

## EMPLOYEES

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## ROLE OF AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EMPLOYEES

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

In striving to achieve a quality education program, the board's goal is to obtain and retain qualified and effective employees. The board will have complete discretion to determine the number, the qualifications, and the duties of the positions and the school district's standards of acceptable performance. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make recommendations to the board in these areas prior to board action. The board recognizes its duty to bargain collectively with duly certified collective bargaining units.

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

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## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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

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

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

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, will be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator by writing to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, West Central Community School District, P.O. Box 54, Maynard, Iowa, 50655; or by telephoning 563-637-2283.

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions, Milwaukee Area Office, Reuss Federal Plaza, 310 West Wisconsin Ave., Suite 800, Milwaukee, WI., 53203-2292, (800) 669-4000 or TTY (800) 669-6820. <http://www.eeoc.gov/field/milwaukee/index.cfm> or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-1004, (515) 281-4121 or 1-800-457-4416, <http://www.state.ia.us/government/crc/index.html>. This inquiry or complaint to the federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

***NOTE: This is a mandatory policy and reflects the law. The language on background checks is not required to be in policy, but is recommended. Boards choosing to perform background checks may add this language or develop their own. For more detailed discussion of this issue, see IASB's Policy Primer, Vol. 19 #10 – June 8, 2007.***

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (2012).  
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. (2012).  
Iowa Code §§ 19B; 20; 35C; 73; 216; 279.8 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.4; 14.1; 95.

Cross Reference: 102 Equal Educational Opportunity  
104 Bullying/Harassment  
405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection  
411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

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## EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

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

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

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

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

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

## EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cease the outside employment or activity; or

Publicly disclose the existence of the conflict and refrain from taking any official action or performing any official duty that would detrimentally affect or create a benefit for the outside employment or activity.

Official action or official duty includes, but is not limited to, participating in any vote, taking affirmative action to influence any vote, or providing any other official service or thing that is not available generally to members of the public in order to further the interests of the outside employment or activity.

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

***NOTE: This policy is a reflection of Iowa law.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7; 68B; 279.8; 301.28 (2013).

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

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## NEPOTISM

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

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

*NOTE: School district employment of more than one family member is permissible by law. School districts, however, have the discretion to prohibit the hiring of family members. Boards that choose to prohibit nepotism should do so in board policy.*

*Boards that permit nepotism may want to add certain requirements to the hiring of family, such as requiring board approval prior to hire. It is recommended that one family member not be allowed to supervise or evaluate another family member unless the superintendent or board approves it. This policy is written to permit nepotism and, upon approval of the superintendent, one family member may supervise another. The clause in brackets can be added to the policy if the board also want to approve the supervisory issue.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 71; 277.27; 279.8 (2013).

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

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## EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS

Complaints of employees against fellow employees should be discussed directly between employees. If necessary, complaints will be brought directly to the immediate supervisor, principal or superintendent and will be made in a constructive and professional manner. Complaints will never be made in the presence of other employees, students or outside persons.

A formal grievance procedure is contained in the master contract between the employee's licensed bargaining unit and the board. This policy will not apply to a complaint that has been or could be filed at the employee's discretion under that formal grievance procedure.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .9; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 307 Communication Channels

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## EMPLOYEE RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code chs. 20; 21; 22; 91B (2013).

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

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## EMPLOYEE RECORDS REGULATION

### Employee Personnel Records Content

1. Employee personnel records may contain the following information:

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

2. Employee health and medical records are kept in a file separate from the employee's personnel records.

Health and medical records may contain, but are not limited to:

- Medical professional signed physical form.
- Sick or long-term disability leave days.
- Worker's compensation claims.
- Reasonable accommodation made by the school district to accommodate the employee's disability. Employee's medical history.
- Employee emergency names and numbers.
- Family and medical leave request forms.

### Applicant File Records Content

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

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

## EMPLOYEE RECORDS REGULATION

### Record Access

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

### Employee Record Retention

All employee records, except payroll and salary records, are maintained for a minimum of one year after termination of employment with the district. Applicant records are maintained for a minimum of one year after the position was filled. Payroll and salary records are maintained for a minimum of three years after payment.

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## TRANSPORTING OF STUDENTS BY EMPLOYEES

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code ch. 285; 321 (2013).

Cross Reference: 401.7 Employee Travel Compensation  
711 Transportation  
904.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles

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## EMPLOYEE TRAVEL COMPENSATION

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

### Travel Outside the School District

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

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

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

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

Pre-approved expenses for transportation within three-hundred miles of the school district administrative office will be by automobile. If a school district vehicle is not available, the employee will be reimbursed 35 cents per mile.

## EMPLOYEE TRAVEL COMPENSATION

Travel Within the School District

Employees required to travel in their personal vehicle between school district buildings to carry out the duties of their position may be reimbursed at 35 cents per mile. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to approve travel within the school district by employees. It is the responsibility of the board to review the travel within the school district by the superintendent through the board's audit and approval process.

Employees who are allowed an in-school district travel allowance will have the amount of the allowance actually received during each calendar year included on the employee's W-2 form as taxable income according to the Internal Revenue Code.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Constitution, Art. III, § 31.  
Iowa Code §§ 70A.9-.11 (2013).  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 512.

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

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## RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES

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

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

*NOTE: Because of the constitutional limitations on the use of public funds, it is questionable whether a school district can use public funds for recognition of employees. School districts that have a practice of recognizing resigning or retiring employees should have a board policy, and the superintendent should document why a certain expenditure is appropriate.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Const. Art. III, § 31.  
Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 102.

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

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## EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTIVITY

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

Violation of this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 55; 279.8 (2013).

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

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## CREDIT CARDS

Employees may use school district credit cards for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of work-related duties. Actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of work-related duties include, but are not limited to, fuel for school district transportation vehicles used for transporting students to and from school and for school-sponsored events, payment of claims related to professional development of the board and employees, and other expenses required by employees and the board in the performance of their duties.

Employees and officers using a school district credit card must submit a detailed receipt in addition to a credit card receipt indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. Failure to provide a proper receipt will make the employee responsible for expenses incurred. Those expenses are reimbursed to the school district no later than ten working days following use of the school district's credit card. In exceptional circumstances, the superintendent or board may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances is maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

The school district may maintain a school district credit card for actual and necessary expenses incurred by employees and officers in the performance of their duties. The superintendent may maintain a school district credit card for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the superintendent's duties. The transportation director may maintain a school district credit card for fueling school district transportation vehicles in accordance with board policy.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to determine whether the school district credit card use is for appropriate school business. It is the responsibility of the board to determine through the audit and approval process of the board whether the school district credit card used by the superintendent and the board is for appropriate school business.

The superintendent is responsible for developing administrative regulations regarding actual and necessary expenses and use of a school district credit card. The administrative regulations will include the appropriate forms to be filed for obtaining a credit card.

*NOTE: School districts that have credit cards must have a board policy. School districts that have only a gasoline credit card should amend this policy to reflect their practice.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Constitution, Art. III, § 31.  
Iowa Code §§ 279.8, .29, .30 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(1).

Cross Reference: 216.3 Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses  
401.7 Employee Travel Compensation

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## EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

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

*NOTE: This is not a required policy. Boards that adopt this policy must ensure that it is followed. The sentence implementing the access to health care rules is the last sentence.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2013).  
191 I.A.C. 74.

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

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## EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES

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

Employees may possess and use cell phones during the school day as outlined in this policy. Employees should not use cell phones for personal business while on-duty, including staff development times, parent-teacher conferences, etc., except in the case of an emergency or during prep time or break/lunch times. Employees, except for bus drivers, see below, are prohibited from using cell phones while driving except in the case of an emergency.

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

School bus drivers are prohibited from using any communication device while operating the bus except in the case of an emergency, or to call for assistance, after the vehicle has been stopped.

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

Legal References: Internal Revenue Comment Notice, 2009-46, [http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-23\\_IRB/ar07.html](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-23_IRB/ar07.html)  
Iowa Code § 279.8, 321.276 (2013)

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

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## EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES REGULATION

### Cell phone Usage

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

### Cell Phone Business Procedures

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

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

## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE

Computers are a powerful and valuable education and research tool and, as such, are an important part of the instructional program. In addition, the school district depends upon computers as an integral part of administering and managing the schools' resources, including the compilation of data and recordkeeping for personnel, students, finances, supplies and materials. This policy outlines the board's expectations in regard to these different aspects of the school district's computer resources. Employees must conduct themselves in a manner that does not disrupt from or disrupt the educational process and failure to do so will result in discipline, up to and including, discharge.

### General Provisions

The superintendent is responsible for designating a [*computer network coordinator – insert appropriate title*] who will oversee the use of school district computer resources. The [*insert title*] will prepare in-service programs for the training and development of school district staff in computer skills, appropriate use of computers and for the incorporation of computer use in subject areas.

The superintendent, working with appropriate staff, shall establish regulations governing the use and security of the school district's computer resources. The school district will make every reasonable effort to maintain the security of the system. All users of the school district's computer resources, including students, staff and volunteers, shall comply with this policy and regulation, as well as others impacting the use of school equipment and facilities. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, as well as suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges.

Usage of the school district's computer resources is a privilege, not a right, and that use entails responsibility. All information on the school district's computer system is considered a public record. Whether there is an exception to keep some narrow, specific *content* within the information confidential is determined on a case by case basis. Therefore, users of the school district's computer network must not expect, nor does the school district guarantee, privacy for e-mail or use of the school district's computer network including web sites visited. The school district reserves the right to access and view any material stored on school district equipment or any material used in conjunction with the school district's computer network.

The superintendent, working with the appropriate staff, shall establish procedures governing management of computer records in order to exercise appropriate control over computer records, including financial, personnel and student information. The procedures will address:

- passwords,
- system administration,
- separation of duties,
- remote access,
- data back-up (including archiving of e-mail),
- record retention, and
- disaster recovery plans.

## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE

Social Networking or Other External Web Sites

For purposes of this policy any website, other than the school district web site or school-school district sanctioned web sites, are considered external web sites. Employees shall not post confidential or proprietary information, including photographic images, about the school district, its employees, students, agents or others on any external web site without consent of the superintendent. The employee shall adhere to all applicable privacy and confidentiality policies adopted by the school district when on external web sites. Employees shall not use the school district logos, images, iconography, etc. on external web sites. Employees shall not use school district time or property on external sites that are not in direct-relation to the employee's job. Employees, students and volunteers need to realize that the Internet is not a closed system and anything posted on an external site may be viewed by others, all over the world. Employees, students and volunteers who don't want school administrators to know their personal information, should refrain from exposing it on the Internet. *[Employees should not connect with students via external web sites without consent of the superintendent.]* Employees, who would like to start a social media site for school district sanctioned activities, should contact the superintendent.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 13.35, .26

Cross Reference: 104 Anti-Bullying/Harassment  
306 Administrator Code of Ethics  
401.11 Employee Orientation  
407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment  
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment  
605 Instructional Materials

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019



## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE REGULATION

### General

The following rules and regulations govern the use of the school district's computer network system, employee access to the Internet, and management of computerized records:

- Employees will be issued a school district e-mail account. Passwords must be changed periodically.
- Each individual in whose name an access account is issued is responsible at all times for its proper use.
- Employees are expected to review their e-mail regularly throughout the day, and shall reply promptly to inquiries with information that the employee can reasonably be expected to provide.
- Communications with parents and/or students must be made on a school district computer, unless in the case of an emergency, and should be saved and the school district will archive the e-mail records according to procedures developed by the [insert title.]
- Employees may access the Internet for education-related and/or work-related activities.
- Employees shall refrain from using computer resources for personal use, including access to social networking sites.
- Use of the school district computers and school e-mail address is a public record. Employees cannot have an expectation of privacy in the use of the school district's computers.
- Use of computer resources in ways that violate the acceptable use and conduct regulation, outlined below, will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.
- Use of the school district's computer network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in the suspension or revocation of that privilege.
- Off-site access to the school district computer network will be determined by the superintendent in conjunction with appropriate personnel.
- All network users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. This includes being polite and using only appropriate language. Abusive language, vulgarities and swear words are all inappropriate.
- Network users identifying a security problem on the school district's network must notify appropriate staff. Any network user identified as a security risk or having a history of violations of school district computer use guidelines may be denied access to the school district's network.

### Prohibited Activity and Uses

The following is a list of prohibited activity for all employees concerning use of the school district's computer network. Any violation of these prohibitions may result in discipline, up to and including discharge, or other appropriate penalty, including suspension or revocation of a user's access to the network.

Using the network for commercial activity, including advertising, or personal gain.

Infringing on any copyrights or other intellectual property rights, including copying, installing, receiving, transmitting or making available any copyrighted software on the school district computer network. See Policy 605.7, Use of Information Resources for more information.

Using the network to receive, transmit or make available to others obscene, offensive, or sexually explicit material.

## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE REGULATION

- Using the network to receive, transmit or make available to others messages that are racist, sexist, and abusive or harassing to others.
- Use of another's account or password.
- Attempting to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic mail (e-mail) of other system users.
- Forging or attempting to forge e-mail messages.
- Engaging in vandalism. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy school district equipment or materials, data of another user of the school district's network or of any of the entities or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, creating and/or placing a computer virus on the network.
- Using the network to send anonymous messages or files.
- Revealing the personal address, telephone number or other personal information of oneself or another person.
- [Using the network for sending and/or receiving personal messages.]
- Intentionally disrupting network traffic or crashing the network and connected systems.
- Installing personal software or using personal disks on the school district's computers and/or network without the permission of the [insert title.]
- Using the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette.

### Other Technology Issues

Employees with personal cell phones should not be using the phones for school district business. Employees should contact students and their parents through the school district computer or phone unless in the case of an emergency or with prior consent of the principal. Employees should not release their cell phone number, personal e-mail address, etc. to students or their parents. Employees, who are coaches or sponsors of activities, may create a text list of students and parents in order to communicate more effectively as long as the texts go to all students and the principal is included in the text address list.

## Employee Expression

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

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

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

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

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

Note: This is a mandatory policy **required** by Iowa Code ch. 279.73.

Original Adopted Date: 3/9/22 Last Revised 11/21//22 Last Reviewed Date: 11/21/22

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. Amend. I

*Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 597 U.S. (2022) Iowa  
Code §§ 279.73; 280.22

## RELEASE OF CREDIT INFORMATION

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

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

*NOTE: This policy lists the information the school district will release to a credit agency without prior notice to the employee. The items listed are all public records and can be disclosed without prior notice. Prior to releasing other information, a school district must get consent from the employee. It is recommended that this consent be written.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 22.7; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 401.5 Employee Records

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

In compliance with state law and to provide protection to victims of child abuse, the board believes incidents of alleged child abuse should be reported to the proper authorities. Employees are encouraged, and licensed employees are required as mandatory reporters, to report alleged incidents of child abuse they become aware of within the scope of their professional duties.

When a mandatory reporter suspects a student is the victim of child abuse, the mandatory reporter will orally or in writing notify the Iowa Department of Human Services. If the mandatory reporter believes the child is in immediate danger, the local law enforcement agency will also be notified. Within forty-eight hours of the oral report, the mandatory reporter will file a written report with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

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

***For more information please go to the Iowa Department of Human Services Web site at:***  
[http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Safety\\_and\\_Protection/Abuse\\_Reporting/ChildAbuse.htm](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Safety_and_Protection/Abuse_Reporting/ChildAbuse.htm)  
1

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67-.77; 232A; 235A; 280.17 (2013).  
 441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.  
 1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 390, 417.  
 1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

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

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: Nov 21, 2023



## ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

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

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

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

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

***Refer to the Iowa Department of Education training manual for supporting materials and form at, <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/860/1501/>.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67, .70, .73, .75; 235A; 272A; 280.17; 709; 728.12(1)  
(2013).281 I.A.C. 12.3(6), 102; 103.  
441 I.A.C. 155; 175.  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

Cross Reference: 104 Bullying/Harassment  
402.2 Child Abuse Reporting  
503.5 Corporal Punishment

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES

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

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

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

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

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



## GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES

- Funeral flowers or memorials to a church or nonprofit organization;
- Gifts which are given to an employee for the employee's wedding or twenty-fifth or fiftieth wedding anniversary;
- Payment of salary or expenses by the school district for the cost of attending a meeting of a subunit of an agency when the employee whose expenses are being paid serves on a board, commission, committee, council or other subunit of the agency and the employee is not entitled to receive compensation or reimbursement of expenses from the school district for attending the meeting; or
- Gifts other than food, beverages, travel and lodging received by an employee which are received from a person who is a citizen of a country other than the United States and is given during a ceremonial presentation or as a result of a custom of the other country and is of personal value only to the employee.
- Actual registration costs for informational meetings or sessions which assist a public official or public employee in the performance of the person's official functions. The costs of food, drink, lodging and travel are not "registration costs" under this paragraph. Meetings or sessions which a public official or public employee attends for personal or professional licensing purposes are not "informational meetings or sessions which assist a public official or public employee in the performance of the person's official functions" under this paragraph.

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

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

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

Legal References: Iowa Code ch. 68B (2013).  
1972 Op. Att'y Gen. 276.  
1970 Op. Att'y Gen. 319.

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMPLOYEES

The board recognizes situations may arise in the operation of the school district which are of concern to parents and other members of the school district community. While constructive criticism is welcomed, the board desires to support its employees and their actions to free them from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaints that do not offer advice for improvement or change.

The board firmly believes concerns should be resolved at the lowest organizational level by those individuals closest to the concern. Whenever a complaint or concern is brought to the attention of the board it will be referred to the administration to be resolved. Prior to board action however, the following should be completed:

- (a) Matters should first be addressed to the teacher or employee.
- (b) Unsettled matters from (a) above or problems and questions about individual attendance centers should be addressed to the employee's building principal for licensed employees and the superintendent for classified employees.
- (c) Unsettled matters regarding licensed employees from (b) above or problems and questions concerning the school district should be directed to the superintendent.
- (d) If a matter cannot be settled satisfactorily by the superintendent, it may then be brought to the board. To bring a concern regarding an employee, the individual may notify the board president in writing, who may bring it to the attention of the entire board, or the item may be placed on the board agenda of a regularly scheduled board meeting in accordance with board policy 214.1.

It is within the discretion of the board to address complaints from the members of the school district community, and the board will only do so if they are in writing, signed, and the complainant has complied with this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 210.8 Board Meeting Agenda  
213 Public Participation in Board Meetings  
307 Communication Channels

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## EMPLOYEE OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7; 279.8 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014

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## EMPLOYEE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Good health is important to job performance. Employees will present evidence of good health, in the form of a physical examination report, prior to their employment with the school district.

School bus drivers will present evidence of good health every other year in the form of a physical examination report unless otherwise required by law or medical opinion. Employees whose physical or mental health, in the judgment of the administration, may be in doubt will submit to additional examinations, when requested to do so, at the expense of the school district.

The cost of the initial examination will be paid by the district. The form indicating the employee is able to perform the duties for which the employee was hired must be returned prior to payment of salary. The cost of bus driver renewal physicals will be paid by the school district up to a maximum of \$120. The school district will provide the standard examination form to be completed by the personal physician of the employee. Employees identified as having reasonably anticipated contact with blood or infectious materials will receive the Hepatitis B vaccine or sign a written waiver stating that they will not take the vaccine.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to write an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize district occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The plan for designated employees will include, but not be limited to, scope and application, definitions, exposure control, methods of compliance, Hepatitis B vaccination and postexposure evaluation and follow-up, communication of hazards to employees, and record keeping.

The requirements stated in the master contract between employees in that certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding physical examinations of such employees are followed.

*NOTE: All school district employees, on initial hire, must present a form which states that employees are physically able to perform the employee's duties. Bus drivers must present the form at initial employment and every other year thereafter, unless required by law or medical opinion.*

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. Pt. 1910.1030 (2012).  
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.8, 321.376 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.4(14); 43.15 -20.

Cross Reference: 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## EMPLOYEE INJURY ON THE JOB

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

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

It is the responsibility of the employee injured on the job to inform the superintendent within twenty-four hours of the occurrence. It is the responsibility of the employee's immediate supervisor to file an accident report within twenty-four hours after the employee reported the injury.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to file worker's comp claims.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 85; 279.40; 613.17 (2013).  
1972 Op. Att'y Gen. 177.

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

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## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES - EMPLOYEES

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

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

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

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

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

*NOTE: This policy is consistent with current health practices regarding communicable diseases. The bloodborne pathogen language in the second paragraph and accompanying regulation is in compliance with federal law on control of bloodborne pathogens.*

Legal Reference:        School Board of Nassau County v. Arline, 480 U.S. 273 (1987).  
                               42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (2012).  
                               45 C.F.R. Pt. 84.3 (2012).  
                               Iowa Code chs. 139(a); 141(a) (2013).  
                               641 I.A.C. 1.2-.7.

Cross Reference:        401.5 Employee Records  
                               403.1 Employee Physical Examinations  
                               507.3 Communicable Diseases - Students

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## HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

### The Disease

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

### The Vaccine

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

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

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

### Dosage and Administration

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

### Possible Vaccine Side Effects

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

## HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

**CONSENT OF HEPATITIS B VACCINATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Employee (consent for Hepatitis B vaccination)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**REFUSAL OF HEPATITIS B VACCINATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Employee (refusal for Hepatitis B vaccination)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I refuse because I believe I have (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ started the series

\_\_\_\_\_ completed the series



HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

RELEASE FOR HEPATITIS B MEDICAL INFORMATION

I hereby authorize (individual or organization holding Hepatitis B records and address) to release to the West Central School District, my Hepatitis B vaccination records for required employee records.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION AND RECORD

**CONFIDENTIAL RECORD**

Employee Name (last, first, middle) Social Security No.

Job Title:

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

Additional Hepatitis B status information:

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

Identification and documentation of source individual:

Source blood testing consent:

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

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

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

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

## UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS REGULATION

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

### Hand Washing

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

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

### Barriers

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

## UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS REGULATION

### Disposal of Waste

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

### Clean up

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

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

### Laundry

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

### Exposure

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

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

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

## HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. Pt. 1910; 1200 *et seq.* (2012).  
Iowa Code chs. 88; 89B (2013).  
347 I.A.C. 120.

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference:       41 U.S.C. §§ 701-707 (2012).  
                              42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (2012).  
                              34 C.F.R. Pt. 85 (2012).  
                              Iowa Code §§ 123.46; 124; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference:       404 Employee Conduct and Appearance

Approved: 1996-1997   Reviewed: November 10, 2014   Revised: August 19, 2019

SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED it is a violation of the Substance-Free Workplace policy for an employee to unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of in the workplace any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance or alcohol, as defined in Schedules I through V of section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. 1300.11 through 1300.15 and IOWA CODE Chapter 124.

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

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

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

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- SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Employee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## SUBSTANCE-FREE WORKPLACE REGULATION

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

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



## DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM

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

The employees operating a school vehicle as described above are subject to pre-employment drug testing and random, reasonable suspicion and post-accident drug and alcohol testing. Employees operating school vehicles will not perform a safety-sensitive function within four hours of using alcohol. Employees governed by this policy are subject to the drug and alcohol testing program beginning the first day they operate or are offered a position to operate school vehicles and continue to be subject to the drug and alcohol testing program as long as they may be required to perform a safety-sensitive function as it is defined in the administrative regulations. Employees with questions about the drug and alcohol testing program may contact the school district contact person, superintendent at 305 Pember St., Maynard, IA 50655.

Employees who violate the terms of this policy are subject to discipline, up to and, including termination.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy in compliance with the law. The superintendent will inform applicants of the requirement for drug and alcohol testing in notices or advertisements for employment.

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

IASB Drug and Alcohol Testing Program (IDATP) Web site: <http://www.ia-sb.org/MemberBenefits.aspx?id=304>

***Note: For more detailed discussion of this issue, see IASB's Policy Primer, Vol. 16 #2 – May 15, 2003.***

Legal Reference: American Trucking Association, Inc., v. Federal Highway Administration, 51 Fed. 3<sup>rd</sup> 405 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995).

49 U.S.C. §§ 5331 et seq. (2012).

42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 (2012).

41 U.S.C. §§ 701-707 (2012).

49 C.F.R. Pt. 382; 391.81-123 (2012).

34 C.F.R. Pt. 85 (2012).

Local 301, Internat'l Assoc. of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, and City of Burlington, PERB No. 3876 (3-26-91).

Iowa Code §§ 124; 279.8; 321.375(2); 730.5 (2013).

Cross Reference: 403.5 Substance-Free Workplace  
409.2 Licensed Employee Personal Illness Leave  
414.2 Classified Employee Personal Illness Leave

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DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

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

Employees who operate school vehicles classified as "commercial motor vehicles" by the U.S. Department of Transportation are subject to drug and alcohol testing. A "commercial motor vehicle" is a vehicle that transports sixteen or more persons including the driver or has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more. For purposes of the drug and alcohol testing program, "employees" also includes applicants who have been offered a position to operate a commercial motor vehicle owned by the school. Employees that will operate a school-owned commercial motor vehicle are subject to the drug and alcohol testing program regulations beginning the first day they are offered a position to operate a school vehicle and continue to be subject to the drug and alcohol testing program until such time employment is terminated or the employee will no longer operate, at any time, a commercial motor vehicle for the school.

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

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

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

DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have received a copy, read and understand the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program policy of the West Central School District and its supporting documents.

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

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

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

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

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

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(Signature of Employee) (Date)

## EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND APPEARANCE

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

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

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

*NOTE: The Board of Educational Examiners' Criteria of Professional Practices are included as a regulation to this policy.*

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).  
282 I.A.C. 13.25, .26.

Cross Reference: 104 Anti-Bullying/Harassment  
306 Administrator Code of Ethics  
401.11 Employee Orientation  
403.5 Substance-Free Workplace  
407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment  
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS REGULATION

## CHAPTER 25

**282—25.1(272) Scope of standards.**

This code of professional conduct and ethics constitutes mandatory minimum standards of practice for all licensed practitioners as defined in IOWA CODE chapter 272. The adherence to certain professional and ethical standards is essential to maintaining the integrity of the education profession.

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

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

*“Board”* means the Iowa board of educational examiners.

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

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

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

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

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

*“Practitioner”* means an administrator, teacher, or other school personnel, who provides educational assistance to students and who holds a license, certificate, or other authorization issued by the board.

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

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

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

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

**282—25.3 (272) Standards of professional conduct and ethics.**

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

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

a. *Fraud.* Fraud in the procurement or renewal of a practitioner’s license.

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

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

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS REGULATION

1. Any of the following forcible felonies included in IOWA CODE section 702.11: child endangerment, assault, murder, sexual abuse, or kidnapping;
2. Any of the following criminal sexual offenses, as provided in IOWA CODE chapter 709, involving a child:
  - First-, second- or third-degree sexual abuse committed on or with a person who is under the age of 18;
  - Lascivious acts with a child;
  - Detention in a brothel;
  - Assault with intent to commit sexual abuse;
  - Indecent contact with a child;
  - Sexual exploitation by a counselor;
  - Lascivious conduct with a minor; or,
  - Sexual exploitation by a school employee;
3. Incest involving a child as prohibited by IOWA CODE section 726.2;
4. Dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to minors as prohibited by IOWA CODE section 728.2; or,
5. Telephone dissemination of obscene material to minors as prohibited by IOWA CODE section 728.15.

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

1. The nature and seriousness of the crime or founded abuse in relation to the position sought;
2. The time elapsed since the crime or founded abuse was committed;
3. The degree of rehabilitation which has taken place since the crime or founded abuse was committed;
4. The likelihood that the person will commit the same crime or abuse again;
5. The number of criminal convictions or founded abuses committed; and,
6. Such additional factors as may in a particular case demonstrate mitigating circumstances or heightened risk to public safety.

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

*d. Sexual exploitation of a minor.* The commission of or any conviction for an offense prohibited by IOWA CODE section 728.12, IOWA CODE chapter 709 or 18 U.S.C. Section 2252A(a)(5)(B). *e. Student abuse.* Licensees shall maintain professional relationships with all students, both inside and outside the classroom. The following acts or behavior constitutes unethical conduct without regard to the existence of a criminal charge or conviction:

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS REGULATION

- (1) Committing any act of physical abuse of a student;
- (2) Committing any act of dependent adult abuse on a dependent adult student;
- (3) Committing or soliciting any sexual or otherwise indecent act with a student or any minor;
- (4) Soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student;
- (5) Furnishing alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs or drug paraphernalia to any student or knowingly allowing a student to consume alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs in the presence of the licensee; or
- (6) Failing to report any suspected act of child or dependent adult abuse as required by state law.

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

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

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

- a. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding professional qualifications, criminal history, college credit, staff development credit, degrees, academic award, or employment history when applying for employment or licensure.
- b. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding compliance reports submitted to federal, state, and other governmental agencies.
- c. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information submitted in the course of an official inquiry or investigation.
- d. Falsifying any records or information submitted to the board in compliance with the license renewal requirements imposed under 282—Chapter 17.
- e. Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding the evaluation of students or personnel, including improper administration of any standardized tests, including, but not limited to, changing test answers, providing test answers, copying or teaching identified test items, or using inappropriate accommodations or modifications for such tests.

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

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

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS REGULATION

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

a. Violation of this standard includes:

- (1) Signing a written professional employment contract while under contract with another school, school district, or area education agency.
- (2) Asking a practitioner to sign a written professional employment contract before the practitioner has been unconditionally released from a current contract. An administrator shall make a good faith effort to determine whether the practitioner has been released from the current contract.
- (3) Abandoning a written professional employment contract without prior unconditional release by the employer.
- (4) As an employer, executing a written professional employment contract with a practitioner, which requires the performance of duties that the practitioner is not legally qualified to perform.
- (5) As a practitioner, executing a written professional employment contract, which requires the performance of duties that the practitioner is not legally qualified to perform.

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

- (1) The practitioner obtained a release from the employing board before discontinuing services under the contract; or,
- (2) The practitioner provided notice to the employing board no later than the latest of the following dates:
  1. The practitioner's last work day of the school year;
  2. The date set for return of the contract as specified in statute; or,
  3. June 30.

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

- a. Denying the student, without just cause, access to varying points of view.
- b. Deliberately suppressing or distorting subject matter for which the educator bears responsibility.
- c. Failing to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the student or creating conditions harmful to student learning.
- d. Conducting professional business in such a way that the practitioner repeatedly exposes students or other practitioners to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
- e. Engaging in any act of illegal discrimination, or otherwise denying a student or practitioner participation in the benefits of any program on the grounds of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or national origin.
- f. Soliciting students or parents of students to purchase equipment, supplies, or services from the practitioner for the practitioner's personal advantage.
- g. Accepting gifts from vendors or potential vendors where there may be the appearance of or an actual conflict of interest.



## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS REGULATION

- h.* Intentionally disclosing confidential information including, but not limited to, unauthorized sharing of information concerning student academic or disciplinary records, health and medical information, assessment or testing results, or family income. Licensees shall comply with state and federal laws and local school board policies relating to the confidentiality of student records, unless disclosure is required or permitted by law.
- i.* Refusing to participate in a professional inquiry when requested by the board.
- j.* Aiding, assisting, or abetting an unlicensed person in the completion of acts for which licensure is required.
- k.* Failing to self-report to the board within 60 days any founded child abuse report, or any conviction for a criminal offense listed in 25.3(1) “*b*”(1) which requires revocation of the practitioner’s license.
- l.* Delegating tasks to unqualified personnel.
- m.* Failing to comply with federal, state, and local laws applicable to the fulfillment of professional obligations.
- n.* Allowing another person to use one’s practitioner license for any purpose.
- o.* Performing services beyond the authorized scope of practice for which the individual is licensed or prepared or performing services without holding a valid license.
- p.* Falsifying, forging, or altering a license issued by the board.
- q.* Failure of the practitioner holding a contract under IOWA CODE section 279.13 to disclose to the school official responsible for determining assignments a teaching assignment for which the practitioner is not properly licensed.
- r.* Failure of a school official responsible for assigning licensed practitioners holding contracts under IOWA CODE section 279.13 to adjust an assignment if the practitioner discloses to the official that the practitioner is not properly licensed for an assignment.

**25.3(7) Standard VII—compliance with state law governing student loan obligations and child support obligations.** Violation of this standard includes:

- a.* Failing to comply with 282—Chapter 9 concerning repayment of student loans.
- b.* Failing to comply with 282—Chapter 10 concerning child support obligations.

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

- a.* Willfully or repeatedly departing from or failing to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing educational practice in the state of Iowa.
- b.* Willfully or repeatedly failing to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

CODE OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGULATION

CHAPTER 26

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

**282—26.2 (272) Rights.** Educators licensed under IOWA CODE chapter 272 have the following rights: 1.

The educator has a right to be licensed and endorsed under professional standards established and enforced by the board.

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

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

1. The educator has a responsibility to maintain and improve the educator’s professional competence. 2. The educator has a responsibility to accept only those assignments for which the educator is legally authorized.

3. The educator has a responsibility to provide conditions that are conducive to teaching and student learning.

4. The educator shall protect students from conditions harmful to learning or to health or safety.

5. The educator shall not, without just cause, restrain a student from independent action in the pursuit of learning and shall not, without just cause, deny a student access to varying points of view.

6. The educator shall not use professional relationships with students for personal advantage.

7. The educator shall not discriminate against any student on the grounds of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or national origin.

8. The educator shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession.

9. The educator shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information regarding a student or the student’s family members that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure is required by law or is necessary for the personal safety of the student or others.

10. The educator who has reasonable basis to believe that a student has been abused, as defined by law, shall make all reports required by law and the IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE and which are necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the student.

11. In the administration of discipline, the educator shall treat all students with respect and in compliance with all policies of the school district served by the educator.

12. The educator shall provide accurate, truthful, and complete information to the board and to the local education system concerning all licensure transactions.

13. The educator shall not refuse to participate in a professional inquiry, when requested by the board.

14. The educator shall not require or direct another educator to violate any provisions of the code of professional conduct and ethics or any rights of a student, parent, educator or citizen.

15. The educator shall not delegate assigned tasks to unqualified personnel.

LICENSED EMPLOYEE DEFINED

Licensed employees, including administrators, are those employees required to hold an appropriate license from the Iowa Department of Education for their position as required by the Board of Educational Examiners or others with professional licenses. Licenses required for a position will be considered met if the employee meets the requirements established by the Iowa Department of Education.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to establish job specifications and job descriptions for licensed employees' positions, other than the position of the superintendent. Job descriptions may be approved by the board.

Licensed employees must present evidence of current license to the board secretary prior to payment of salary each year.

Legal Reference:        Clay v. Independent School District of Cedar Falls, 187 Iowa 89, 174 N.W. 47 (1919).  
Iowa Code §§ 256.7(3); 272; 279.8 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.4.  
282 I.A.C. 14.  
1940 Op. Att'y Gen. 375.

Cross Reference:        405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment Selection  
410.1 Substitute Teachers  
411.1 Classified Employee Defined

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

**Policy 405.02: Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection****Status:** ADOPTED**Original Adopted Date:** 03/09/2022 **Last Revised Date:** 11/27/2023 **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/27/2023

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

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

All job openings shall be submitted to the Iowa Department of Education for posting on [lowaWORKS.gov](http://lowaWORKS.gov), the online state job posting system. Additional announcements of the position may occur in a manner which the superintendent believes will inform potential applicants about the position. Whenever possible, the preliminary screening of applicants will be conducted by the administrator who will be directly supervising and overseeing the person being hired.

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

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634  
 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e, 12101 *et seq.*  
 Iowa Code §§ 20; 35C; 216; 256.27; 279.13.  
 281 I.A.C. 12.  
 282 I.A.C. 14.

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<b>I.C. Iowa Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
Iowa Code § 20	Collective Bargaining
Iowa Code § 216	Civil Rights Commission
Iowa Code § 256.27	Online State Job Posting
Iowa Code § 279.13	Directors - Powers and Duties - Contracts with Teachers
Iowa Code § 35C	Veterans Preference
<b>I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code</b>	<b>Description</b>

281 I.A.C. 12

General Accreditation Standards

282 I.A.C. 14

Educational Examiners - Special Education Endorsements

**U.S.C. - United States Code**

**Description**

29 U.S.C. §§ 621

Labor - Age Discrimination

42 U.S.C. § 12101

Public Health - Equal Opportunity - Disabilities

42 U.S.C. § 2000e

Public Health - EEO Civil Rights - Definitions

**Cross References**

**Code**

**Description**

401.01

[Equal Employment Opportunity](#)

401.03

[Nepotism](#)

401.06

[Limitations to Employment References](#)

405.01

[Licensed Employee Defined](#)

405.03

[Licensed Employee Individual Contracts](#)

405.07

[Licensed Employee Transfers](#)

405.08

[Licensed Employee Evaluation](#)

410.01

[Substitute Teachers](#)

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS

The board will enter into a written contract with licensed employees, other than administrators, employed on a regular basis. Each contract will be for a period of one year.

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

*NOTE: By law, the board president must sign all employment contracts and must do so prior to the employee signing the contract. Individual teaching contracts cannot exceed one year.*

Legal Reference: Harris v. Manning Independent School District of Manning, 245 Iowa 1295, 66 N.W.2d 438 (1954).

Shackelford v. District Township of Beaver, Polk County, 203 Iowa 243, 212 N.W. 467 (1927).

Burkhead v. Independent School District of Independence, 107 Iowa 29, 77 N.W. 491 (1898).

Iowa Code chs. 20; 279 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTINUING CONTRACTS

Contracts entered into with licensed employees, other than an administrator, will continue from year to year unless the contract states otherwise, is modified by mutual agreement between the board and the employee, or the contract is terminated by the board.

The first three years of a new licensed employee's contract is a probationary period unless the employee has already successfully completed the three year probationary period in an Iowa school district. New employees who have successfully completed a probationary period in a previous Iowa school district will serve a one year probationary period. In the event of termination of the employee's contract during this period, the board will afford the licensed employee appropriate due process. The action of the board will be final.

Licensed employees whose contracts will be recommended for termination by the board will receive notice prior to April 30. The superintendent will make a recommendation to the board for the termination of the licensed employee's contract.

Licensed employees who wish to resign, to be released from a contract, or to retire must comply with board policies in those areas.

Legal Reference: Ar-We-Va Community School District v. Long and Henkenius, 292 N.W.2d 402 (Iowa 1980).

Bruton v. Ames Community School District, 291 N.W.2d 351 (Iowa 1980).

Hartman v. Merged Area VI Community College, 270 N.W.2d 822 (Iowa 1978).

Keith v. Community School District of Wilton in the Counties of Cedar and Muscatine, 262 N.W.2d 249 (Iowa 1978).

Iowa Code §§ 20; 272; 279.12-.19B, .27; 294.1 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE WORK DAY

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

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

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

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

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between employees in the certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding work day of such employees will be followed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 200.2 Powers of the Board of Directors

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019



## LICENSED EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT

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

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

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between employees in the certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding assignment of such employees will be followed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference: 200.2 Powers of the Board of Directors

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE TRANSFERS

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

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

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

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between employees in the certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding transfers of employees will be followed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 216.14; 279.8 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

**Policy 405.08: Licensed Employee Evaluation****Status: ADOPTED****Original Adopted Date:** 03/09/2022 **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/27/2023

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

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

Licensed employees will be required to:

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279, 284, 294.  
*Aplington Community School District v. PERB*, 392 N.W.2d 495 (Iowa 1986).  
*Saydel Education Association v. PERB*, 333 N.W.2d 486 (Iowa 1983).  
 281 I.A.C. 83; 12.3

**I.C. Iowa Code**

Iowa Code § 20.9

**Description**

Collective Bargaining - Scope of Negotiations

Iowa Code § 279

Directors - Powers and Duties

Iowa Code § 284

Teacher Performance, Compensation Development

Iowa Code § 294

Teachers

**I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code**

281 I.A.C. 12.3

281 I.A.C. 83

**Description**

Administration

Teacher/Administrator Quality Programs

**Case Law**

Aplington CSD v. PERB

Saydel Ed. Assoc. v. PERB

**Description**

392 N.W.2d 495 (Iowa 1986)

333 N.W.2d 486 (Iowa 1983)

**Cross References****Code**

405.02

405.09

**Description**[Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection](#)[Licensed Employee Probationary Status](#)

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE PROBATIONARY STATUS

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

Only the board, in its discretion, may waive the probationary period. The board may extend the probationary period for one additional year with the consent of the licensed employee. The board will make the decision to extend or waive a licensed employee's probationary status based upon the superintendent's recommendation. During this probationary period the board may terminate the licensed employee's contract at year-end or discharge the employee in concert with corresponding board policies.

Licensed employees may also serve a probationary period based upon their performance. Such probationary period is determined on a case-by-case basis in light of the circumstances surrounding the employee's performance as documented in the employee's evaluations and personnel file.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.12-.19B (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

LICENSED EMPLOYEE SALARY SCHEDULE ADVANCEMENT

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTINUED EDUCATION CREDIT

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

Licensed employees who wish to obtain additional education for advancement must notify their supervisor by March 15 of the school year preceding the actual year when advancement occurs. The superintendent has the discretion to approve credit outside the employee's area of endorsement or responsibility.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019



## LICENSED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION FOR EXTRA DUTY

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8, .13-.15, .19A-B (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Licensed employees are eligible for group insurance and health benefits. The board will select the group insurance program and the insurance company which will provide the program.

Full-time licensed employees are eligible to participate in the health and major medical, life, and long-term disability group insurance plans. Regular part-time employees who wish to purchase insurance coverage may participate in group insurance programs by meeting the requirements of the insurer. Full-time and regular part time licensed employees who wish to purchase insurance coverage for their spouse or dependents may do so by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

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

This policy statement does not guarantee a certain level of benefits. The board will have the authority and right to change or eliminate group insurance programs for its licensed employees.

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between employees in the certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding the group insurance benefits of such employees will be followed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 85; 85B; 279.12, .27; 509; 509A; 509B (2013).

Cross Reference: 405.1 Licensed Employee Defined  
706.2 Payroll Deductions

Approved: 1996-1997

Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE TAX SHELTER PROGRAMS

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

Licensed employees wishing to have payroll deductions for tax sheltered annuities will make a written request to the superintendent.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 260C; 273; 294.16 (2013).  
1988 Op. Att'y Gen. 38.  
1976 Op. Att'y Gen. 462, 602.  
1966 Op. Att'y Gen. 211, 220.

Cross Reference: 706 Payroll Procedures

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION

A licensed employee who wishes to resign must notify the superintendent in writing within the time period set by the board for return of the contract. This applies to regular contracts for the licensed employee's regular duties and for an extracurricular contract for extra duty. Resignations of this nature will be accepted by the board.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 279.13, .19A (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE CONTRACT RELEASE

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 216; 272; 279.13, .19A, .46 (2013).  
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 247.  
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 11, 322.

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

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 97B; 216; 279.46 (2013).  
581 I.A.C. 21.  
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 247.  
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 11, 322.

Cross Reference: 407.6 Licensed Employee Early Retirement

Approved: 1996-1997 Reviewed: November 10, 2014 Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION

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

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

Legal Reference: Northeast Community Education Association v. Northeast Community School District, 402 N.W.2d 765 (Iowa 1987).  
McFarland v. Board of Education of Norwalk Community School District, 277 N.W.2d 901 (Iowa 1979).  
Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24; 279.13, .15-.19, .27 (2013).

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

Approved: 1996-1997    Reviewed: January 12, 2015    Revised: August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE REDUCTION IN FORCE

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

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

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for termination to the board. The superintendent shall consider the following criteria in making the recommendations:

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

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

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between employees in the certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding the reduction in force of such employees will be followed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24; 279.13, .15-.19, .27 (2013).

Cross Reference: 407.5 Licensed Employee Suspension  
413.6 Classified Employee Reduction in Force  
703 Budget

Approved: 1996-1997    Reviewed: January 12, 2015    Revised: August 19, 2019



## LICENSED EMPLOYEE EARLY RETIREMENT

The school district offers an early retirement plan for full-time licensed employees. Full-time licensed employees are licensed employees who are regularly scheduled to work 40 hours per week and who are currently performing their assigned duties within the school district. A licensed employee is eligible under the early retirement plan when the licensed employee:

- Is at least age 55 prior to the start of the next school year.
- Completes a total of 20 years of service as a full-time licensed employee to the school district;
- Submits an application to the superintendent for participation in the plan on or before December 1st of the year in which the licensed employee wishes to retire. Applications submitted after December 1st may be considered at the discretion of the board depending on the circumstances for the late application;
- Submits a written resignation. The resignation may be contingent upon approval by the board of participation in the voluntary early retirement plan; and,
- Receives board approval of the licensed employee's application for participation in the early retirement plan, of the licensed employee's resignation and of the disbursement of early retirement incentive to the licensed employee.

Approval by the board of the licensed employee's early retirement application shall constitute a voluntary resignation. Approval by the board of the licensed employee's early retirement application will also make the licensed employee eligible for disbursement of the early retirement incentive the sooner of July 1 following the licensed employee's approval for early retirement or a date mutually agreed upon by the school district and the licensed employee. Failure of the board to approve the licensed employee's early retirement application will make the licensed employee's current contract with the board continue in full force and effect.

Approved      Reviewed      Revised August 19, 2019

## LICENSED EMPLOYEE EARLY RETIREMENT

## I. LIMITATIONS ON PLAN AVAILABILITY

This Early Retirement Plan for current certified licensed staff employees only will become effective for the current school year. The Board reserves the right and discretion to discontinue the Plan at any time, with or without notice.

## II. STIPULATIONS

A. The Board reserves the right to add to, delete, modify, or waive given stipulations and/or benefits if such action by the Board is deemed to be in the best interest of the District. Any decision by the Board to waive a stipulation or benefit which is a part of this plan shall not establish any precedent with regard to future applications. The Board reserves the right to amend or revoke this Early Retirement Plan or any provision of this plan at any time, with or without notice.

B. The final determination as to acceptance or rejection will be the sole discretion of the Board.

C. Eligibility requirements:

1. Employees must have completed at least 20 FTE years of service to the West Central Community School District.
2. The employee must have attained the age of fifty-five (55) as of the date of retirement, which must be no later than August 15 of the current school year.
3. The early retirement will be limited to the first 2 applications delivered personally to the Superintendent. Applications will be date and timed stamped.

D. Application.

1. An eligible employee must make a written application of intent to retire to the Board on or before December 1, of the current school year.
2. An eligible employee must sign a statement which indicates that the person is retiring.

E. Employees are advised to seek independent advice with regard to tax or financial consequences associated with any action taken by them under this plan.

F. It is the policy of the West Central Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (Employment only), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (students/program only) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator. 2.

A. The District will not discriminate against any employee on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or physical or mental disability through the application or administration of this plan.

LICENSED EMPLOYEE EARLY RETIREMENT

- A. The District will contribute up to \$500 per month toward the District's single health insurance plan (excludes dental and vision insurance) of the employee's choice for a maximum of five years/sixty (60) months or until Medicare eligible (65), whichever comes first.
- B. The insurance contribution will be made by the District until the last day of the month prior to the month of Medicare eligibility or the last day of the sixty months. The District's insurance contribution is conditioned upon the payment by the employee of the difference between the \$500 District share and the cost of the coverage elected by the retired, eligible employee. Failure to make proper payment prior to the first of each month will result in the loss of the coverage. Upon the employee's death, the District's \$500 contribution to the insurance payment would cease in the month of death.
- C. Payment Information
  - 1. The District will pay up to \$500 for a single health insurance plan, payable to the insurance carrier. Premiums above the District's paid \$500 will be the responsibility of the insured.

Nothing herein shall limit the District's ability to change the terms of its existing health and major medical insurance coverage. This plan in no way guarantees that a participating employee will be provided a certain level of benefits during the time of the employee's participation in the insurance benefits portion of the early retirement plan.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621 *et seq.* (2012).  
Iowa Code §§ 97B; 216; 279.46; 509A.13.  
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 247.  
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 11, 322.

Cross Reference: 407.3 Licensed Employee Retirement  
413.2 Classified Employee Retirement

LICENSED EMPLOYEE EARLY RETIREMENT APPLICATION
West Central Community Schools
305 Pember Street
Maynard, IA 50655

TO: Superintendent of Schools

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

RE: Application for Participation in the Voluntary Early Retirement Program for Certified Licensed Staff Only

I hereby submit my formal application for participation in the voluntary early retirement program. This action is taken in accordance with all requirements of the Board of Education (EARLY RETIREMENT PLAN – CERTIFIED LICENSED STAFF).

My request for approval of release from my continuing contract with the district is attached and is part of this application. It is my understanding that my application and request for approval of resignation will be acted upon simultaneously by the Board of Education.

Signature

Date

\*\*\*\*\*

Retirement Benefits

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Benefit – up to \$500 per month for (60) months or Medicare eligibility

(65) Date insurance payment ends \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Board of Education Action

\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_ Not Approved

Date

Superintendent of Schools

**Policy 411.02: Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection**      **Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 03/10/2022 **Last Revised Date:** 07/05/2023 **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/27/2023

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

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

All job openings shall be submitted to the Iowa Department of Education for posting on [lowaWORKS.gov](http://lowaWORKS.gov), the online state job posting system. Additional announcements of the position may occur through means the superintendent believes will inform potential applicants about the position. Whenever possible, the preliminary screening of applicants will be conducted by the administrator who directly supervises and oversees the position.

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

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e; 12101 *et seq.*  
Iowa Code §§ 20; 35C; 216; 256.27; 279.8; 279.20  
281 I.A.C. 12

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<b>I.C. Iowa Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
Iowa Code § 20	Collective Bargaining
Iowa Code § 216	Civil Rights Commission
Iowa Code § 256.27	Online State Job Posting
Iowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees
Iowa Code § 35C	Veterans Preference
Iowa Code § 279.20	Superintendent - Term

**I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code**

281 I.A.C. 12

**Description**

General Accreditation Standards

**U.S.C. - United States Code**

29 U.S.C. §§ 621

**Description**

Labor - Age Discrimination

42 U.S.C. § 12101

Public Health - Equal Opportunity - Disabilities

42 U.S.C. § 2000e

Public Health - EEO Civil Rights - Definitions

**Cross References****Code**

401.01

**Description**[Equal Employment Opportunity](#)

401.03

[Nepotism](#)

401.06

[Limitations to Employment References](#)

410.04

[Education Associate](#)

411.01

[Classified Employee Defined](#)

411.04

[Classified Employee Licensing/Certification](#)

411.06

[Classified Employee Transfers](#)

411.07

[Classified Employee Evaluation](#)