policy and Federal law.



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**District Notice Requirements** (Forms available at the U.S. Department of Labor Website: [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov))

The Superintendent is directed to post the Department of Labor approved Notice explaining employees' rights and responsibilities under the FMLA. Additionally, this general notice shall be included in employee handbooks or other written guidance to staff members concerning benefits or leave rights or, in the alternative, distributed to each new staff member upon hiring.

When a staff member requests FMLA leave or the District acquires knowledge that leave may be for a FMLA purpose, the Superintendent shall notify the staff member of his/her eligibility to take leave, and inform the staff member of his/her rights and responsibilities under the FMLA (including the consequences of failing to meet those obligations). Along with the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities, the Superintendent will attach any medical certification that may be required, and a copy of the employee's essential job functions. **[NOTE: If the essential job functions are not provided at this time, they must be provided with the Designation Notice Form.]** If Superintendent determines the staff member is not eligible for FMLA leave, the Superintendent must state at least one (1) reason why the staff member is not eligible. Such notice may be given orally or in writing and should be given within five (5) business days of the request for FMLA leave, absent extenuating circumstances. When oral notice is given, it must be followed by written notice within five (5) business days. Staff member eligibility is determined (and notice provided) at the commencement of the first instance of leave for each FMLA-qualifying reason in the applicable twelve (12) month period. All FMLA absences for the same qualifying reason are considered a single leave and staff member eligibility as to that reason for leave does not change during the applicable twelve (12) month period. If at the time a staff member provides notice of a subsequent need for FMLA leave during the applicable twelve (12) month period due to a different FMLA-qualifying reason and the staff member's eligibility status has not changed, no additional eligibility notice is required. If, however, the staff member's eligibility status has changed, the Superintendent must notify the staff member of the change in eligibility status within five (5) business days, absent extenuating circumstances.

If the specific information provided by the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities changes, the Superintendent shall, within five (5) business days of receipt of the staff member's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any changes, provide written notice referencing the prior notice and setting forth any of the information in the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities that has changed.





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When the Superintendent has sufficient information to determine that leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason (e.g. after receiving certification), the Superintendent shall notify the staff member whether the leave will be designated and counted as FMLA leave. Leave that qualifies as **both** Military Caregiver Leave and leave to care for a qualifying family member with a serious health condition (i.e. reason (C)) must be considered as Military Caregiver Leave in the first instance. This designation must be in writing and must be given within five (5) business days of the determination, absent extenuating circumstances. Additionally, when appropriate, the Superintendent shall notify the staff member of the number of hours, days and weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA entitlement, and whether the employee will be required to provide a fitness-for-duty certification to return to work. **[NOTE: If a handbook or other written document clearly provides that fitness-for-duty certification will be required in specific circumstances, the Board's designee may provide only oral notice of this requirement.]**

Only one Designation Notice is required for each FMLA-qualifying reason per applicable twelve (12) month period, regardless of whether the leave taken due to the qualifying reason will be a continuous block of leave or as intermittent or on a reduced schedule leave. If the Superintendent determines the leave will not be designated as FMLA-qualifying (e.g. if the leave is not for a reason covered by the FMLA or the staff member's FMLA leave entitlement has been exhausted), the Superintendent shall notify the staff member of that determination. If the staff member is required to substitute paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave, or if paid leave taken under an existing leave plan is being counted as FMLA leave, the "Designation Notice" shall include this information. Additionally, the "Designation Notice" shall notify the staff member if s/he is required to present a fitness-for-duty certification to be restored to employment. Further, if the fitness-for-duty certification is required to address the staff member's ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job, that will be indicated on the Designation Notice, and a list of the essential functions of the staff member's position will be included.

If the information provided to the staff member in the Designation Notice changes, the Superintendent shall provide, within five (5) business days of receipt of the staff member's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any change, written notice of the change.

In the case of intermittent or reduced-leave schedule leave, only one such notice is required unless the circumstances regarding the leave have changed.





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### **Limits on FMLA When Both Spouses are Employed by the Board**

When an eligible husband and wife are both employed by the Board, they are limited to a combined total of twelve (12) workweeks of FMLA leave during any twelve (12) month period if the leave is taken for reason (A) or (B) on page one, or to care for the staff member's parent who has a serious health condition.

Where the husband and wife both use a portion of the total twelve (12) week FMLA leave entitlement for reason (A) or (B) on page one, or to care for a parent, the husband and wife are each entitled to the difference between the amount s/he has taken individually and the twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for other purposes.

When an eligible husband and wife are both employed by the Board, they are limited to a combined total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of Military Caregiver Leave during the "single twelve (12) month period" if the leave is taken for reason (A) or (B) on page one, or to care for the staff member's parent who has a serious health condition, or to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

### **Certification**

When FMLA leave is taken for either reason (C) or (D) on page one, the staff member must provide medical certification from the healthcare provider of the eligible staff member or his/her immediate family member. The staff member may either:

- A. submit the completed medical certification to the Superintendent; or
- B. direct the healthcare provider to transfer the completed medical certification directly to the Superintendent, which will generally require the staff member to furnish the healthcare provider with a HIPAA-compliant authorization.

If the staff member fails to provide appropriate medical certification, any leave taken by the employee shall not constitute FMLA leave.



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When the need for FMLA leave is foreseeable and at least thirty (30) days notice has been provided, the staff member must provide the medical certification before the leave begins. When this is not possible, the employee must provide the requested certification to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) calendar days after the staff member requests FMLA leave unless it is not practicable under the circumstances to do so despite the staff member's diligent and good faith efforts.

The Board reserves the right to require second or third opinions (at the Board's expense), and periodic recertification of a serious health condition. If a third opinion is sought, that opinion shall be binding and final. The staff member may either:

- A. submit the opinion of the second healthcare provider, and the opinion of the third healthcare provider if applicable, to the Superintendent;
- B. direct the second or third healthcare provider to transfer his/her opinion directly to the Superintendent, which will generally require the staff member to furnish the healthcare provider with a HIPAA-compliant authorization.

In the event that the staff member fails to provide the medical opinion of the second or third healthcare provider, if applicable, any leave taken by the staff member shall not constitute FMLA leave.

### **Recertification**

Recertification may be required no more often than every thirty (30) days in connection with an absence by the staff member unless the condition will last for more than thirty (30) days. For conditions that are certified as having a minimum duration of more than thirty (30) days, the District will not request recertification until the specified period has passed, except that in all cases the staff member must submit recertification every six (6) months in connection with an absence by the employee. Additionally, the Superintendent may require a staff member to provide recertification in less than thirty (30) days if the staff member requests an extension of leave, the circumstances described in the previous certification have changed significantly, or if the District receives information that casts doubt upon the staff member's stated reason for the absence or the continuing validity of the certification. Finally, staff members must provide a new medical certification each leave year for medical conditions that last longer than one (1) year.



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Staff members requesting Qualifying Exigency Leave are required to submit to the Superintendent a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders and certification providing the appropriate facts related to the particular qualifying exigency for which leave is sought, including contact information if the leave involves meeting with a third party.

Staff members requesting Military Caregiver Leave are required to submit to the Superintendent certification completed by an authorized healthcare provider or a copy of an Invitational Travel Order (ITO) or Invitational Travel Authorization (ITA) issued to any member of the covered service member's family.

The Board authorizes its healthcare provider, ☐ **human resource professional**, ☒ **leave administrator**, ☐ **management official - but not the staff member's direct supervisor** - to authenticate or clarify a medical certification of a serious health condition, or an ITO or ITA (i.e. medical certification provided for reasons (C) or (D) on page one or Military Caregiver Leave). Additionally, the Superintendent is authorized to contact the individual or entity named in the Qualified Exigency Leave certification for purposes of verifying the existence and nature of the meeting.

120 A staff member who takes leave for reason (D) on page one, prior to returning to work, must provide the Superintendent with a fitness-for-duty certification that specifically addresses the staff member's ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job. The fitness-for-duty certification shall only apply to the particular health condition that caused the staff member's need for FMLA leave. **[NOTE: If this option is selected, it must be uniformly applied to all similarly-situated employees (i.e. same occupation, same serious health condition) returning from leave for their own serious health condition, and a list of the employee's essential functions must be provided to him/her at the time his/her leave was designated as FMLA leave].** If reasonable safety concerns exist, the Superintendent may, under certain circumstances, require a staff member to submit a fitness-for-duty certification before s/he returns to work from intermittent FMLA leave. The cost of the certification shall be borne by the staff member.





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### **Job Restoration & Maintenance of Health Benefits**

Upon return from FMLA leave, the Board shall restore the staff member to his/her former position, or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment. During FMLA leave, the Board shall maintain the staff member's current coverage under the Board's group health insurance program on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the staff member had been continuously working during the leave period. If the staff member was paying all or part of the premium payments prior to going on FMLA leave, the staff member must continue to pay his/her share during the leave.

Any leave or return from leave during the last five (5) weeks of an academic term shall be reviewed individually by the Superintendent to minimize disruption to the students' program.

☒ The staff member shall not accrue any sick leave, vacation, or other benefits during a period of unpaid FMLA leave.

The use of FMLA leave shall not result in the loss of any employment benefit that the staff member earned or was entitled to before using FMLA leave ( ), nor shall it be counted against the staff member under a no fault attendance policy. If a bonus or other payment, however, is based on the achievement of a specified goal such as hours worked or perfect attendance, and the employee does not meet the goal due to FMLA leave, payment shall be denied unless it is paid to an employee on equivalent leave status for a reason that does not qualify as FMLA leave.

A staff member shall have no greater right to restoration or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed.

☒ If the staff member fails to return to work at the end of the leave for reasons other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the staff member to leave pursuant to reasons (C) or (D) on page one or Military Caregiver Leave, or for circumstances beyond the control of the staff member, the staff member shall reimburse the Board for the health insurance premiums paid by the Board during the unpaid FMLA leave period.

Generally, a staff member may not be required to take more FMLA leave than necessary to resolve the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave.





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

The Superintendent shall prepare any guidelines that are appropriate for this policy and verify that the policy is posted properly.

Copies of this policy shall be available to staff members upon request.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq. (as amended)

29 C.F.R. Part 825

45 C.F.R. Part 160, 164

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**NEW POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

**ANTI-HARASSMENT**

**General Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as "unlawful harassment"), 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 will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The District will offer counseling services to any person found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means students, administrators, and professional and classified staff, as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

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 Board, 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).



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### **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

### **Definitions**

#### **Bullying**

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation; and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;
- F. cyberbullying;



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- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
- J. public humiliation; or
- K. destruction of property.

**"Harassment"** means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

### **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 verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.





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- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

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

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. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education 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.
- 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.



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- H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. In the context of employees, 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.
- J. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- K. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

**NOTE: Sexual conduct/relationships with students by District employees or any other adult member of the School District community is prohibited, and any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery" as set forth in Ohio Revised Code 2907.03. The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge and/or with respect to the application of this policy to District employees or other adult members of the School District community.**



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#### **Race/Color Harassment**

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

#### **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 or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. 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.

#### **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment**

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



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#### **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disabling 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**

Members of the School District community, which includes all staff, and third parties 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 Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer at his/her first convenience.

Members of the School District community or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully 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 or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment 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.





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If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the 1662 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

### Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

**[NOTE: School Districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The Compliance Officers may also serve as the District's Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators.]**

Mark  
(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

Sandy  
(Name )

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

*Stacy w/  
what's in  
there  
Superintendent  
&  
Sandy Powell*



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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.
- ☒ on the School District's web site.
- ☒ on each individual school's web site.
- ☐ in the School District's calendar.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Compliance Officers will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community 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 Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.



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Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, 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 harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) business days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 1662 F1)**

Any employee or other member of the School District community or third party (e.g., visitor to the District) who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment or retaliation, was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or 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. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

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





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### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the School District community, or third party who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint and will only be utilized where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in such process.

Employees, other members of the School District community, or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a third party against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) directly to one of the Compliance Officers; and/or (3) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.





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The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the School District community, or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful harassment, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers in accordance with the Board's records retention policy and/or Student Records policy. (See Policy 8310 and Policy 8330)

### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.



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An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, principal, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment 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 teacher, principal, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

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

All formal 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, offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer 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 formal complaint, the Compliance Officer 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 Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.





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Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation. ~~( )~~ A Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing 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 administrative guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment Policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/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 Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. ( ) The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.



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Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent 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 Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

☐ The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

**OR**



A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Superintendent may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative 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 this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment/retaliation regardless of whether the member of the School District community or third party alleging the unlawful harassment/retaliation 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 or its designee.





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### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, 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 and related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will 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 Compliance Officer in accordance with the School Board's records retention policy. Any records that are considered student education records in accordance with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* or under Ohio's student records law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State laws.



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### **Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful 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 or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment 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 a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

### **Retaliation**

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.



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### **Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct**

State law requires any school teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child with a disability under the age of twenty-one (21) or that a child under the age of eighteen (18) has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

State law defines certain contact between a teacher and a student as "sexual battery." If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined in Ohio's Criminal Code, such knowledge should be immediately reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to a county children's services agency or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

### **Allegations Involving Conduct Unbecoming the Teaching Profession/Suspension**

The Superintendent will report to the Ohio Department of Education, on forms provided for that purpose, matters of misconduct on the part of licensed professional staff members convicted of sexual battery, and will, in accordance with Policy 8141, suspend such employee from all duties that concern or involve the care, custody, or control of a child during the pendency of any criminal action for which that person has been arrested, summoned and/or indicted in that regard.



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## **Education and Training**

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee 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 students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

R.C. 4112.02

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.

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

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

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

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

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

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

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

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

42 U.S.C. 1983

National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis – May 2008





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REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1

### POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to students and to the District for students to participate in programs offered by accredited colleges and universities in Ohio.

The Board will approve participation by students who meet the **participating college's established placement standards for college-level courses to which credit is awarded** ~~State Board of Education's criteria~~, to enroll in approved postsecondary programs during the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade year while in attendance in the District. Students will be eligible to receive secondary credit for completing any of these programs.

No student may participate without the written consent of the Superintendent and for those students under the age of eighteen (18), the written consent of the parents or without attending the counseling services offered in relation to this educational option.

The Board ( ) **shall** ( ) **may** deny high school credit for postsecondary courses any portion of which are taken during the period of a student's expulsion. If the student has elected to receive credit for course(s) toward fulfilling graduation requirements as well as postsecondary credit, that election is automatically revoked for all college courses in which the student enrolled during the college term in which the expulsion is imposed.

When a student is expelled, the Board directs the Superintendent to send written notice of the expulsion to any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under R.C. 3365.03 (Postsecondary Enrollment Options) at the time the expulsion is imposed. This notice shall indicate the date the expulsion is scheduled to expire and that the Board has adopted a policy under R.C. 3313.613 to deny high school credit for postsecondary courses taken during an expulsion. If the expulsion period is later extended, the Superintendent shall notify the college of the extension.



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The Superintendent shall establish the necessary administrative guidelines to comply with State law which will thereafter be properly communicated to both students and their parents. The Superintendent shall also establish guidelines and procedures for the awarding of credit and the proper entry on a student's transcript and other records of his/her participation in a postsecondary program.

R.C. 3313.613, 3365.01 through 3365.09

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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

**DISTRICT-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Board of Education believes that the goals and objectives of this District are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, including those that are not conducted in a regular classroom but are directly related to the curriculum.

The purpose of curricular-related activities shall be to enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than may be available in the District's courses of study but are still directly related to accomplishing the educational outcomes for students as adopted by the Board in Policy 2131.

For purposes of this policy, curricular-related activities are defined as those activities in which:

- A. the subject matter is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly offered course;
- B. the subject matter concerns the District's composite courses of study;
- C. participation is required for a particular course;
- D. participation results in academic credit.

No curricular-related activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it meets one or more of the criteria stated above and has been approved by the Superintendent.

Such activities, along with extra-curricular activities (not directly related to courses of study), may be conducted on or off school premises by clubs, associations, and organizations of students sponsored by the Board and directed by a staff advisor.



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**(Note: Selection of the first option precludes selection of the second option)**

**Option #1**

- ☐ The Board expressly declines to create a limited open forum for clubs and activities, initiated by students, that cannot meet one of the four criteria stated above.

**Option #2**

- ☐ The Board shall allow nondistrict-sponsored, student clubs and activities during noninstructional time, in accordance with the provisions in Policy 5730 -- Equal Access For Nondistrict-Sponsored, Student Clubs and Activities.

**END OF OPTIONS**

- ☐ Noncurricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community may be allowed under the provisions of Policy 7510 - Use of District Facilities. The Board, however will not:
- ☐ assume any responsibility for the planning, conducting, or evaluating of such activities;
  - ☐ provide any funds or other resources;
  - ☐ allow any member of the District's staff to assist in the planning, conducting, or evaluating of such an activity during the hours s/he is functioning as a member of the staff.

No nondistrict-sponsored organization may use the name of the School District or any other name which would associate an activity with the District.





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In order to be eligible for any co-curricular, interscholastic and noninterscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student

- ( ) must have maintained at least a \_\_\_\_ grade-point average
- ( ) must not have received a failing grade in any course

for the ( ) semester(s) ( ) grading period prior to the ( ) semester ( ) grading period in which s/he wishes to participate. **Students who are educated at home or enrolled in nonpublic schools are eligible to participate in accordance with Policy 9270.** ✓

- [ ] An exception may be made by the principal if the student has been participating in an intervention program and has shown satisfactory progress toward achieving the minimum grade-point average.

If a student who becomes ineligible under these standards improves his/her grade point average during the current ( ) semester ( ) grading period enough to meet the eligibility standard, s/he may be reinstated

- ( ) at the beginning of the next ( ) semester ( ) grading period.
- ( ) after \_\_\_\_ more ( ) semester(s) ( ) grading period(s) with an acceptable grade point average.
- ( ) and no failing grades.

Students identified as disabled under R.C. Chapter 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for [a] course[s], given the individual student's disability.

Whenever a student becomes a member of a District-established student group or national organization such as National Honor Society, in order to remain a member, s/he must continue to meet all of the eligibility criteria and abide by the principles and practices established by the group or organization.



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- [] Any student who has not made a passing score on all required sections of State-mandated tests after \_\_\_\_ attempts shall be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity, including athletics.

**[Note: The following should be selected, if at all, only if the District provides intervention programs to help students pass the proficiency tests at times that would conflict with participation in the extra-curricular activity.]**

- [] The Board believes a student who has not passed these tests would be better served using the time that s/he would be participating in his/her interscholastic or non-interscholastic extra-curricular activity to participate in one or more of the District's intervention programs for assisting students to pass the required tests.
- [] However, if a parent believes that his/her child may be unduly affected by his/her lack of participation in a particular interscholastic or noninterscholastic extra-curricular activity, s/he may come to the school and sign a waiver that will release the student from this proficiency test eligibility rule and allow him/her to participate in an activity. The parent shall be informed, prior to signing the waiver, that State law does not allow a student to receive a high school diploma unless s/he has passed all State testing requirements.

**The Athletic Director and/or Principal shall require that each student athlete, who participates in either an interscholastic or intramural sport, submits Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2 signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received the Ohio Department of Health's concussion and head injury information sheet. The forms shall be signed and submitted on an annual basis. No student may practice or compete in interscholastic or intramural athletics until Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2 are received by the Athletic Director or Principal.**

Students shall be fully informed of the curricular-related and extra-curricular activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in these activities. Students will be further informed that participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05 - Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities). District-sponsored activities shall be available to all students who elect to participate and who meet eligibility standards.



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The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to implement a program of curricular-related clubs and activities and of extra-curricular activities. Such guidelines should ensure that the needs and interests of the students are properly assessed and procedures are established for continuing evaluation of each club and activity.

| R.C. 3313.53, **3313.539**, 3313.664, 3315.062  
A.C. 3301-35-03

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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.

- [ ] The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.
- [ ] The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.
- [ ] The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone. It should also offer an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.

- [ ] The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics.





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The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event.

No student may practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a concussion and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health. See Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2.

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student:

( ) must have maintained at least a \_\_\_\_\_ grade-point average

( ) must not have received a failing grade in any course

for the \_\_\_\_ ( ) semester(s) ( ) grading period prior to the ( ) semester  
( ) grading period in which s/he wishes to participate.

**Students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate on a District interscholastic team must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant. See Policy 9270.**

[ ] An exception may be made by the principal if the student has been participating in an intervention program and has shown satisfactory progress toward achieving the minimum grade-point average.



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If a student who becomes ineligible under these standards improves his/her grade point average during the current ( ) semester ( ) grading period to meet the eligibility standard, s/he may be reinstated

( ) at the beginning of the next ( ) semester ( ) grading period.

( ) after \_\_\_\_ more ( ) semester(s) ( ) grading period(s) with an acceptable grade point average.

( ) and no failing grades.

[ ] These same eligibility standards shall apply to all other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities sponsored by the District. (See Policy 2430)

Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the individualized-student's **individualized** disability.

[ ] Any student who has not made a passing score on all required sections of the State-mandated tests after \_\_\_\_ attempts shall be ineligible to participate in athletics.

**[Note: The following should be selected, if at all, only if the District provides intervention programs to help students pass the proficiency tests at times that would conflict with practice.]**

[ ] The Board believes a student who has not passed these tests would be better served by using the time that s/he would be participating in his/her interscholastic sport to participate in one or more of the District's programs for assisting students to pass the required tests.

[ ] However, if a parent believes that his/her child may be unduly affected by his/her lack of participation in a particular sport, s/he may come to the school and sign a waiver that will release the student from this proficiency test eligibility rule and allow him/her to participate in a particular sport. The parent shall be informed, prior to signing the waiver, that State law does not allow a student to receive a high school diploma unless s/he has passed all State testing requirements.



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Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship **and fair play**, ~~team play, and fair competition.~~

- [] The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) **that are consistent with State and Federal law**, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.

- [] The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics who have:
- () maintained a satisfactory academic record;
  - () attended school regularly;
  - () demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;
  - () returned all school and athletic equipment;
  - () refrained from participation in a contest on a noninterscholastic team, or as an individual in the same sport during the school's season.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration, a program of interscholastic athletics which shall

- () include a complete schedule of events.
  - () and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.
  - () and shall secure board approval before making any changes in the said schedule.



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In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:

“Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment.”

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

- ( ) Prior to enrolling in the sport,
  - ( ) each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District-approved physician;
  - ( ) parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- ( ) Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- ( ) Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.





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- ( ) Any student practicing for or competing in an interscholastic event who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the practice or competition by the student's coach (and/or the referee serving during the practice or competition).

Any student who has been removed from practice or competition by a coach or referee because he/she has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to any practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible until both of the following occur:

1. The student's condition is assessed by a physician ( ) or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to assess such a student.
2. The student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician ( ) or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to grant a such a clearance.

- [ ] The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include:

- ( ) criteria for judging these important qualities;
- ( ) procedures by which these values will be communicated to students, parents, and supporters;
- ( ) means for monitoring the behavior of each of these groups to ensure their behavior reflects high standards.



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- [ ] The guidelines should also provide a set of behavioral expectations for each type of participant as well as a Sportsmanship Code of Conduct which each type of participant is to follow. The Superintendent is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate this Sportsmanship Code.

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05 - Prohibition From Extra-Curricular Activities).

In order to support the High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- ( ) adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- ( ) establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce the concept that athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;
- ( ) attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;
- ( ) support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship;
- ( ) recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

R.C. 2305.23, 2305.231, 3313.53, 3313.535, 3313.539, **3313.5311, 3313.5312**

**R.C. 3313.752, 3315.062**

Ohio High School Athletic Association



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**REVISED POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2013 - SPECIAL RELEASE**

**THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE**

All students entering the third grade must demonstrate a certain level of competency in reading before advancing to the fourth grade.

In accordance with State law, the Superintendent shall develop a program for the annual assessment of the reading skills of each student at the end of first, second, and third grade, and identify those students who are reading below their grade level. Each student's classroom teacher shall be involved in the assessment and identification of those students who are reading below grade level.

The District shall provide intervention services to students whose assessments show that they are failing to make satisfactory progress toward attaining the academic standards for their grade level.

**Definitions**

"On track" means any student who is reading at grade level based on previous end of year standards expectations by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

"Not on track" means any student who is not reading at grade level based on previous end of year standards expectations by September 30<sup>th</sup>.



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### Assessment of Reading Skills Program

- A. Diagnostic assessments in reading, as approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), shall be given by September 30th of each year for students in kindergarten through Grade 3, **with the exception of students with significant cognitive disabilities or other disabilities as authorized by the ODE on a case-by-case basis.** For kindergarten students, **prior to July 1, 2014,** the kindergarten readiness assessment ~~may~~**shall** be administered not earlier than four (4) weeks prior to the start of school and not later than September 30th. **For kindergarten students, beginning July 1, 2014, the kindergarten readiness assessment shall be administered not earlier than the first day of the school year and not later than November 1st, except the language and readiness skills portion of the assessment shall be administered by September 30th.** For students enrolled in first, second, or third grade, the diagnostic assessments in reading shall be administered at least once annually.

The District shall administer each applicable diagnostic assessment to any student who transfers into the District or into a new school within the District who did not take a diagnostic assessment at the previous school during the current school year, **unless the student is excused from taking the assessment as provided for in the preceding paragraph.** The diagnostic assessment(s) shall be administered within thirty (30) days of transfer.

After the administration of any diagnostic assessment, the District shall provide to each student's parent a copy of the student's completed diagnostic assessment, the results of such assessment, and any other accompanying documents used during the administration of the assessment. The preceding documents and information shall be included in any reading improvement and monitoring plan(s) developed with respect to the student. The District shall also submit to the ~~ODE~~**Ohio Department of Education** the results of the diagnostic assessments administered pursuant to this section.

- B. Diagnostic assessment results shall be translated to ODE's definitions of "on track" and "not on track". The District shall make the final determination regarding whether a student is "on track" or "not on track".





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- C. If the diagnostic assessment shows that a student is “not on track” to be reading at grade level by the end of the year, the parent will be notified, in writing, of the following:
1. that the school has identified the student as having a substantial deficiency in reading
  2. a description of current services provided to the student
  3. a description of proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that will be provided to the student that are designed to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency
  4. that the statutorily prescribed assessment is not the sole determinant of promotion and that additional evaluations and assessments are available to the student to assist parents and the District in knowing when a student is reading at or above grade level and ready for promotion, and
  5. that the student will be retained in the third grade if s/he does not attain a score in the statutorily prescribed level on the third grade English Language arts assessment, unless the student is exempt as delineated below.
- D. For each student identified to be “not on track”, the District shall:
1. provide intensive reading intervention services and regular diagnostic assessments immediately following identification of a reading deficiency until the development of a reading improvement and monitoring plan;

The intervention services shall include research-based reading strategies that have been shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers and instruction targeted to the student’s identified reading deficiencies.



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2. develop a reading improvement and monitoring plan within sixty (60) days of learning of the reading deficiency;

The District shall involve the student's parent/guardian and classroom teacher in developing the plan.

3. ~~provide a teacher who has been actively engaged in the reading instruction of students for the previous three (3) years and either:~~ **assign a teacher who has at least one (1) year of teaching experience and satisfies one (1) or more of the following criteria:**

- a. holds a reading endorsement and has attained a passing score on the corresponding assessment, **as applicable or**
- b. has obtained a master's degree with a major in reading
- c. ~~was rated "above value added," which means most effective in reading, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), for the last two (2) school years.~~ **was rated "most effective" for reading instruction consecutively for the most recent two (2) years based on assessments of student growth measures developed by a vendor and that is on the list of State Board-approved student assessments**
- d. **was rated "above expected value added," in reading instruction, as determined by criteria established by the ODE, for the most recent consecutive two (2) years**
- e. **has earned a passing score on a State Board-approved rigorous test of principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction**
- f. **holds an educator license for teaching grades pre-kindergarten through three (pre-K-3) or four through nine (4-9) issued on or after July 1, 2017**



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~~Prior to July 1, 2014, a teacher is also qualified to provide reading guarantee services if the teacher demonstrates evidence of a credential earned from a list of scientifically research-based reading instruction programs approved by the Department of Education.~~

~~Effective July 1, 2014, a teacher is also qualified if the teacher has earned a passing score on a rigorous test of principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction.~~

**For a student who enters third grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, the District may alternatively assign a teacher with less than one (1) year of teaching experience provided the teacher meets at least one (1) of the criteria (a-f) set forth above and the teacher is assigned a qualified teacher mentor. The student may receive reading intervention or remediation services from an duly licensed speech-language pathologist.**

**Additionally, a student who enters third grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, but prior to July 1, 2016, may be assigned a teacher who holds an ODE-approved alternative credential or has successfully completed ODE-approved training that is based on principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction.**

**Finally, nothing in this Policy shall prevent a teacher, other than a student's classroom teacher (i.e., teacher of record), from providing the requisite reading intervention or remediation services to the student, so long as the assigned teacher has at least one (1) year of teaching experience, satisfies at least one (1) of the criteria (a-f) set forth above, and both the classroom teacher and the building Principal agree to the assignment. Such an assignment must be documented in the student's reading improvement and monitoring plan.**



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## **Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan**

The reading improvement and monitoring plan developed for students identified as "not on track" shall include:

- A. identification of the student's specific reading deficiency;
- B. a description of proposed supplemental instructional services and support that will be provided to the student to remediate the identified reading deficiencies;
- C. opportunities for the student's parent/guardian to be involved in the instructional services;
- D. a process to monitor the implementation of the student's instructional services;
- E. a reading curriculum during regular school hours that assists students to read at grade level, provides scientifically based and reliable assessments, and provides initial and ongoing analysis of each student's reading progress; and
- F. ~~a statement that unless the student attains the appropriate level of reading competency by the end of Grade 3, the student may be retained in third grade.~~ **a statement that if the student does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement pursuant to R.C. 3301.0710(A), the student may be retained in third grade.**

Such intervention or remediation services shall include intensive, explicit, systematic instruction, and instruction in phonetics pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

## **Reporting Requirements**

All assessment results and determinations shall be compiled and maintained by the District. The District shall comply with all reporting requirements of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee.





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### Promotion/Retention

~~For any student who enters third grade prior to July 1, 2013, and attains a score in the range designated by statute (R.C. 3301.0710(A)(3)) on the third-grade reading achievement test, the District shall do one of the following:~~ **For any student who enters third grade prior to July 1, 2013, and does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement designated by R.C. 3301.0170(A)(3) on the third-grade reading achievement test, unless the student is excused from taking the assessment pursuant to R.C. 3301.0711(C), the District shall do one of the following:**

- A. promote the student to fourth grade if the student's Principal and reading teacher agree that other evaluations of the student's skill in reading demonstrate that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the fourth grade
- B. promote the student to fourth grade, but provide the student with "intensive" intervention services in fourth grade
- C. retain the student in the third grade

For any student who does not attain by the end of the third grade at least a score in the range designated by statute in the reading test prescribed under R.C. 3301.0710(A)(2)(c), the District shall offer intensive remediation services during the summer following third grade.



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~~Beginning with students who enter the third grade in the 2013-2014 school year, no student shall be promoted to the fourth grade who attains a score in the range designated by R.C. 3310.0710(A)(3) on the assessment prescribed to measure skill in English language arts (ELA) expected at the end of third grade unless one of the following applies:~~

**Beginning with students who enter the third grade in the 2013-2014 school year, no student shall be promoted to the fourth grade who does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement designated by R.C. 3310.0710(A)(3) on the assessment prescribed to measure skill in English language arts (ELA) expected at the end of third grade unless the student is excused from taking the assessment pursuant to R.C. 3301.0711(C) or one (1) of the following applies:**

- A. the student is limited English proficient student who has been enrolled in United States schools for less than ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** full school years and has had less than ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** years of instruction in an English as a second language program; or
- B. the student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under R. C. Chapter 3323 and the student's individualized education program (IEP) exempts the student from retention under State law; or
- C. the student demonstrates an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment as determined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE); or
- D. all of the following apply:
  - 1. The student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under R.C. Chapter 3323.
  - 2. The student has taken the third grade English language arts achievement assessment, as prescribed.
  - 3. The student's IEP or Section 504 Plan shows that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for two (2) school years, but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading.



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4. The student previously was retained in any of grades kindergarten to three.

or

- E. the student received intensive remediation for reading for two (2) school years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in any of grades kindergarten to three. Any such student shall continue to receive intensive reading instruction in grade four. The instruction shall include an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific research-based reading strategies that have been successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.

A student retained under the provisions of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and this policy shall be considered for mid-year promotion if that student demonstrates that s/he is reading at or above grade level, in accordance with the provisions of Policy 5410 – Promotion, Academic Acceleration, Placement, and Retention. Such action shall be considered in consultation with the parent/guardian and the Student Intervention Team and with the concurrence of the building administrator.

### **Intensive Remediation Services**

Remediation services for students on reading improvement and monitoring plans shall be research-based reading strategies that have been shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.

If a student is retained by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the student must be provided intense remediation services until s/he is able to read at grade level. The remediation services must include intense interventions and consist of at least ninety (90) minutes of reading instruction daily.

The District shall provide the option for students to receive reading intervention services from one or more providers other than the District. Both the District and ODE have the authority to screen and approve such providers.



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Interventions for students who have been retained may include:

- A. small group instruction;
- B. reduced student-teacher ratios;
- C. more frequent progress monitoring;
- D. tutoring or mentoring;
- E. transition classes containing third and fourth grade students;
- F. summer reading camp; or
- G. extended school day, week, or year.

Intensive remediation services shall be targeted to the student's identified reading deficiency.

**Nothing in this policy shall prevent the District from assigning a teacher to teach reading to any student who is an English language learner, and has been in the United States for three (3) years or less, or to a student who has an individualized education program ("IEP"), if that teacher holds an ODE-approved alternative credential or has successfully completed ODE-approved training that is based on principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction.**

This policy shall be reviewed and updated periodically as necessary.

R.C. 3301.079, 0710, .0711, .0714, .0715, 3313.608, 3313.608(D), 3313.6012  
A.C. 3301-13, 3301-35

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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

**EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL 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, when not covered by the terms of a negotiated, collectively-bargained agreement, fix the compensation and establish the term of employment for each professional staff member employed by the Board.

Individuals employed in the following categories shall be considered members of the professional staff:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☒ Such approval shall be given only to those candidates for employment recommended by the Superintendent **or by another individual designated by the Board in the event that the Superintendent's nomination would be a violation of R.C. 2921.42.**

Relatives of Board members may be employed by the Board, provided a member of the Board does not participate in any way in the discussion or vote on the employment when a conflict of interest is involved.



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Relatives of staff members may be employed by the Board, provided the staff member being employed is not placed in a position in which s/he is supervised directly by the relative staff member.

- [ ] The Board will not employ (but may reemploy) the
  - ( ) children, siblings, spouse, parents, in-laws, or bona fide dependents (IRS criteria) of a Board member.
  - ( ) children, siblings, spouse, parents, in-laws, or bona fide dependents (IRS criteria) of a regular full-time professional staff member.
- [ ] Applications for employment will not be accepted from any current Board member. If a Board member wishes to apply for a position, his/her resignation must be accepted by the Board prior to submitting an application and the Board member must not use or attempt to use his/her official authority or influence to secure the employment position.
- [ ] Any professional staff member's intentional misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or the determination of salary shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.
- [ ] The employment of professional 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.
- [ ] No candidate for employment as a professional staff member shall receive recommendation for such employment without having proffered visual evidence of proper licensing or that application for such licensing is in process. Said licensing shall meet the minimum requirements of State law for the position for which s/he is being recommended.



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- [ ] The Superintendent may, however, recommend to the Board the employment of an unlicensed person if s/he holds a baccalaureate degree and is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States and has been honorably discharged within the last three (3) years, and while in the armed services, had meaningful experience as a teacher or instructor, and the right to teach without a license has not been revoked by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

If such a person is employed, s/he shall be considered to be eligible for and must fulfill the professional development standards required of other professional staff members.

If the Superintendent, after proper investigation, determines that the person no longer should have the right to teach, s/he may be terminated without regard to R.C. 3319.11 and R.C. 3319.16.

Professional staff must also pass a background check performed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (see Policy 3121).

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines for the recruitment and selection of all professional staff.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS**

All teachers shall be "highly qualified."

"Highly Qualified" means:

- A. Full State certification as a teacher (including an alternative educator license) or passed State teacher licensing exam and holds current license to teach; certification or license requirements may not be waived on a temporary basis



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- B. For elementary teachers new to the profession, this also requires:
  - 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)
- C. 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
- D. 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)

R.C.2909.34, 2921.01, 2921.42, 3319.02, 3319.07, 3319.11  
R.C. 3319.23 - .282, 3319.283, 3319.301, 3319.39  
20 U.S.C. 6319  
20 U.S.C. 7801





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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1 - SEPTEMBER 2013**

**STANDARDS-BASED TEACHER EVALUATION**

**[DRAFTING NOTE: This is only a policy "template" and requires numerous and important local choices prior to adoption. In addition, the final policy must be developed "in consultation with teachers employed by the Board"]**

The Board of Education is responsible for a standards-based teacher evaluation policy which conforms to the framework for evaluation of teachers as approved by the State Board of Education and aligns with the "Standards for the Teaching Profession" as set forth in State law.

[ ] The Board adopts the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System ("OTES") model as approved by the State Board of Education.

The Board believes in the importance of ongoing assessment and meaningful feedback as a powerful vehicle to support improved teaching performance and student growth, as well as promotion and retention decisions for teachers.

This policy shall be implemented as set forth herein and shall be included in the collective bargaining agreement with the \_\_\_\_\_, and in all extensions and renewals thereof.

This policy has been developed in consultation with teachers employed by the Board.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish and maintain an ongoing Evaluation Policy Consultation committee, with continuing participation by District teachers

( ) represented by the \_\_\_\_\_,

for the express purpose of recommending necessary changes to the Board for the appropriate revision of this policy.



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### Definitions

**"OTES"** - stands for the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System as adopted by the Ohio State Board of Education in 2011, or as otherwise modified by the State Board of Education.

**"Teacher"** - For purposes of this policy, "teacher" means licensed instructors who spend at least fifty percent (50%) of his/her time providing content-related student instruction and who is working under one (1) of the following:

- A. A license issued under R.C. 3319.22, 3319.26, 3319.222 or 3319.226; or
- B. A permanent certificate issued under R.C. 3319.222 as it existed prior to September, 2003; or
- C. A permanent certificate issued under R.C. 3319.222 as it existed prior to September, 2006; or
- D. A permit issued under R.C. 3319.301.

Substitute teachers and teachers not meeting this definition are not subject to evaluation under this policy. Full time bargaining unit members who do not meet the definition will be evaluated utilizing the evaluation procedures of the collective bargaining agreement in effect between the Board and the \_\_\_\_\_.



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The Superintendent, Treasurer, ( ) Business Manager and any "other administrator" as defined by R.C. 3319.02 are not subject to evaluation under this policy

**"Credentialed Evaluator"** - For purposes of this policy, each teacher subject to evaluation will be evaluated by a person who:

- A. meets the eligibility requirements under R.C. 3319.111(D); and
- B. holds a credential established by the Ohio Department of Education for teacher evaluation; and
- C. has completed State-sponsored evaluation training and has passed an online credentialing assessment.

**[Choose One]**

☐ The Board will approve and maintain a list of credentialed evaluators as necessary to effectively implement this policy.

**OR**

☐ The Board shall authorize the Superintendent/designee to approve and maintain a list of credentialed evaluators as necessary to effectively implement this policy.

**"Core Subject Area"** - means reading and English language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, government, economics, fine arts, history and geography.

**"Student Growth"** - for the purpose of the District's evaluation policy, student growth is defined as the change in student achievement for an individual student between two (2) or more points in time.

**"Student Learning Objectives" ("SLOs")** - include goals identified by a teacher or group of teachers that identify expected learning outcomes or growth targets for a group of students over a period of time.

**"Shared Attribution Measures"** - student growth measures that can be attributed to a group.



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**“Value-Added”** – refers to the EVAAS Value-Added methodology provided by SAS, Inc., which provides a measure of student progress at the District and school level based on each student’s scores on State issued standardized assessments.

**“Vendor Assessment”** – student assessments approved by the Ohio Department of Education that measure mastery of the course content for the appropriate grade level, which may include nationally normed standardized assessments, industry certification exams, or end-of-course examinations for grade level and subjects for which the Value-Added measure does not apply.

### **Standards-Based Teacher Evaluation**

Teacher evaluations will utilize multiple factors, with the intent of providing meaningful feedback to each teacher and assigning an effectiveness rating based in equal part upon teacher performance and student growth.

Each teacher evaluation will result in an effectiveness rating of:

- A. accomplished;
- B. proficient;**skilled;**
- C. developing; or
- D. ineffective

The specific standards and criteria for distinguishing between these ratings/levels of performance shall be the same as those developed by the State Board of Education, which are incorporated herein by reference.

The Superintendent shall annually cause to be filed a report to the Department of Education the number of teachers for whom an evaluation was conducted as well as the number of teachers assigned each rating as set forth above, aggregated by teacher preparation programs from which and the years in which the teachers graduated.

Fifty percent (50%) of each evaluation will be based upon teacher performance and fifty percent (50%) on multiple measures of student growth as set forth herein.





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### **Assessment of Teacher Performance**

Teacher performance will be evaluated during formal observations and periodic informal observations also known as "classroom walkthroughs." Such performance, which will comprise fifty-percent (50%) of a teacher's effectiveness rating, will be assessed through a holistic process by trained and credentialed evaluators based upon the following *Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession*:

- A. understanding student learning and development and respecting the diversity of the students they teach;
- B. understanding the content area for which they have instructional responsibility;
- C. understanding and using varied assessment to inform instruction, evaluate and ensure student learning;
- D. planning and delivering effective instruction that advances individual student learning;
- E. creating learning environments that promote high levels of learning and student achievement;
- F. collaborating and communicating with students, parents, other educators, District administrators and the community to support student learning; and
- G. assuming responsibility for professional growth, performance and involvement.



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### **Formal Observation and Classroom Walkthrough Sequence**

- A. All instructors who meet the definition of "teacher" under R.C. 3319.111 and this policy shall be evaluated based on at least two (2) formal observations and periodic classroom walkthroughs each school year.
- B. Teachers on a limited contract who are under consideration for renewal/nonrenewal shall receive at least three (3) formal observations in addition to periodic classroom walkthroughs ( ) unless the Superintendent waives the third observation.
  - [ ] A teacher who has been granted a continuing contract by the Board and who receives a rating of "Accomplished" on his/her most recent evaluation shall be evaluated every other school year.
  - [ ] A teacher who receives a rating of "Accomplished" on his/her most recent evaluation may request that in place of one of the required observations, the teacher instead may complete a project. The Superintendent/designee shall approve or deny the teacher's request in his/her sole discretion.

Pursuant to this policy and Board resolution, the Board shall approve a list of projects recommended by the Superintendent/designee that demonstrate a teacher's continued growth and practice at the accomplished level for accomplished teachers who wish to complete a project in lieu of one (1) formal observation.

Evaluations will be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup> and each teacher will be provided a written report of the results of his/her evaluation by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Written notice of nonrenewal will be provided by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

In evaluating teacher performance in these areas, the Board shall utilize the measures set forth by the Ohio Department of Education's OTES "Teacher Performance Evaluation Rubric" for instructional planning, instruction and assessment, and professionalism, set forth herein in the Appendix.



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Each teacher evaluated under this policy shall annually complete a "Self-Assessment," utilizing the Self Assessment Summary Tool set forth herein as "Teacher Evaluation Form."

### **Formal Observation Procedure**

#### **[Choose One]**

- A.[ ] The first formal observation shall be preceded by a conference between the evaluator and the employee prior to the observation in order for the employee to explain plans and objectives for the classroom situation to be observed. The second observation will be unannounced.

**OR**

- A.[ ] All formal observations shall be preceded by a conference between the evaluator and the employee prior to the observation in order for the employee to explain plans and objectives for the classroom situation to be observed.
- B. A post-observation conference shall be held after each formal observation.

### **Informal Observation/Classroom Walkthrough Procedure**

- A. Classroom walkthroughs shall not unreasonably disrupt and/or interrupt the learning environment.
- B. Data gathered from the walkthrough must be placed on the form designated in Teacher Evaluation Form.
- C. A final debriefing and completed form must be shared with the employee within a reasonable amount of time.



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### **Assessment of Student Growth**

In determining student growth measures, the Board adopts the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES), which calculates student growth by assessing achievement for an individual student occurring between two (2) points in time. It is important to note that a student who has ~~sixty (60) or more unexcused absences~~ **forty-five (45) or more absences (excused or unexcused)** for the school year will not be included in the determination of student academic growth.

In general, the Board will utilize the following categories to determine this aspect of a teacher's evaluation, depending upon the instructor involved:

- A1. Teachers instructing in value-added subjects exclusively<sup>1</sup>;
- A2. Teachers instructing in value-added courses, but not exclusively<sup>2</sup>;

**OR**

- B. Teachers instructing in areas with Ohio Department of Education approved vendor assessments with teacher-level data available; or

<sup>1</sup> If a teacher's schedule is comprised only of courses or subjects for which the value-added progress dimension is available, until June 30, 2014, the majority (i.e., greater than twenty-five (25%) of the student growth factor of the evaluation will be based upon the value-added progress as determined for each such teacher. After July 1, 2014, the entire student academic growth factor of the evaluation (i.e., fifty percent (50%)) shall be based on the value-added progress dimension.

<sup>2</sup>For these teachers, value added will be used for the student academic growth factor in proportion to the part of a teacher's schedule of courses or subjects for which the value-added progress dimension is applicable. Teachers with multiple subjects that have value-added data will be issued reports for a composite of reading and math; for other assessments (approved vendor and local measures), the assessment data measures should be representative of the teacher's schedule.





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- C. Teachers instructing in areas where no teacher-level value-added or approved vendor assessment available.<sup>3</sup>

Where value-added methodologies exist for A1 and A2 teachers, the Board will utilize them in the evaluation process, to the extent set forth in the Appendix of the "District Student Growth Measurement Index." Teachers instructing in value-added courses, but not exclusively, will utilize teacher value-added and locally determined measures proportionate to the teacher's schedule.

When an approved Ohio Department of Education vendor assessment is utilized in the measurement of student growth, it will be included in the evaluation process for B teachers to the extent set forth in the Appendix of the "District Student Growth Measurement Index."

When neither teacher-level value-added data nor Ohio Department of Education-approved assessments are available, the District shall use locally-determined Student Growth Measures for C teachers as set forth in the Appendix of the "District Student Growth Measurement Index." Student Growth Measures may be comprised of SLOs, shared attribution, and/or non-Value-Added vendor data.

An SLO must be based upon the following criteria: Baseline and Trend Data, Student Population, Interval of Instruction, Standards and Content, Assessment(s), Growth Targets, and Rationale for Growth Targets. When new SLO's are developed or revised, the process will include consultation with teachers employed by the Board. The Board's process for creating and revising SLO's is set forth in the Appendix of the "District OTES Student Growth Measures Manual."

Data from these approved measures of student growth will be scored on five (5) levels in accordance with the Ohio Department of Education/OTES guidance and converted to a score in one of three (3) levels of student growth:

- A. above;
- B. expected;
- C. below.

<sup>3</sup> If used, only one (1) "shared attribution" measure can be utilized per instructor.



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## Final Evaluation Procedures

Each teacher's performance rating will be combined with the assessment of student growth measures to produce the summative evaluation rating, based upon the following "Evaluation Matrix":

### Teacher Performance

		4	3	2	1
Student Growth Measures	Above	Accomplished	Accomplished	Proficient <b>Skilled</b>	Developing
	Expected	Proficient <b>Skilled</b>	Proficient <b>Skilled</b>	Developing	Developing
	Below	Developing	Developing	Ineffective	Ineffective

The evaluator shall provide that each evaluation is submitted to the teacher for his/her acknowledgement by written receipt. If signed, by the teacher, the receipt is to be sent to the Superintendent as soon as received.



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### **Professional Growth Plans and Professional Improvement Plans**

Based upon the results of the annual teacher evaluation as converted to the "Evaluation Matrix" above, each teacher must develop either a professional growth plan or professional improvement plan as follows:

- A. Teachers whose performance rating indicates above expected levels of student growth will develop a professional growth plan and may choose their credentialed evaluator from those available to the Board for that purpose, utilizing the components set forth in the "Teacher Evaluation Form."
- B. Teachers whose performance rating indicates expected levels of student growth will develop a professional growth plan collaboratively with his/her credentialed evaluator and will have input on his/her evaluator for the next evaluation cycle, utilizing the components set forth in the "Teacher Evaluation Form"
- C. Teachers whose performance rating indicates below expected levels of student growth will develop a professional improvement plan with their credentialed evaluator. The administration will assign the evaluator for the subsequent evaluation cycle and approve the professional improvement plan, utilizing the components set forth in "Teacher Evaluation Form."



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### **Core Subject Teachers - Testing for Content Knowledge**

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, core subject area teachers must register for and complete all written examinations of content knowledge selected by the Ohio Department of Education if the teacher has received an effectiveness rating of "Ineffective" on his/her annual evaluation for two (2) of the three (3) most recent school years.

If a teacher passes the examination set forth above and provides proof of that passage to the Board, the teacher will be required, at the teacher's expense, to complete professional development that is targeted to the deficiencies identified in the teacher's evaluations conducted under this policy.

The following may be grounds for termination of a teacher pursuant to R.C. 3319.16:

- A. failing to complete all required written examinations under this section;
- B. a failing score on a written examination(s) taken pursuant to this section;
- C. a rating of "ineffective" on the teacher's next evaluation after passing all written examinations pursuant to this section and after completion of the required professional development; or
- D. failure of a teacher to complete the required professional development.

Any teacher passing the examination set forth above will not be required to take the examination again for three (3) years, regardless of the teacher's evaluation ratings or the performance index score ranking of the building in which the teacher teaches.

No teacher shall be responsible for the cost of taking an examination set forth above.

### **Board Professional Development Plan**

In accordance with the Ohio State Board of Education's statewide evaluation framework, the Board has adopted a specific plan for the allocation of financial resources to support the professional development of teachers covered by this policy. The plan will be reviewed annually.





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### **Retention and Promotion Decisions/Removal of Poorly Performing Teachers**

It is the purpose of this Standards-Based Teacher Evaluation Policy to improve the quality of instruction, enhance student learning and strengthen professional competence through meaningful feedback and targeted professional development. In addition, the evaluations produced will serve to inform the Board on employment decisions, i.e., retention, promotion of teachers, renewal of teaching contracts, and the removal/nonrenewal of poorly performing teachers.

#### **Definitions:**

**"Retention"** for purposes of this policy refers to employment decisions on the question of whether or not to suspend a contract pursuant to a reduction in force, nonrenew a limited or extended limited contract, or terminate employment for good and just cause. In the case of a reduction in force, seniority will not be considered when making decisions on contract suspensions, except in the instance of comparable evaluations. The decision to nonrenew or terminate the contract of a poorly performing teacher may be informed by the evaluation(s) conducted under this policy. However, decisions to nonrenew or terminate a teaching contract are not limited by the existence of this policy.

**"Promotion"** as used in this context is of limited utility given the fact that teachers covered by this policy are not currently employed in any discernible hierarchy. Nevertheless, when making decisions relative to such matters as determining department or grade level chairpersons, selections to curricular or strategic planning bodies, or teaching assignments, the Board will consider teacher performance as indicated by evaluations.

**"Poorly Performing Teachers"** refers to teachers identified through the evaluation process set forth in this policy who demonstrate an inability and/or unwillingness to meet the reasonable expectations of this standards-based evaluation system.

**"Comparable Evaluations"** Since seniority may not be the basis for teacher retention or other employment decisions, except when deciding between teachers who have comparable evaluations, this refers to teachers within the categories of "Ineffective," "Developing," "Proficient," "Skilled," and "Accomplished."



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**Removal of Poorly Performing Teachers**

Poorly performing teachers may be removed, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, either through nonrenewal or termination, when the following has been demonstrated:

- A. failure of a core subject area teacher required to take a written examination to pass such examination;
- B. failure of core subject area teacher required to take a written examination to complete required professional development;
- C. failure of core subject area teacher to complete all required written examinations;
- D. receipt of an "Ineffective" rating by a core subject area teacher in the evaluation following passage of a written examination and completion of required professional development;

( )

\_\_\_\_\_

( )

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

[ ] Removal of poorly performing teachers will be in accordance with the nonrenewal and termination statutes of the Ohio revised code

( ) and/or the relevant provisions of the collective bargaining agreement in effect between the Board and the \_\_\_\_\_.



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Nothing in this policy will be deemed to prevent the Board from exercising its rights to nonrenew, terminate, or suspend a teaching contract as provided by law and the terms of the collective bargaining agreement in effect between it and the \_\_\_\_\_. The evaluation system and procedures set forth in this policy shall not create an expectation of continued employment for teachers on a limited contract that are evaluated under this policy. The Board reserves the right to nonrenew a teacher evaluated under this policy in accordance with R.C. 3319.11 notwithstanding the teacher's summative rating.

R.C. 3319.02, 3319.11, 3319.111, 3319.112, 3319.22, 3319.222, 3319.226  
R.C. 3319.26, 3319.58, 3333.0411  
A.C. 3301-35-03(A)

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**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1**

**ANTI-HARASSMENT**

**General Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment ~~which~~ **that** is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against **discriminatory** harassment based on ~~sex, race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), religion, disability, age, religion, ancestry, or~~ genetic information **(collectively, "Protected Classes")**, ~~or any other unlawful basis that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as "unlawful harassment")~~, and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify ~~the~~ **such** problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, **prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects**. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

**The District will offer counseling services to any person found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.**

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means students, administrators, **and professional and classified staff**, ~~teachers, staff, and all other school personnel, including~~ **as well as** Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

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 Board, 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).





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### **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging **unlawful** harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of **unlawful** harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating **unlawful** harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

### **Definitions**

#### **Bullying**

**Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation; and may involve:**

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;



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- F. cyberbullying;**
- G. physical violence;**
- H. theft;**
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;**
- J. public humiliation; or**
- K. destruction of property.**

**"Harassment" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:**

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;**
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or**
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.**

**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 verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.**
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.**



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- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

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

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 assault.~~ **Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.**
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education 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.
- 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.



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- H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. In the context of employees, 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.
- J. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- K. **Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.**

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. **Sex-based or gender-based conduct** must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, **limits, or denies** an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

**NOTE: Sexual conduct/relationships with students by District employees or any other adult member of the School District community is prohibited, and any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery" as set forth in R.C. 2907.03. The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge and/or with respect to the application of this policy to District employees or other adult members of the School District community.**





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### **Race/Color Harassment**

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

### **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 or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. 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.

### **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment**

Prohibited national origin/**ancestry** harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin **or ancestry** and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin **or ancestry**, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.



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### **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disabling 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**

Members of the School District community, **which includes all staff**, and third parties 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 Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer at his/her first convenience.**

Members of the School District community or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully 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 or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment 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.



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If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the 3362 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

**Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

[NOTE: School Districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The Compliance Officers may also serve as the District's Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators.]

Mark  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School District Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Office Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail Address)

Shirley  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School District Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Office Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail Address)



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~~The names and titles of the Anti Harassment Complaint Coordinators with whom complaints of sexual and other forms of unlawful harassment should be filed are set forth in the administrative guidelines that supplement this policy.~~ The names, and 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.
- ( ) on the School District's web site.
- ( ) on each individual school's web site.
- ( ) in the School District's calendar.
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Compliance Officers will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.**

~~The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines describing both a formal and an informal process for making a charge of harassment, a process for investigating claims of harassment, and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of harassment was substantiated. This policy and the administrative guidelines will be readily available to all members of the School District community and posted in appropriate places throughout the School District.~~





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**Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community 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 Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.**

~~Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Complaint Coordinators \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Thereafter, the Complaint Coordinator, must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Complaint Coordinator or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.~~  
**Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, 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 harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer, or designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) business days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.**



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### Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 3362 F1)

Any employee or other member of the School District community or third party (e.g., visitor to the District) who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment or retaliation was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, or 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. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

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

### Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the School District community, or third party who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint and will only be utilized where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in such process.

Employees, other members of the School District community, or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.



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However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a third party against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) directly to one of the Compliance Officers; and/or (3) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.



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The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the School District community, or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful harassment, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers in accordance with the Board's records retention policy and/or Student Records policy. (See Policy 8310 and Policy 8330)





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#### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, principal, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment 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 teacher, principal, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

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

All formal 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, offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer 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 formal complaint, the Compliance Officer 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 Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation. (11) A Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing 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 administrative guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/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.



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At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. ☒ The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent 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 Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

☐ The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

OR

☒ A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Superintendent may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall 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 this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.





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The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment/retaliation regardless of whether the member of the School District community or third party alleging the unlawful harassment/retaliation 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 or its designee.

### Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will **employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights** respect ~~the privacy~~ of the Complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, 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 and related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. **Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent.**

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will 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 Compliance Officer in accordance with the School Board's records retention policy. Any records that are considered student education records in accordance with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* or under Ohio's student records law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State laws.





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### **Informal Process for Addressing Complaints of Harassment**

The administrative guidelines will include an informal complaint process to provide members of the School District community or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Members of the School District community or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The administrative guidelines will include as a requirement the prerequisite that the informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in the informal process. Those members of the School District community or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process. However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

### **Formal Process for Addressing Complaints of Harassment**

The administrative guidelines will also include a formal complaint process. While the formal complaint process may serve as the first step to resolution of a charge of unlawful harassment, it is also available in those circumstances when the informal complaint process fails to satisfactorily resolve a concern. Because of the need for flexibility, no specific time lines are established for initiating the formal complaint process; however, once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within thirty one (31) calendar days of the complaint being received).

Members of the School District community or third parties who feel they have been unlawfully harassed should file a formal written complaint with the principal of their school building or with one of the Complaint Coordinators identified in the administrative guidelines. Oral complaints of harassment will be reduced to writing by the individual receiving the complaint and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document. Complaints received by a school building principal will be immediately reported to the appropriate Complaint Coordinator identified in the administrative guidelines.



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~~After a complaint is filed, the Complaint Coordinator or designee shall conduct a prompt and timely investigation. The investigation may include interviews of the complainant, the individual accused of engaging in harassing behavior, and any other witness who may reasonably be expected to have information relevant to the situation. All interviewed parties and witnesses will be provided an opportunity to present any evidence that they reasonably believe to be relevant to the situation.~~

~~At the conclusion of the investigation the Complaint Coordinator or designee will prepare and deliver to the Superintendent a written report summarizing the evidence gathered during the investigation and providing his/her recommendations regarding whether or not the complaint of unlawful harassment has been substantiated. The written report must be based on the totality of the circumstances involved in the complaint, the nature of the alleged conduct, the context in which the alleged conduct occurred, and the ages and maturity of the individuals involved.~~

~~[ ] A copy of the written report will also be delivered to the member of the School District community or third party making the complaint and the individual accused of the harassing conduct.~~

~~Upon review of the written report the Superintendent will either issue a final decision regarding whether or not the complaint of unlawful harassment was substantiated, or request that further investigation be conducted. A copy of Superintendent's action will be delivered to both the Complainant and the individual accused of the harassing conduct.~~

~~[ ] The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.~~

~~[ ] A Complainant who is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may appeal it to the Board of Education by submitting written notice to the Superintendent within ten (10) days of the date of the Superintendent's decision. Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Board shall meet in executive session at its next regularly scheduled meeting, which is scheduled to occur at least ten (10) days after the Superintendent's receipt of the appeal notice, to review the complaint and the summary of the investigation. Following the meeting, the Board will issue a decision either affirming, modifying, or rejecting the Superintendent's decision. The decision of the Board shall be final.~~



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~~The Complaint process set forth in the policy and in the administrative guidelines is not intended to interfere with the rights of a member of the School District community or a third party to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.~~

~~The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful 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 and administrative guidelines or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.~~

### **Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful 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 or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment 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 a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to **end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.**~~eliminate such conduct in the future.~~





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#### **Retaliation**

**Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.**

#### **Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct**

**State law requires any school teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child with a disability under the age of twenty-one (21) or that a child under the age of eighteen (18) has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.**

**State law defines certain contact between a teacher and a student as "sexual battery." If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined in Ohio's Criminal Code, such knowledge should be immediately reported to local law enforcement.**

**Any reports made to a county children's services agency or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.**





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**Allegations Involving Conduct Unbecoming the Teaching Profession/Suspension**

The Superintendent will report to the Ohio Department of Education, on forms provided for that purpose, matters of misconduct on the part of licensed professional staff members convicted of sexual battery, and will, in accordance with Policy 8141, suspend such employee from all duties that concern or involve the care, custody, or control of a child during the pendency of any criminal action for which that person has been arrested, summoned and/or indicted in that regard.

**Education and Training**

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training **information** to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and ~~its accompanying administrative guidelines~~ **shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate**. All training, **as well as all information provided** regarding the Board's policy ~~and administrative guidelines~~ and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

R.C. 4112.02

**20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA),**

~~as amended (commonly known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act)~~

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.

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

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

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

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

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

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

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

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

42 U.S.C. 1983

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### REVISED POLICY - VOL. 32, NO. 1

#### FMLA LEAVE

#### Qualifying Reasons for FMLA and Military Family Leave

In accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, ("FMLA"), eligible staff members may take up to twelve (12) work weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave if the staff member has earned or accrued it, for the following reasons:

- A. the birth and/or care of a newborn child of the staff member, within one (1) year of the child's birth;
- B. the placement with the staff member of a child for adoption or foster care, within one (1) year of the child's placement;
- C. the staff member is needed to provide physical and/or psychological care for a spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition;
- D. the staff member's own serious health condition makes him/her unable to perform the functions of his/her position; or
- E. any qualifying exigency (as defined in applicable Federal regulations) arising out of the fact that the staff member's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is **a military member** on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces ("Qualifying Exigency Leave"). Covered active duty means ~~duty during deployment with the Armed Forces to a foreign country~~ **is defined in AG 3430.01.**



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In addition, an eligible staff member who is a spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness may take up to a total of twenty-six (26) work weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave if the staff member has earned or accrued it, during a "single twelve (12) month period" to provide physical and/or psychological care for the covered service member ("Military Caregiver Leave") **as described more fully in AG 3430.01.** ~~A covered service member is defined as (1) a member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves) who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or (2) a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves) at any time during the period of five (5) years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy. Serious injury or illness for purposes of Military Caregiver Leave is defined as an injury or illness incurred by a covered service member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the covered service member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that may render the service member medically unfit to perform the duties of his/her office, grade, rank, or rating. In the case of a veteran the injury or illness could have manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran. The "single twelve (12) month period" for leave to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness begins the first day the staff member takes leave for this reason and ends twelve (12) months later, regardless of the twelve (12) month period established below for general FMLA leave. During the "single twelve (12) month period", an eligible staff member is limited to a combined total of twenty six (26) work weeks of unpaid leave for any FMLA-qualifying reason. (Only twelve (12) of the twenty six (26) work weeks total may be for a FMLA-qualifying reason other than to care for a covered service member.)~~



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### **Eligible Employees**

Staff members are "eligible" if they have worked for the Board for at least twelve (12) months, and for at least 1,250 hours over the twelve (12) months prior to the leave request, ( ) and are employed at a work site where fifty (50) or more employees are employed by the Board within seventy-five (75) miles of that work site. **[NOTE: only include this option if it is possible an employee in the District may not meet this criteria; in most, if not all, schools districts in Ohio, this criteria will be met.]** All full-time instructional employees are deemed to meet the 1,250 hour requirement. Months and hours that ~~members of the National Guard or Reserve~~ **employees who performed USERRA covered service** would have worked if they had not been called up for military service counts towards the staff member's eligibility for FMLA leave. While the twelve (12) months of employment need not be consecutive, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven (7) years or more will not be counted unless the break is occasioned by the staff member's fulfillment of his/her ~~National Guard or Reserve military~~ **USERRA-covered service** obligation, or a written agreement **[NOTE: this includes a collective bargaining agreement]** exists concerning the Board's intention to rehire the staff member after the break in service.

### **Twelve (12) Month Period**

Twelve (12) month period is defined as

- ( ) the calendar year.
- ( ) a fixed twelve (12) month period (i.e. the "leave year" is identical for all staff members -- e.g. a fiscal year or calendar year).
- ( ) the twelve (12) month period measured forward from the date the staff member's first FMLA leave begins (i.e. the "leave year" is specific to each individual staff member).
- ( ) a rolling twelve (12) month period measured backward from the date the staff member uses FMLA leave (i.e. the "leave year" is specific to each individual staff member).





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### **Serious Health Condition**

Serious health condition is defined as an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care or continuing treatment by a healthcare provider. As utilized in this policy, the term "incapacity" means an inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment therefore, or recovery therefrom. The term "treatment" includes (but is not limited to) examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluations of the condition. (Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations, or dental examinations.)

- A. Inpatient care means an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical-care facility, including any period of incapacity or subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care.



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- B. Continuing treatment by a healthcare provider, includes any one or more of the following: 1.) "incapacity and treatment"; 2.) any incapacity related to pregnancy, or for prenatal care; 3.) any incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition; 4.) a period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective (e.g. Alzheimer's, a severe stroke, terminal stages of a disease); or 5.) 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 for a.) restorative surgery after an accident, ~~or b.)~~ **or** other injury or **b.)** a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), or kidney disease (dialysis).
1. "Incapacity and treatment" involves a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves a.) treatment two (2) or more times, within thirty (30) days of the first day of incapacity, unless extenuating circumstances exist, by a healthcare provider, by a nurse under direct supervision of a healthcare provider, or by a provider of healthcare services (e.g. physical therapist) under orders of, or on referral by, a healthcare provider, or b.) treatment by a healthcare provider on at least one (1) occasion that results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the healthcare provider.
- a. Treatment by a healthcare provider as referenced above involves an in-person visit to a healthcare provider. The first (or only) in-person treatment visit must take place within seven (7) days of the first day of incapacity. The healthcare provider is responsible for determining whether additional treatment visits or a regimen of continuing treatment is necessary within the thirty (30) day period.



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- b. Regimen of continuing treatment includes a course of prescription medication (e.g. antibiotics), or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g. oxygen).
  - c. A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed-rest, drinking fluids, exercise, and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a healthcare provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.
- 2. A period of incapacity related to pregnancy need not involve a visit to the healthcare provider for each absence, and the absence need not last more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days.
- 3. A chronic serious health condition is one that: a.) requires periodic visits (i.e. at least twice a year) for treatment by a healthcare provider, or by a nurse under direct supervision of a healthcare provider; b.) continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and c.) may cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.). A visit to a healthcare provider is not necessary for each absence, and each absence need not last more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days.
- 4. With regard to permanent or long-term conditions, the employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a healthcare provider.



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- C. Conditions for which cosmetic treatment are administered (e.g. most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required or complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomachs, minor ulcers, headaches other than migraines, routine dental or orthodontia problems, periodontal disease, etc., are conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify for FMLA leave.

### **Intermittent and Reduced Schedule Leave**

The Superintendent may allow a staff member to take FMLA leave intermittently (i.e. leave in separate blocks of time for a single qualifying reason) or on a reduced schedule leave (i.e. reducing the employee's usual weekly or daily work schedule) for reason (A) or (B) on page one. A staff member is entitled to take FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule leave when medically necessary as indicated in reasons (C) and (D) on page one. A staff member may also take FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule leave for Qualifying Exigency Leave (i.e. reason (E) on page one). Finally, Military Caregiver Leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced schedule leave when medically necessary. Regardless, the taking of FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule leave results in the total reduction of the twelve (12) or twenty-six (26) weeks only by the amount of leave actually taken. If the intermittent or reduced schedule leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee, a family member or a covered service member, the Superintendent may require the staff member to transfer temporarily, during the period the intermittent or reduced schedule leave is required, to an available alternative position for which the staff member is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the staff member's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but not necessarily equivalent duties. The Superintendent may also transfer the staff member to a part-time job with the same hourly rate of pay and benefits, provided the staff member is not required to take more leave than is medically necessary. 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 schedule leave because of reasons (C) or (D) on page one or pursuant to Military Caregiver Leave and the leave 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





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- B. transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the Superintendent 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.

When leave is needed for planned medical treatment, the staff member must make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the District's operations, subject to the approval of the healthcare provider.

If the Superintendent agrees to permit FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule leave for reason (A) or (B) on page one, the Board may also require the staff member to transfer temporarily, during the period the intermittent or reduced schedule leave is required, to an available alternative position for which the staff member is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the staff member's regular position.

**Staff Member Notice Requirements** (Forms available at the U.S. Department of Labor Website: [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov))

Staff members seeking to use FMLA leave (including Military Caregiver Leave) are required to provide thirty (30) days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable and such notice is practicable. If leave is foreseeable less than thirty (30) days in advance, the staff member must provide notice as soon as practicable - generally, either the same or next business day. When the need for leave is not foreseeable, the staff member must provide notice as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Absent unusual circumstances, staff members must comply with the Board's usual and customary notice and procedural requirements for requesting leave. Failure to provide timely notice may result in the leave being delayed or denied, and/or possible disciplinary action.

Staff members must provide "sufficient information" for the Superintendent to determine whether the FMLA may apply to the leave request. Depending on the situation, such information may include that the employee is incapacitated due to pregnancy, has been hospitalized overnight, is unable to perform the functions of the job, that the staff member or his/her qualifying family member is under the continuing care of a healthcare provider, that the requested leave is for a particular qualifying exigency related to a qualifying family member's covered active duty or call to covered active duty status, or that the leave **is** due to a qualifying family member who is a covered service member with a serious injury or illness. The information may also include the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.



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When a staff member seeks leave for a FMLA-qualifying reason for the first time, the staff member need not expressly assert FMLA rights or even mention the FMLA. When an employee seeks leave, however, due to a FMLA-qualifying reason for which the District has previously provided the staff member FMLA-protected leave, the staff member must specifically reference either the qualifying reason for leave or the need for FMLA leave.

### **Substitution of Paid Leave**

☐ The Board shall require the staff member

☐ The staff member may request

to "substitute" (i.e. run concurrently) any of his/her earned or accrued paid leave (e.g. sick leave, personal leave, ( ) assault leave, vacation leave, ( ) compensatory time ( ) family leave) for unpaid FMLA leave. An employee's ability to substitute accrued paid leave is determined by the terms and conditions of the District's normal leave policy. A staff member electing to use any type of paid leave concurrently with FMLA leave must follow the same terms and conditions of the Board's policy that apply to other employees for use of such leave. The staff member is always entitled to unpaid FMLA leave if s/he does not meet the Board's conditions for taking paid leave. On occasion the Board may waive any procedural requirements for the taking of any type of paid leave.

☐ If a staff member requests and is permitted to use accrued compensatory time to receive pay for time taken off for an FMLA reason, or if the Superintendent requires such use pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, the time taken will be counted against the staff member's FMLA leave entitlement.

If the staff member has not earned or accrued adequate paid leave to encompass the entire twelve (12) work week period of FMLA leave or a twenty-six (26) work week period of Military Caregiver Leave, the additional weeks of leave to obtain the twelve (12) work weeks of FMLA leave or twenty-six (26) work weeks of Military Caregiver Leave the staff member is entitled to shall be unpaid. Whenever a staff member uses paid leave in substitution for unpaid FMLA leave/Military Caregiver Leave, such leave counts toward the twelve (12) work week/twenty-six (26) work week maximum leave allowance provided by this policy and Federal law.



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**District Notice Requirements** (Forms available at the U.S. Department of Labor Website: [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov))

The Superintendent is directed to post the Department of Labor approved Notice explaining employees' rights and responsibilities under the FMLA. Additionally, this general notice shall be included in employee handbooks or other written guidance to staff members concerning benefits or leave rights or, in the alternative, distributed to each new staff member upon hiring.

When a staff member requests FMLA leave or the District acquires knowledge that leave may be for a FMLA purpose, the Superintendent shall notify the staff member of his/her eligibility to take leave, and inform the staff member of his/her rights and responsibilities under the FMLA (including the consequences of failing to meet those obligations). Along with the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities, the Superintendent will attach any medical certification that may be required, and a copy of the employee's essential job functions. **[NOTE: If the essential job functions are not provided at this time, they must be provided with the Designation Notice Form.]** If Superintendent determines the staff member is not eligible for FMLA leave, the Superintendent must state at least one (1) reason why the staff member is not eligible. Such notice may be given orally or in writing and should be given within five (5) business days of the request for FMLA leave, absent extenuating circumstances. When oral notice is given, it must be followed by written notice within five (5) business days. Staff member eligibility is determined (and notice provided) at the commencement of the first instance of leave for each FMLA-qualifying reason in the applicable twelve (12) month period. All FMLA absences for the same qualifying reason are considered a single leave and staff member eligibility as to that reason for leave does not change during the applicable twelve (12) month period. If at the time a staff member provides notice of a subsequent need for FMLA leave during the applicable twelve (12) month period due to a different FMLA-qualifying reason and the staff member's eligibility status has not changed, no additional eligibility notice is required. If, however, the staff member's eligibility status has changed, the Superintendent must notify the staff member of the change in eligibility status within five (5) business days, absent extenuating circumstances.

If the specific information provided by the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities changes, the Superintendent shall, within five (5) business days of receipt of the staff member's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any changes, provide written notice referencing the prior notice and setting forth any of the information in the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities that has changed.



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When the Superintendent has sufficient information to determine that leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason (e.g. after receiving certification), the Superintendent shall notify the staff member whether the leave will be designated and counted as FMLA leave. Leave that qualifies as **both** Military Caregiver Leave and leave to care for a qualifying family member with a serious health condition (i.e. reason (C)) must be considered as Military Caregiver Leave in the first instance. This designation must be in writing and must be given within five (5) business days of the determination, absent extenuating circumstances. Additionally, when appropriate, the Superintendent shall notify the staff member of the number of hours, days and weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA entitlement, and whether the employee will be required to provide a fitness-for-duty certification to return to work. **[NOTE: If a handbook or other written document clearly provides that fitness-for-duty certification will be required in specific circumstances, the Board's designee may provide only oral notice of this requirement.]**

Only one Designation Notice is required for each FMLA-qualifying reason per applicable twelve (12) month period, regardless of whether the leave taken due to the qualifying reason will be a continuous block of leave or as intermittent or on a reduced schedule leave. If the Superintendent determines the leave will not be designated as FMLA-qualifying (e.g. if the leave is not for a reason covered by the FMLA or the staff member's FMLA leave entitlement has been exhausted), the Superintendent shall notify the staff member of that determination. If the staff member is required to substitute paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave, or if paid leave taken under an existing leave plan is being counted as FMLA leave, the "Designation Notice" shall include this information. Additionally, the "Designation Notice" shall notify the staff member if s/he is required to present a fitness-for-duty certification to be restored to employment. Further, if the fitness-for-duty certification is required to address the staff member's ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job, that will be indicated on the Designation Notice, and a list of the essential functions of the staff member's position will be included.

If the information provided to the staff member in the Designation Notice changes, the Superintendent shall provide, within five (5) business days of receipt of the staff member's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any change, written notice of the change.

In the case of intermittent or reduced-leave schedule leave, only one such notice is required unless the circumstances regarding the leave have changed.





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### **Limits on FMLA When Both Spouses are Employed by the Board**

When an eligible husband and wife are both employed by the Board, they are limited to a combined total of twelve (12) workweeks of FMLA leave during any twelve (12) month period if the leave is taken for reason (A) or (B) on page one, or to care for the staff member's parent who has a serious health condition.

Where the husband and wife both use a portion of the total twelve (12) week FMLA leave entitlement for reason (A) or (B) on page one, or to care for a parent, the husband and wife are each entitled to the difference between the amount s/he has taken individually and the twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for other purposes.

When an eligible husband and wife are both employed by the Board, they are limited to a combined total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of Military Caregiver Leave during the "single twelve (12) month period" if the leave is taken for reason (A) or (B) on page one, or to care for the staff member's parent who has a serious health condition, or to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

### **Certification**

When FMLA leave is taken for either reason (C) or (D) on page one, the staff member must provide medical certification from the healthcare provider of the eligible staff member or his/her immediate family member. The staff member may either:

- A. submit the completed medical certification to the Superintendent; or
- B. direct the healthcare provider to transfer the completed medical certification directly to the Superintendent, which will generally require the staff member to furnish the healthcare provider with a HIPAA-compliant authorization.

If the staff member fails to provide appropriate medical certification, any leave taken by the employee shall not constitute FMLA leave.



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When the need for FMLA leave is foreseeable and at least thirty (30) days notice has been provided, the staff member must provide the medical certification before the leave begins. When this is not possible, the employee must provide the requested certification to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) calendar days after the staff member requests FMLA leave unless it is not practicable under the circumstances to do so despite the staff member's diligent and good faith efforts.

The Board reserves the right to require second or third opinions (at the Board's expense), and periodic recertification of a serious health condition. If a third opinion is sought, that opinion shall be binding and final. The staff member may either:

- A. submit the opinion of the second healthcare provider, and the opinion of the third healthcare provider if applicable, to the Superintendent;
- B. direct the second or third healthcare provider to transfer his/her opinion directly to the Superintendent, which will generally require the staff member to furnish the healthcare provider with a HIPAA-compliant authorization.

In the event that the staff member fails to provide the medical opinion of the second or third healthcare provider, if applicable, any leave taken by the staff member shall not constitute FMLA leave.

### **Recertification**

Recertification may be required no more often than every thirty (30) days in connection with an absence by the staff member unless the condition will last for more than thirty (30) days. For conditions that are certified as having a minimum duration of more than thirty (30) days, the District will not request recertification until the specified period has passed, except that in all cases the staff member must submit recertification every six (6) months in connection with an absence by the employee. Additionally, the Superintendent may require a staff member to provide recertification in less than thirty (30) days if the staff member requests an extension of leave, the circumstances described in the previous certification have changed significantly, or if the District receives information that casts doubt upon the staff member's stated reason for the absence or the continuing validity of the certification. Finally, staff members must provide a new medical certification each leave year for medical conditions that last longer than one (1) year.



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Staff members requesting Qualifying Exigency Leave are required to submit to the Superintendent a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders and certification providing the appropriate facts related to the particular qualifying exigency for which leave is sought, including contact information if the leave involves meeting with a third party.

Staff members requesting Military Caregiver Leave are required to submit to the Superintendent certification completed by an authorized healthcare provider or a copy of an Invitational Travel Order (ITO) or Invitational Travel Authorization (ITA) issued to any member of the covered service member's family.

The Board authorizes its healthcare provider, ☐ **human resource professional**, ☐ **leave administrator**, ☐ **management official** – but not the staff member's **direct supervisor** – to authenticate or clarify a medical certification of a serious health condition, or an ITO or ITA (i.e. medical certification provided for reasons (C) or (D) on page one or Military Caregiver Leave). Additionally, the Superintendent is authorized to contact the individual or entity named in the Qualified Exigency Leave certification for purposes of verifying the existence and nature of the meeting.

- [ ] A staff member who takes leave for reason (D) on page one, prior to returning to work, must provide the Superintendent with a fitness-for-duty certification that specifically addresses the staff member's ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job. The fitness-for-duty certification shall only apply to the particular health condition that caused the staff member's need for FMLA leave. **[NOTE: If this option is selected, it must be uniformly applied to all similarly-situated employees (i.e. same occupation, same serious health condition) returning from leave for their own serious health condition, and a list of the employee's essential functions must be provided to him/her at the time his/her leave was designated as FMLA leave].** If reasonable safety concerns exist, the Superintendent may, under certain circumstances, require a staff member to submit a fitness-for-duty certification before s/he returns to work from intermittent FMLA leave. The cost of the certification shall be borne by the staff member.



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### **Job Restoration & Maintenance of Health Benefits**

Upon return from FMLA leave, the Board shall restore the staff member to his/her former position, or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment. During FMLA leave, the Board shall maintain the staff member's current coverage under the Board's group health insurance program on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the staff member had been continuously working during the leave period. If the staff member was paying all or part of the premium payments prior to going on FMLA leave, the staff member must continue to pay his/her share during the leave.

Any leave or return from leave during the last five (5) weeks of an academic term shall be reviewed individually by the Superintendent to minimize disruption to the students' program.

- [ ] The staff member shall not accrue any sick leave, vacation, or other benefits during a period of unpaid FMLA leave.

The use of FMLA leave shall not result in the loss of any employment benefit that the staff member earned or was entitled to before using FMLA leave ( ), nor shall it be counted against the staff member under a no fault attendance policy. If a bonus or other payment, however, is based on the achievement of a specified goal such as hours worked or perfect attendance, and the employee does not meet the goal due to FMLA leave, payment shall be denied unless it is paid to an employee on equivalent leave status for a reason that does not qualify as FMLA leave.

A staff member shall have no greater right to restoration or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed.

- [ ] If the staff member fails to return to work at the end of the leave for reasons other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the staff member to leave pursuant to reasons (C) or (D) on page one or Military Caregiver Leave, or for circumstances beyond the control of the staff member, the staff member shall reimburse the Board for the health insurance premiums paid by the Board during the unpaid FMLA leave period.

Generally, a staff member may not be required to take more FMLA leave than necessary to resolve the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave.





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

The Superintendent shall prepare any guidelines that are appropriate for this policy and verify that the policy is posted properly.

Copies of this policy shall be available to staff members upon request.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq. (as amended)  
29 C.F.R. Part 825  
45 C.F.R. Part 160, 164

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