

# **CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

## **SECTION 8 OF 8**

## **SECTION 8 – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

- 8.1 Salary Schedules**
- 8.2 Personnel Evaluations**
- 8.3 Evaluations of Personnel by Relatives**
- 8.4 Drug Testing**
- 8.5 Sick Leave**
- 8.6 Sick Leave Bank**
- 8.7 Personal and Professional Leave**
  - 8.7.1 Board Approved Leaves of Absence**
  - 8.7.2 Bereavement**
  - 8.7.3 Excessive Absences**
- 8.8 Responsibilities in Dealing with Sex Offenders on Campus**
- 8.9 Public Office**
- 8.10 Jury Duty & Court Appearances**
- 8.11 Overtime, Comptime and Complying with FLSA**
- 8.12 Outside Employment**
- 8.13 Employment**
- 8.14 Reimbursement of Travel Expenses**
- 8.15 Tobacco Use**
- 8.16 Dress**
- 8.17 Political Activity**
- 8.18 Personnel Debts**
- 8.19 Grievances**
- 8.20 Sexual Harassment**
- 8.21 Supervision of Students**
- 8.22 Social Networking and Ethics**
  - 8.22:1 Employee Computer Use Policy**
- 8.23 Family Medical Leave Act**
- 8.24 Bus Driver’s Use of Cell Phones**
- 8.25 Cell Phones and Mobile Communication Devices**
- 8.26 Responsibilities Governing Bullying**
- 8.27 Personnel Leave-Injury from Assault**
- 8.28 Drug Free Workplace**

- 8.28F Drug Free Workplace Policy Acknowledgement**
- 8.29 Video Surveillance and other Monitoring**
- 8.30 Reduction in Force**
- 8.31 Termination and Non-Renewal**
- 8.32 Assignment of Personnel**
- 8.33 Personnel School Calendar**
- 8.34 Duty to Report Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect**
- 8.35 Release of Student's Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Information**
- 8.36 Personnel Workplace Injuries and Worker's Compensation**
- 8.37:1F Employee Internet and Local Area Network**
- 8.38 Vacation**
- 8.39 Depositing Collected Funds**
- 8.40 Requirements for Paraprofessionals**
- 8.41 Personnel Records**

## **8.1 SALARIES AND SALARY SCHEDULES**

Classified Employees are placed on salary schedules. Each group of employees has a salary schedule designed for that group. Those salary schedules are considered to be a part of this policy.

Upon initial employment, classified employees hired under contract with the Cabot School District, will be credited, on the appropriate salary schedule, with one-half (1/2) of their related full-time paid experience from previous employers. Full credit will be given for experience in the same position from another school district. The maximum number of steps given for credit will not exceed 10 years. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Superintendent and the Cabot School Board.

The salary for experienced employees, requesting a transfer to a different position in the district, will be calculated by the personnel director and presented to the employee prior to the transfer being finalized.

An Employee must work a minimum of 65% of the contract year, for that position, in order to be credited with an experience step on the salary schedule. (Example: 250 day contract multiplied by 65% = 163 days to qualify)

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § Act 1780 of 2003

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Update: July, 2008

## **8.2 EVALUATIONS**

Classified personnel may be periodically evaluated.

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

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised:

### **8.3 EVALUATIONS BY RELATIVES**

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

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

## **8.4 DRUG TESTING (Using a School Vehicle)**

### **Scope of Policy**

Each person hired for a position which allows or requires that the employee operate any type of motor vehicle which is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the District, and is operated for the transportation of children to or from school or school sponsored activity shall undergo a physical examination, including a drug test. Each person's initial employment for a job entailing a safety sensitive function is conditioned upon the district receiving a negative drug test result for that employee. The offer of employment is also conditioned upon the employee's signing an authorization for the request for information by the district from the Commercial Driver Alcohol and Drug Testing Database.

### **Methods of Testing**

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

### **Definition**

Safety sensitive function includes:

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

### **Requirements**

Employees shall be drug and alcohol free from the time the employee is required to be ready to work until the employee is relieved from the responsibility for performing work and/or any time they are performing a safety-sensitive function. In addition to the testing required as an initial condition of employment, employees shall submit to subsequent drug tests as required by law and/or regulation. Subsequent testing includes, and/or is triggered by, but is not limited to:

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

### **Prohibitions**

- A. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater;
- B. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions;
- C. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within (8) hours after using alcohol;

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

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

### **Testing for Cause**

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

### **Refusal to Submit**

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

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

### **Consequences for Violations**

Drivers who engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy, who refuse to take a required drug or alcohol test, refuse to sign the request for information required by law, or who exceed the acceptable limits for the respective tests shall no longer be allowed to perform safety sensitive



functions. Actions regarding their continued employment shall be taken in relation to their inability to perform these functions and could include termination or non-renewal of their contract of employment.

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

If the results for an alcohol test administered to a driver are equal to or greater than 0.02, but less than 0.04, the driver shall be prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions for a period not less than 24 hours from the time the test was administered. Unless the loss of duty time triggers other employment consequence policies, no further other action against the driver is authorized by this policy for test results showing an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04.

Legal References:     A.C.A. § 6-19-108  
                           A.C.A. § 27-23-201 et seq.  
                           49 C.F.R. § 382-101 – 605  
                           49 C.F.R. § part 40  
                           Arkansas Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules  
                           Governing Maintenance and Operations of Arkansas Public School Buses  
                           and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012  
Last Revised:

## **8:5 SICK LEAVE**

Sick leave that is unused by a classified employee during the school year shall be accumulated in the employee's sick leave account at a rate of one (1) day per month, or major part thereof, as contracted.

Employees shall be entitled to such sick leave for reasons of personal illness, medical appointments, pregnancy, disability, and illness or death in the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as the spouse, child, foster child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild, or any other relative living in the same household.

Employees who are adopting or seeking to adopt a minor child or minor children may use up to 15 sick leave days in any school year for absences relating to the adoption, including time needed for travel, time needed for home visits, time needed for document translation, submission or preparation, time spent with legal or adoption agency representatives, time spent in court and bonding time and may use up to 10 sick leave days for bonding time. See also, 8.23—FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE, which may also apply. Documentation shall be provided by the employee for the absences except for bonding time. Sick leave may not be used for any other reasons than those listed above.

As soon as employees know they will be absent, they shall notify the supervisor. At the discretion of the principal, Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee, and, if FMLA is applicable, subject to the certification or recertification provisions contained in policy 8.23 – FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE the district may require a written statement from the employee's physician documenting the employee's illness. Failure to provide such documentation of illness may result in sick leave not being paid, or in dismissal.

When claiming sick leave, the employee must fill out an employee absentee report upon returning to school and file with the supervisor.

If it becomes necessary for an employee to be absent from school for reasons others than stated above, a deduction of one day's pay will be made for each day absent after exhausting all other paid leave.

At the time that employment with the district is terminated, any classified staff member who has been employed for ten (10) years, or age 60 and has been employed for five (5) or more consecutive years, with the Cabot School District shall be eligible to receive payment for unused sick leave that was accumulated while employed by the Cabot School District. The rate of pay for unused sick leave will be based on one-half of the employees per day rate of pay but will not exceed the daily pay rate for substitute teachers.

The spouse, children, or other designee of an employee who dies, shall be paid, by the district, for sick leave that had been accumulated up to the date of death.

If an employee is within 3 years of entering T-drop or the retirement system, the employee will be given the option of receiving payment for accumulated sick leave in equal installment over the three-year period immediately preceding retirement or entry in to the T-drop system.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1301

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004  
Last Revised: May, 2012

## 8.6 SICK LEAVE BANK

The purpose of the sick leave bank is to permit employees, upon approval, to obtain sick leave in excess of accumulated and current sick leave, when the employee has exhausted all paid leave including comp time. Only those employees who contribute to the sick leave bank shall be eligible to withdraw from the sick leave bank.

**Eligibility:** Classified employees who have been with the Cabot School District for at least one full year and have accumulated a minimum of twelve (12) sick leave days.

**Enrollment:** An enrollment form must be completed and submitted to the personnel office by October 1 of the activation year. Each new member will be assessed one (1) sick leave day. Membership in the bank will continue until cancellation is made. An employee must enroll for each contracted position in order to protect wages for each contracted position.

**Maintenance:** Assessment of the number of days in the sick leave bank will be made at the beginning of each school year. No more than one (1) sick leave day for the sick leave bank will be assessed per year per contracted position. The bank shall have a minimum of 100 days at the beginning of each school year.

**Utilization:** The sick leave bank can be used by participating employees only after the employee's available paid leave has been exhausted. The sick leave bank can only be used for a serious or catastrophic illness or injury of such magnitude that the employee's health is impaired to such an extent that he or she has no option but to seek medical treatment that requires extended time away from the job. The following list is not exclusive, but identifies some health conditions that are included and excluded as catastrophic under this definition. INCLUDED: cancer/tumor, heart attack, aneurysm, stroke, surgery, debilitating/immobilizing injury or condition, acute illness/disease.

EXCLUDED: elective surgery, maternity (unless severe complications arise); recurring infections such as cold, flu, migraines, allergies, etc.....). Participating employees are eligible to draw the following number of days per year (if approved):

1-5 years of membership .....	15 days
6-10 years of membership .....	20 days
11-20 years of membership .....	25 days
21-30 years of membership .....	30 days
More than 30 years of membership .....	35 days

(Charter members will be credited with the number of years' service in the district as of January 1, 2004)

The employee will not be required to replace the sick leave days used from the bank except as assessed at the beginning of the year.

Each request is to be made in writing to the district's personnel office on a sick leave application along with the physician's statement. The physicians statement must be attached to the sick leave bank application verifying your inability to perform assigned duties and an anticipated return to work date. If a member is incapacitated, the committee may transact necessary sick leave bank action on the member's behalf.

Alleged misuse of the sick leave bank shall be investigated and upon finding of wrongdoing, the employee shall repay all benefits drawn from the bank.

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

**Cancellation:** A request for cancellation shall be made in writing to the Superintendent/designee by October 1<sup>st</sup>. No donated sick leave days can be withdrawn. Re-enrollment procedures are the same as initial enrollment procedures.

**Administration of the Sick Leave Bank:** A five-person committee will administer The Sick Leave Bank. Four committee members will be elected and must be classified personnel and participating employees. Two will be elected to two-year terms and two will be elected to one-year terms. Thereafter, two committee members will be elected each year to replace the two members vacating committee positions. The Superintendent will assign One (1) voting member who will serve as the chairperson. One central office clerk will serve as ex officio member and recording secretary. The Superintendent's designee will be responsible for calling the committee together when an employee applies for days from the sick leave bank. A quorum shall consist of three (3) members of the committee.

**Responsibilities:** The committee is responsible for establishing procedures for approving applications; monitoring the sick leave bank balances; establishing when assessment is needed; and performing other duties as needed.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1306

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

## 8.7 PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

### Personal Leave

For the district to function efficiently and have the necessary personnel present to effect a high achieving learning environment, employee absences need to be kept to a minimum. The district acknowledges that there are times during the school year when employees have personal business that needs to be addressed during the school day. Classified employees are provided two (2) days of personal leave per contract year.

Any employee desiring to take personal leave may do so by making a written request to his/her supervisor at least three days prior to the personal business day. The three day requirement may be waived by the supervisor when the supervisor deems it appropriate.

There may be times when a request is not approved due to special circumstances such as high faculty absenteeism or special activities planned for the day requested.

**Unused personal leave days will be accumulated from year to year until a total of five days are accumulated. After five days of accumulated personal leave, each day of unused personal leave will be credited as a sick leave day.**

### Professional Leave

Any employee seeking professional leave must make a written request to his/her immediate Supervisor prior to the absence.

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

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

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. §6-17-211

If the request is approved at the district level the employee will be paid for the absence and if a substitute is needed the district will pay the cost of the substitute.

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

### **8.7.1 BOARD APPROVED LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Board approved leaves are leaves without pay and benefits, but with the privilege of returning to the same or as nearly comparable assignment as possible and may be granted upon approval by the Board of Education under the following conditions:

A. Application for Board Approved Leave, except in an emergency situation, must be filed with the principal and the Superintendent in writing at least one month before leave shall take effect.

B. An extended leave may be granted for one semester or for two semesters. The Board will not consider granting a leave that exceeds two semesters.

C. Board Action - in determining whether to approve or deny an application, the Superintendent and the School Board will consider all appropriate factors, including but not limited to, the reason needed for the leave, the potential impact on students, the availability of a qualified substitute and the employee's length of service in the district.

D. An employee whose Board Approved Leave expires at the end of the fall semester must notify the Superintendent by December 1, that he/she will return for the Spring semester or the position will be considered vacated. An employee whose Board Approved Leave expires at the end of the spring semester must notify the Superintendent in writing by April 1, that he/she will return for the Fall semester or the position will be considered vacated.

E. All benefits to which an employee had accumulated at the time the Board Approved Leave was granted will have those benefits restored upon returning to work. Employee's must work at least 65% of an annual contract to be eligible for a step increase on the salary schedule.

Date Adopted: June 22, 2007

Date Revised: May 22, 2012

## **8.7.2 BEREAVEMENT**

All classified personnel have two (2) days for bereavement available annually. These days are not additional leave days. They are another way of accounting for missing days of work for the death of a friend or family member who is not an immediate family member as defined in the sick leave policy (8:4). Death in the immediate family qualifies for use of sick leave and should be reported as sick leave rather than bereavement leave.

Bereavement leave must be accounted for in one of the following ways:

- (1) The day used may be charged against the employee's accumulated sick leave.
- (2) The cost of a substitute for the day used will be deducted from the employee' salary
- (3) Combination of (1) and (2) above

Time missed beyond two (2) days shall result in the per diem reduction of wages for the absence.

Date Adopted: October 20, 2009

Date Revised: May 22, 2012



### **8.7.3 EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**

Excessive absenteeism or a pattern of absence that interfere with the employee's ability to fulfill his/her assigned duties, particularly if the education of children is substantially affected, may result in the employee receiving disciplinary action up to and including a recommendation for non-renewal or termination of employment with the Cabot School District.

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised:

## **8.8 RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEALING WITH SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS**

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

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

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

Legal References:     A.C.A. § 12-12-913 (g) (2)  
                              Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for "Megan's Law"  
                              A.C.A. § 5-14-132

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised:

## **8.9 PUBLIC OFFICE**

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-115,116

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

## **8.10 JURY DUTY & COURT APPEARANCES**

All employees who have been summoned to jury duty or subpoenaed for court appearances for a matter pertaining to his/her employment with the school district shall notify the principal or supervisor by presenting a copy of the letter of notification as soon as this information becomes available. Absences for court appearances for a matter pertaining to his/her employment with the school district, for jury duty or under subpoena from an officer of the court for a matter pertaining to his/her employment with the school district will be counted as paid leave.

The employee must present the original (not a copy) of the summons to jury duty or must bring documentation from the court clerk showing that he/she appeared in court and the purpose of that appearance. This documentation must be presented to the employee's supervisor attached to the absentee form in order for the absence to be considered for paid leave.

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

Employees appearing in court for any reason other than those noted above will have to use personal business, vacation leave, comp time or pay the cost of a substitute for time missed. These absences must be approved by the employee's supervisor in advance.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 196-31-106

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: June 23, 2011

## **8.11 OVERTIME, COMPTIME, and COMPLYING WITH FLSA**

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

### **Definitions**

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

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

Exempt Employees are those employees who are not covered under the FLSA. They include administrators and professional employees such as teachers, counselors, nurses, and supervisors. Any employee who is unsure of their coverage status should consult with the District's Administration.

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

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

### **Employment Relationships**

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

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

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

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

### **Hours Worked**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Breaks and Meals**

Each employee working more than 20 hours per week shall be provided two, paid, 15 minute duty free breaks per workday.

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

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

### **Overtime**

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

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

Provided the employee and the District have a written agreement or understanding before the work is performed, compensatory time off may be awarded in lieu of overtime pay for hours worked over 40 in a workweek and shall be awarded on a one-and-one-half (1 1/2) time basis for each hour of overtime worked. The District reserves the right to determine if it will award compensatory time in lieu of monetary pay for the overtime worked. The maximum number of compensatory hours an employee may accumulate at a time is 40. No more than 24 hours (3days) may be used at a time when a substitute is required. The additional hours must be taken, with the principal's/supervisor's approval, at a time when there is no impact on the school district. The employee must be able to take the compensatory time off within a reasonable period of time that is not unduly disruptive to the District. All accumulated compensatory time must be used in the fiscal year it was earned and may not be carried over into another fiscal year unless approved by the Superintendent.

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

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

### **Overtime Authorization**

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

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

### **Leave Requests**

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

Payment for leave could be delayed or not occur if an employee fails to turn in the required leave form.

Leave may be taken in a minimum of 4 hour increments.

### **Record Keeping and Postings**

The District shall keep and maintain records as required by the FLSA for the period of time<sup>U</sup> required by the act.

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

### **Cooperation with Enforcement Officials**

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

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

Legal References:

- A: 29 USC § 206(a), ACA § 6-17-2203
- B: 29 USC § 207(a)(1), 29 CFR § 778.100
- C: 29 USC § 207(o), 29 CFR § 553.50
- D: 29 CFR § 778.218(a)
- E: 29 CFR § 778.105
- F: 29 USC § 213(a), 29 CFR §§ 541 et seq.
- G: 29 USC § 207(e), 29 CFR § 778.108
- H: 29 CFR §§ 785.9, 785.16
- I: 29 CFR § 516.2(7)
- J: 29 CFR §§ 785.1 et seq.
- K: ACA § 6-17-2205
- L: 29 CFR §§ 785.19
- M: 29 USC § 207(a), 29 CFR § 778.100, 29 USC § 207(o), 29 CFR §§ 553.20 – 553.32
- N: 29 CFR § 778.106
- O: 29 USC § 207(g)(2), 29 CFR § 778.115
- P: 29 USC § 207(o)(2)(A), 29 CFR § 553.23
- Q: 29 CFR § 553.20
- R: 29 USC § 207(o)(4), 29 CFR § 553.27
- S: 29 USC § 211(c), 29 CFR §§ 516.2, 516.3, 553.50
- T: 29 CFR § 516.4
- U: 29 CFR §§ 516.5, 516.6
- V: 29 USC § 211(a)(b)

Date Adopted: July, 2005

Last Revised: June 23, 2011



## **8.12 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

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

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

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-24-106, 107, 111

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised:

### **8.13 EMPLOYMENT**

All prospective employees must complete the on-line application that may be accessed on the school's web site under the "personnel" tab. All of which information is to be placed in the personnel file of those employed.

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

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

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

#### **8.14 REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Employees shall be reimbursed for personal and/or travel expenses incurred while performing duties or attending workshops or other employment-related functions, provided prior written approval for the activity has been received from the Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee with the authority to make school approvals.

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

Reimbursement claims must be made on forms provided by the District and must be supported by appropriate, original receipts. Copies of receipts or other documentation are not acceptable, except in extraordinary circumstances. For purchases made online the following must be submitted with the reimbursement claim form before reimbursement can be made: itemized order confirmation, proof of payment (copy of cancelled check or credit card statement showing the charges), and proof of receipt of the items ordered.

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: June 23, 2011

## 8.15 TOBACCO USE

The Cabot School District shall be a Tobacco Free Environment.

This policy shall apply to:

- All buildings facilities, grounds, and properties- including athletic fields and parking lots- under the jurisdiction of the Cabot School District.
- All school property, school busses, and district-owned vehicles.
- All staff, students, school volunteers, contractors and any person present on School District property, 24 hours a day-every day.
- All school sponsored or school related events on-campus or off campus.

### Rationale

The Cabot School District believes it has an obligation to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students, parents, employees and visitors.

The Board supports current literature and research that tobacco use is considered the chief preventable cause of premature disease and death in the United States. In addition, second hand smoke is a health hazard to others. The Board also believes that allowing tobacco use on school property is in conflict with prevention messages within the curriculum and the classroom. The Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students. The Board recognizes that it has an obligation to promote positive role models in school and promote a healthy learning and working environment.

Also, in addition to the philosophical reasons, schools may face liability issues by allowing tobacco use on their premises, particularly in light of laws that intentionally limit access and sales of tobacco products to youth.

This policy is in support of our comprehensive school health programs designed to help students learn and foster healthy lifestyles by providing them with knowledge, skills, social support, and environmental reinforcement.

### Definition

For the purposes of this policy, “tobacco product” is defined to include lighted or unlighted cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus, dissolvable tobacco strips, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. “Tobacco use” includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

### Violations

A person shall be considered in violation of this policy when he/she is observed:

- In possession of any form of tobacco that is visible to the eye.
- Occupying or exiting a space or area from which smoke is emanating.
- Providing tobacco to a student.

### Enforcement for Staff

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten (\$10.00) dollars nor more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars, and may include verbal warning, written reprimand, or termination.

### Opportunities for Cessation

The administration will consult with the District Health and Wellness Coordinator to provide employees with information and access to support systems, programs, and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

### Communication of Policy

The Board/Superintendent/Directors/Principals/Supervisors shall notify personnel of the Tobacco Free Policy through the employee handbook and/or other appropriate methods of communication.

### Legal Reference:

Smoking is prohibited in public places, the definition of which includes educational facilities.

ARK. CODE ANN. §§ 20-27-1803 & 20-27-1804 (2006)

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-21-609

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised:

## **8.16 DRESS**

Personal appearance is an influencing factor in one person's response to another. The community expects its educational employees to dress in a manner which will add dignity to the educational profession. Cabot Public Schools is engaged in the business of educating students, and therefore, the Board of Education expects its employees to dress and maintain a personal appearance conducive to respect for the education profession.

Body piercings, other than in ears, should not be worn when performing one's duty as an employee of Cabot Schools. Gauge or plug style earrings are not permitted. Employees are expected to avoid displaying conspicuous body art.

Each building administrator or supervisor will be held accountable to the Superintendent for laxity in enforcing proper modes of appearance for members of his/her staff. The Superintendent of the Cabot Schools is authorized to make further reasonable regulations as deemed necessary in order to properly implement and carry out this policy.

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004  
Last Revised: May 21, 2013

## **8.17 POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

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

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

1. Using students for preparation or dissemination of campaign materials;
2. Distributing political materials;
3. Distributing or otherwise seeking signatures on petitions of any kind;
4. Posting political materials; and
5. Discussing political matters with students, in or out of the classroom, in other than circumstances appropriate to the employee's responsibility to the students and where a legitimate pedagogical reason exists.
6. Use of district email accounts (incoming or outgoing) or the use of district equipment.

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised:

## **8.18 PERSONNEL DEBTS**

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

All employees are expected to meet their financial obligations. If an employee's wages are garnished, dismissal may result.

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

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

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised: May 21, 2013



## **8.19 GRIEVANCES**

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

### **Definitions**

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

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

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

**Employee:** any person employed under a written contract by this Cabot School District

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

**Working day:** a day in which a majority of the employees of the same job classification as the employee with a grievance is scheduled to work.

### **Process**

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

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

submit to the building principal or, in the event that the employee's immediate supervisor is the building principal, or if the employee is not assigned to a building, the form will be submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

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

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

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

Appeal to the Board of Directors: An employee who remains unsatisfied by the written response of the Superintendent/designee may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Cabot School Board within five working days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's written response by submitting a written request for a Board hearing to the Superintendent. If the grievance is not appealed to the Board of Directors within five (5) working days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's response, the matter will be considered resolved and the employee shall have no further right with respect to said grievance.

The School Board will address the grievance at the next regular meeting of the School Board, unless the employee agrees in writing to an alternate date for the hearing. After reviewing the Level Two Grievance Form and the Superintendent's reply, the Board will decide if the grievance, on its face, is grievable under district policy. If the grievance is presented as a "group grievance," the Board shall first determine if the composition of the group meets the definition of a "group grievance." If the Board determines that it is a group grievance, the Board shall then determine whether the matter raised is grievable. If the Board rules that composition of the group does not meet the definition of a group grievance, or the grievance, whether group or individual is not grievable, the matter shall be considered closed. (Individuals within the disallowed group may choose to subsequently refile their grievance as an individual grievance beginning with Level One

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

### **Records**

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

### **Reprisals**

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-208, 210

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

**8. 19 F      LEVEL TWO GRIEVANCE FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted to supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Classified Personnel Policy grievance is based upon:

\_\_\_\_\_

Grievance (be specific):

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

What would resolve your grievance?

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

Supervisors Response

Date submitted to recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **8.20 SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

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

Believing that prevention is the best policy, the district will inform students and employees no less than annually about the nature of sexual harassment, the procedures for registering a complaint, and the possible redress that is available. The information will stress that the district does not tolerate sexual harassment and that students and employees can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment as defined in this policy. Any employee found, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, termination.

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other personally offensive verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone under any of the following conditions:

1. Submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education or employment;
2. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual; and/or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic or work environment.

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

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

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: unwelcome touching; crude jokes or pictures; discussions of sexual experiences; pressure for sexual activity; intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; teasing related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether or not the individual self-identifies as homosexual; and spreading - rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Employees who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting their immediate supervisor, administrator, or Title IX coordinator<sup>1</sup> who will assist them in the complaint process. Under no circumstances shall an employee be required to report allegations of sexual harassment to a school contact person if that person is the individual who is accused of the harassment. To the extent possible, complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation.

Employees who file a complaint of sexual harassment will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

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

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

The Title IX Coordinator for the Cabot School District is the Student Services Director

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681, et seq.  
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000-e, et seq.  
A.C.A. §6-15-1005 (b)(1)

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004  
Last Revised: June 23, 2011

## **8.21 SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

All district personnel are expected to conscientiously execute their responsibilities to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the district's students under their care. The Superintendent shall direct all administrators/supervisors to establish regulation ensuring adequate supervision of every student throughout the school day and at extracurricular activities.

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004

Last Revised

## 8.22 SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ETHICS

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

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

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

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

### **Definitions:**

Social networking websites are online groups of Internet users allowing communication between multiple individuals. The fundamental purpose of social networking websites is to socialize. Examples include, but are not limited to, Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter.

Professional/education social networks are education oriented websites designed to allow and encourage teachers and students to communicate and collaborate around school subjects and projects. District employees may set up blogs and other professional/education social networking accounts using District resources and following District guidelines to promote communications with students, parents, and the community concerning school-related activities and for the purpose of supplementing classroom instruction. Accessing professional/education social networks during school hours is permitted.

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



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

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

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

The following guidelines apply to all individuals posting on social media networks in any capacity.

- A. Think twice before posting. Privacy does not exist in the world of social media. Consider what could happen if a post becomes widely known and how that may reflect both on the poster and the Cabot School District. Search engines can turn up posts years after they are created, and comments can be forwarded or copied. If you would not say it in your classroom or to a member of the media, consider whether you should post it online. One should also give strong consideration before posting images that may be considered inappropriate or distasteful.
- B. Strive for accuracy. Check your facts before posting them on social media. Keep in mind that once you share inaccurate information on a social network, it's available to the public and is not easily corrected.
- C. Be respectful. Understand that content contributed to a social media site could encourage comments or discussion of opposing ideas. Responses should be considered carefully in light of how they would reflect on the poster and/or the Cabot School District.
- D. Consider your audience and its potential reaction to your content. Be aware that a presence in the social media world is or easily can be made available to the public at

large. This includes prospective students, current students, parents, current employer and colleagues, and peers. Consider this before publishing to ensure the post will not alienate, harm, or provoke any of these groups.

E. If you identify yourself as a Cabot School District employee, it should be clear that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the district. These guidelines apply to individuals posting on social media in any capacity.

F. Prior to establishing educationally-based professional social media network or account, provide a written explanation of the purpose of the account to district level administrators for approval. Professional use of social media should be approved by a district-level administrator, or his or her designee.

G. If a social media network or account that encourages student participation is approved, parents/guardians should be notified of the purpose and provided an opportunity to “opt out.”

H. Images, audio, or videos of any school activities or students should not be digitally transmitted or streamed without prior written parental consent and/or must adhere to local district policies.

I. Employees are encouraged to report inappropriate use of digital and/or social media to appropriate district administrators. Possible ethics violations may be reported to the Professional Licensure Standards Board utilizing the “Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators Allegation of Violation” form.

Cabot School District employees should be aware of the potential danger in participating in the following forms of technology-based interactivity or connectivity:

- Sharing personal landline or cell phone numbers with students;
- Text messaging students;
- Emailing students other than through and to school controlled and monitored accounts;
- Soliciting students as friends or contacts on personal social networking websites;
- Accepting the solicitation of students as friends or contacts on personal social networking websites;
- Sharing personal websites or other media access information with students through which the staff member would share personal information and occurrences.

Legal Reference: RULES GOVERNING THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARKANSAS EDUCATORS

Date Adopted: June 23, 2011

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

### **8.37.1 EMPLOYEE COMPUTER USE POLICY**

The Cabot School District provides computers and/or computer Internet access for employees to assist them in performing work related tasks. Employees are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their computer use, including email, and that under Arkansas law, both email and computer use records maintained by the district are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Consequently, no employee or student-related reprimands or other disciplinary communications should be made through email.

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

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

Legal References: A.C.A. §6-21-107, 111

Date Adopted: April 22, 2002

Date Revised:

**8.22.1F           EMPLOYEE INTERNET AND LOCAL AREA NETWORK  
USE AGREEMENT**

Employee Name (Please Print):

School Campus:

Date:

The Cabot School District agrees to allow the employee identified above (hereinafter, "Employee") to use the district's technology to access the Internet and Local Area Network (hereinafter, "LAN") under the following terms and conditions:

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

- without proper authorization;
  - r. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files of students not under the employee's jurisdiction;
  - s. providing access to the District's Internet Access or LAN to unauthorized individuals;
  - t. taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools;
  - u. making unauthorized copies of computer software;
  - v. personal use of computers during instruction time; or
  - w. installing software on district computers without prior approval of the technology director or his/her designee.
5. Liability of debts: Staff shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through their use of the District's computers or the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.
6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Employee signing below agrees that in using the Internet or LAN through the District's access, he/she waives any right to privacy the Employee may have for such use. The Employee agrees that the district may monitor the Employee's use of the District's Internet Access or LAN and may also examine all system activities the employee participates in, including but not limited to email, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system.
7. Signature: The Employee, who has signed below, has read this agreement and agrees to be bound by its terms and conditions. A copy of the signed policy will be kept in the employee's personnel file.

Employee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Adopted: April 22, 2002

Date Revised: May 22, 2012

## **8.23 FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

### **8.23—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE \***

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

#### **SECTION ONE**

##### **Definitions:**

**Eligible Employee:** is an employee who has been employed by the District for at least twelve (12) months and for 1250 hours of service during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.<sup>1</sup>

**FMLA:** is the Family and Medical Leave Act

**Health Care Provider:** is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery (as appropriate) by the state in which the doctor practices. It also includes any other person determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor to be capable of providing health care services.

**Instructional Employee:** is an employee whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, preschool teachers, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include, and the special rules related to the taking of leave near the end of a semester do not apply to, teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, nor does it include administrators, counselors, librarians, psychologists, or curriculum specialists.

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

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

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

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

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

Year: the twelve (12) month period of eligibility shall begin on July first of each school-year.<sup>23</sup>

## **Policy**

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

## **Leave Eligibility**

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

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

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

A husband and wife who are both eligible employees employed by the District may not take more than a combined total of 12 weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1, 2, 3 and 5.

### **Provisions Applicable to both Sections One and Two**

#### **District Notice to Employees**

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

#### **Designation Notice to Employee**

When an employee requests FMLA leave or the District determines that an employee's absence may be covered under the FMLA, the District shall provide written notice within five (5) business days (absent extenuating circumstances) to the employee of the District's determination of his/her eligibility for FMLA leave.<sup>5</sup> If the employee is eligible, the District may request additional information from the employee and/or certification from a health care provider to help make the applicability<sup>6</sup> determination. After receiving sufficient information as requested, the District shall provide a written notice within five (5) business days (absent extenuating circumstances) to the employee of whether the leave qualifies as FMLA leave and will be so designated.<sup>7</sup>

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

#### **Concurrent Leave Under the FMLA**

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

#### **Health Insurance Coverage**

The District shall maintain coverage under any group health plan for the duration of FMLA leave the employee takes at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued in active employment with the District. Additionally, if the District makes a change to its health insurance benefits or plans that apply to other employees, the employee on FMLA leave must be afforded the opportunity to access additional benefits and/or the same responsibility for changes to premiums. Any changes made to a group health plan



which apply to other District employees, must also apply to the employee on FMLA leave. The District will notify the employee on FMLA leave of any opportunities to change plans or benefits. The employee remains responsible for any portion of premium payments customarily paid by the employee. When on unpaid FMLA leave, it is the employee's responsibility to submit his/her portion of the cost of the group health plan coverage to the district's business office on or before it would be made by payroll deduction.<sup>8</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Reporting Requirements During Leave**

Unless circumstances exist beyond the employee's control, the employee shall inform the district every three weeks<sup>10</sup> during FMLA leave of their current status and intent to return to work.

### **Return to Previous Position**

An employee returning from FMLA leave is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. An equivalent position must involve the

same or substantially similar duties and responsibilities, which must entail substantially equivalent skill, effort, and authority. Specifically, upon returning from FMLA leave, a teacher may be assigned to another position that is not necessarily the same as the teacher's former job assignment. The employee may not be restored to a position requiring additional licensure or certification.

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

### **Provisions Applicable to Section One**

#### **Employee Notice to District**

##### Foreseeable Leave:

When the need for leave is foreseeable for reasons 1 through 4 listed above, the employee shall provide the District with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave for the specified reason. An eligible employee who has no reasonable excuse for his/her failure to provide the District with timely advance notice of the need for FMLA leave may delay the FMLA coverage of such leave until 30 days after the date the employee provides notice.

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

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

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

##### Unforeseeable Leave:

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

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

### **Medical Certification**

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

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

- a. The original certification is for a period greater than 30 days. In this situation, the District may require a recertification after the time of the original certification expires, but in any case, the District may require a recertification every six (6) months.
- b. The employee requests an extension of leave;
- c. Circumstances described by the previous certification have changed significantly; and/or
- d. The district receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the certification.

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

No second or third opinion on recertification may be required.

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

### **Substitution of Paid Leave**

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

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

Workers Compensation: FMLA leave may run concurrently with a workers' compensation absence when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will ~~not~~ be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee at the rate necessary to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted daily rate of pay. If the health care provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a "light duty job," but is unable to return to the employee's same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the District's offer of a "light duty job." As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers' compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee's FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

#### **Return to Work<sup>12</sup>**

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

If the District's written designation determination that the eligible employee's leave qualified as FMLA leave under reason 4 above stated that the employee would have to provide a "fitness-for-duty" certification from a

health care provider for the employee to resume work **and** the designation determination listed the employee's essential job functions, the employee must provide certification that the employee is able to perform those functions prior to returning to work. The employee's failure to do so or his/her inability to perform his/her job's essential functions voids the District's obligation to reinstate the employee under the FMLA and the employee shall be terminated.

#### **Failure to Return to Work:**

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

## **Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave**

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

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

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

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

If an eligible employee who meets the definition of an instructional employee requests intermittent or reduced schedule leave for reasons 3 or 4 above that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and the employee would be on leave for greater than 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the district may require the employee to elect either

- a. to take medical leave for periods of a particular duration, not to exceed the duration of the planned medical treatment; or
- b. to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the employer for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the employee.

If the employee chooses to transfer to an alternative position it shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. When the employee is able to return to full-time work, the employee shall be placed in the same or equivalent job as he/she had when the leave began. The employee will not be required to take more FMLA leave than necessary to address the circumstances requiring the need for the leave.

An eligible instructional employee who needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule for reasons 3 or 4 above may not be transferred to an alternative position during the period of the employee's intermittent or reduced leave schedule if, based on the foreseeable planned medical treatment, the employee would be on leave for 20 percent or less of the total number of working days over the period the leave would extend.

### **Leave taken by eligible instructional employees near the end of the semester**

In any of the following scenarios, if the District chooses to require the eligible, instructional employee to stay on leave until the end of the semester, only the portion of the leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. The required non-FMLA leave will not be considered excessive absenteeism.

#### **Leave more than 5 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, due to reasons 1 through 4 listed above, more than 5 weeks prior to the end of the academic term, the District may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester, if

- (A) the leave is of at least 3 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 3-week period before the end of the semester.

#### **Leave less than 5 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, due to reasons 1, 2, or 3 listed above, during the period that commences 5 weeks prior to the end of the academic term, the District may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester, if

- (A) the leave is of greater than 2 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 2-week period before the end of the semester.

#### **Leave less than 3 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, due to 1, 2, or 3 listed above, during the period that commences 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester and the duration of the leave is greater than 5 working days, the District may require the employee to continue to take leave until the end of the semester.

## SECTION TWO

### FMLA LEAVE CONNECTED TO MILITARY SERVICE

#### Leave Eligibility

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

#### QUALIFYING EXIGENCY

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

#### Definitions:

##### Covered active duty means

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

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

#### Certification<sup>14</sup>

The District may require the eligible employee to obtain certification to help the district determine if the requested leave qualifies for FMLA leave for the purposes of a qualifying exigency. The District may deny FMLA leave if an eligible employee fails to provide requested certification.

#### Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave:

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

#### Unforeseeable Leave:

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

#### **Substitution of Paid Leave**

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

#### **Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave**

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

#### **Leave taken by an eligible instructional employees more than 5 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If an eligible, instructional employee begins leave due to any qualifying exigency more than 5 weeks prior to the end of the semester, the District may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester, if

- (A) the leave is of at least 3 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 3-week period before the end of the semester.

If the District chooses to require the eligible, instructional employee to stay on leave until the end of the semester, only the portion of the leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

### **SERIOUS ILLNESS**



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

**Definitions:**

Covered Service Member is

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

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

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

Parent of a covered servicemember: is a covered servicemember's biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the covered servicemember. This term does not include parents "in law."

Serious Injury or Illness:

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

Son or daughter of a covered servicemember means a covered servicemember's biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the covered servicemember stood in loco parentis, and who is of any age.<sup>2</sup>

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

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a **covered service member** shall be entitled to a total of 26 weeks of leave during one 12-month period to care for the service member who has a serious injury or illness as defined in this policy. An eligible employee who cares for such a covered

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

If husband and wife are both eligible employees employed by the District, the husband and wife are entitled to a combined total of 26 weeks of leave during one 12-month period to care for their spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a **covered service member** with a serious injury or illness as defined in this policy. A husband and wife who care for such a covered service member continues to be limited to a combined total of 12 weeks FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 3 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency during a year as defined in this policy. For example, a husband and wife who are both eligible employees and who care for such a covered service member for 16 weeks during a 12 month period could only take a combined total of 10 weeks for reasons 1 through 3 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency.

### **Medical Certification<sup>15</sup>**

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

### **Employee Notice to District**

Foreseeable Leave:

When the need for leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury is clearly foreseeable at least 30 days in advance, the employee shall provide the District with not less than 30 days' notice before the date the leave is to begin of the employee's intention to take leave for the specified reason. An eligible employee who has no reasonable excuse for his/her failure to provide the District with timely advance notice of the need for FMLA leave may delay the FMLA coverage of such leave until 30 days after the date the employee provides notice.

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

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

Unforeseeable Leave:

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

### **Substitution of Paid Leave**

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

### **Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave**

To the extent practicable, employees requesting intermittent or reduced schedule leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury shall provide the District with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave.

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

When granting leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the District may temporarily transfer non-instructional eligible employees for the period of scheduled intermittent or reduced leave to an alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of

leave than does the employee's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. When the employee is able to return to full-time work, the employee shall be placed in the same or equivalent job as he/she had when the leave began. Specifically, upon returning from FMLA leave, an employee may be assigned to another position that is not necessarily the same as the employee's former job assignment. The employee will not be required to take more FMLA leave than necessary to address the circumstances requiring the need for the leave.

If an eligible employee who meets the definition of an instructional employee requests intermittent or reduced schedule leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and the employee would be on leave for greater than 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the District may require the employee to choose either

- a. to take medical leave for periods of a particular duration, not to exceed the duration of the planned medical treatment; or
- b. to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the employer for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the employee.

If the employee chooses to transfer to an alternative position it shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. When the employee is able to return to full-time work, the employee shall be placed in the same or equivalent job as he/she had when the leave began. Specifically, upon returning from FMLA leave, a teacher may be assigned to another position that is not necessarily the same as the teacher's former job assignment. The employee will not be required to take more FMLA leave than necessary to address the circumstances the required the need for the leave.

An eligible instructional employee, who needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury, may not be transferred to an alternative position during the period of the employee's intermittent or reduced leave schedule if, based on the foreseeable planned medical treatment, the employee would be on leave for 20 percent or less of the total number of working days over the period the leave would extend.

### **Leave taken by eligible instructional employees near the end of the academic the semester**

In any of the following scenarios, if the district chooses to require the eligible, instructional employee to stay on leave until the end of the semester, only the portion of the leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. The excess non-FMLA leave will not be considered excessive absenteeism.

### **Leave more than 5 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, for any qualifying exigency or to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury more than 5 weeks prior to the end of the semester, the District may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester, if

- (A) the leave is of at least 3 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 3-week period before the end of the semester.

### **Leave less than 5 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury during the period that commences 5 weeks prior to the end of the semester, the District may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester, if

- (A) the leave is of greater than 2 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 2-week period before the end of the semester.

### **Leave less than 3 weeks prior to end of the semester**

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury during the period that commences 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester and the duration of the leave is greater than 5 working days, the District may require the employee to continue to take leave until the end of the semester.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.23. If you change this policy, review 8.23 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Determining whether an absence qualifies as FMLA leave is a **DISTRICT** responsibility and not the employee's. While much of the statutes' language refers to an employee's request for FMLA leave, the employee has **NO** mandatory responsibility for initiating the exchange of information that might relate his/her absence to that of the FMLA. The District has the right and the duty to ask for enough information concerning an employee's absence to make a determination. The employee has the responsibility and duty to respond to questions asked in an effort for the District to make the initial determination. Any issue of medical certification to be provided by the employee is secondary to that of informal questioning to determine whether the absence does in fact, fall under the FMLA umbrella. The District must fulfill its responsibility for the posting of employee FMLA notice requirements to make those requirements enforceable. This is

done through posting the notices available at the link in footnote #4 **AND** by the employee's receipt of this policy in the employee handbook.

<sup>1</sup> It is possible for a full time employee to be eligible for FMLA leave one year and not the next. For example, if an employee on a 190 day contract takes the full 12 weeks of FMLA leave in year one, that would mean the employee only worked 130 days. Assuming the employee is credited for 8 hours per workday, the employee would have only worked 1040 (130 x 8=1040) which would make the employee ineligible for FMLA leave for the year following the year in which the employee took the leave.

<sup>2</sup> The Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor has issued a Guidance to help interpret the scope of the definition of "son or daughter" as it applies to an employee standing "in loco parentis" to a child. The following quote from the Guidance is offered to give an idea of the complexity of the definition. (The Guidance, in full, is available by calling the ASBA office or at the link in footnote #4.)

*Congress intended the definition of "son or daughter" to reflect "the reality that many children in the United States today do not live in traditional 'nuclear' families with their biological father and mother. Increasingly, those who find themselves in need of workplace accommodation of their child care responsibilities are not the biological parent of the children they care for, but their adoptive, step, or foster parents, their guardians, or sometimes simply their grandparents or other relatives or adults." Congress stated that the definition was intended to be "construed to ensure that an employee who actually has day-to-day responsibility for caring for a child is entitled to leave even if the employee does not have a biological or legal relationship to that child."*

<sup>23</sup> Districts can choose one of four possible "12-month periods." Each one has possible advantages and disadvantages. Choose the one that will work best for your district. The four options are:

- 1) the calendar year;
- 2) Any fixed 12-month leave year such as a fiscal year or a year starting on an employee's "anniversary" date;
- 3) The 12-month period measured forward from the date any employee's first FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 5 begins;
- 4) A rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 5.

<sup>4</sup> A Department of Labor poster along with several additional forms that are necessary to fulfill FMLA's requirements are available at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/index.htm>. Please note that the DOL forms lack the required disclaimer required by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). We suggest that you include the following language taken from the final rule implementing the GINA:

*The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not*

*provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information. “Genetic information,” as defined by GINA, includes an individual’s family medical history, the results of an individual’s or family member’s genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.*

<sup>45</sup> We suggest you use the Department of Labor’s *Notice of Eligibility and Rights and Responsibilities* form (otherwise known as Appendix D) to help you fulfill the requirements of this section. It’s available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office. When making the determination, we suggest initially erring on the side of granting it. Retroactively designating leave as FMLA has more potential liability for the district if the employee can demonstrate the initial failure to grant the leave under FMLA caused him/her harm or injury. If due to receipt of the medical certification, it turns out that the leave does not qualify, you will need to readjust the available FMLA leave accordingly.

<sup>6</sup> As used in this policy, “applicable” is a very important word. Some leave taken under FMLA also applies to sick leave and therefore, the employee will get paid for the leave to the extent the employee has sick leave accrued. Other leave taken under FMLA is not applicable to sick leave and therefore the FMLA leave is unpaid. For instance, “applicable leave” in terms of time taken under FMLA due to the birth of a child will vary depending on the language in your District’s policy on sick leave. For instance, if sick leave may be taken “for reason of personal illness or illness in the immediate family” (based on the statutory definition in 6-17-1202, and an employee gives birth to a child, she may take sick leave for the amount of time that her personal physician deems it necessary for her to physically recover from childbirth. Once the medically necessary time has passed, sick leave is no longer appropriate and cannot be used. While under the FMLA, the employee could take additional time off work, she would need to take unpaid FMLA leave for this purpose, unless she had personal days or vacation days available. However, if your district has a much more liberal definition of sick leave in

District policy, the results could be entirely different. Another example would be the potential for overlap between pregnancy complications that arise to the level of a “serious health condition.” For instance, pregnancy complications that rose to the level of a “serious health condition” would qualify for both, while missing work for a dentist’s appointment would qualify for sick leave, but would not qualify for FMLA leave. Consult policy 3.8—LICENSED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE when making the determination of what sick leave qualifies under both policies.

<sup>67</sup> There are several issues that must be addressed in the written notice. Appendix E of Part 825 available from the Wage and Hour Division of the US Department of Labor is a good way to both give your employee written notice and help ensure you have included the necessary information in the notice. Appendix E is available at the link contained in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

<sup>8</sup> The District cannot cancel an employee's insurance for the employee's failure to pay his/her share of the premium until the payment is 30 or more days late. The District must give prior, written notice to the employee at least 15 days prior to the cancelation of the policy stating that the policy will be terminated on a given date if payment is not received by that date which must be at least 15 days from the date of the letter.

<sup>9</sup> Due to the district's liability for meeting the requirement of this paragraph and similar obligations for life insurance premiums or other benefits, the District needs to consider picking up the costs of such premiums during an employee's **unpaid** FMLA leave **if** the employee fails to pay his/her share of the costs. If the District elects to maintain such benefits during the leave, at the conclusion of leave the District is entitled to recover only the costs incurred for paying the employee's share of any premiums whether or not the employee returns to work. To help you decide if you should choose to pay premium costs in such a situation, the following except from 29 CFR 825.212(c):

*If coverage lapses because an employee has not made required premium payments, upon the employee's return from FMLA leave the employer must still restore the employee to coverage/benefits equivalent to those the employee would have had if leave had not been taken and the premium payment(s) had not been missed, including family or dependent coverage. See § 825.215(d)(1) through (5). In such case, an employee may not be required to meet any qualification requirements imposed by the plan, including any new preexisting condition waiting period, to wait for an open season, or to pass a medical examination to obtain reinstatement of coverage. If an employer terminates an employee's insurance in accordance with this section and fails to restore the employee's health insurance as required by this section upon the employee's return, the employer may be liable for benefits lost by reason of the violation, for other actual monetary losses sustained as a direct result of the violation, and for appropriate equitable relief tailored to the harm suffered.*

<sup>10</sup> You may choose the time interval of the required duty to report, but it must be reasonable.

<sup>11</sup> ASBA model policy 3.8—LICENSED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE includes language entitling employees with up to 15 days of sick leave in a school-year for issue relating to the adoption of child. I you have not adopted this provision, delete #2 from this sentence. Include reason #1 if you have a liberal sick leave policy that would permit leave to be taken for bonding with a new born son or daughter.

<sup>12</sup> The Department of Labor's *Designation Notice* has entries that address this section's requirements. It's very helpful. Unfortunately, the titles of the DOL forms leave a lot to be desired. The Designation notice **and** the *Medical Condition Certification* form are both listed as Appendix E. For this section you will actually need both of them; the *Designation Notice* to fulfill your notice requirements and the medical certification form to enable you to determine if the employee's leave is actually covered under the FMLA. They are both available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.



<sup>13</sup> The types and amounts of leave available for a particular type of qualifying exigency are covered in 29 C.F.R. § 825.126. Call the ASBA office for a copy. While the current CFR has not been updated since the FMLA law was amended, it can still be helpful to give an idea of the types of circumstances that trigger leave eligibility.

<sup>14</sup> You can use Appendix G, *Certification of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Leave* to obtain the certification. (It hasn't been updated to meet the changes in the FMLA law, but it will work. It's available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

<sup>15</sup> You can use Appendix H, *Covered Service Member Serious Injury* form to obtain the certification. It's available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

Superintendent

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.  
29 C.F.R. 825.100 et seq.

Date Adopted: February 17, 2004  
Date Revised: May 22, 2012

## **8.24—SCHOOL BUS DRIVER’S USE OF CELL PHONES**

Any driver of a motor vehicle which is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the District, and is operated for the transportation of children to or from school or school sponsored activity shall not operate a school bus while using a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely off the road with the parking brake engaged, to call for assistance due to a mechanical problem with the bus, or to communicate with any of the following emergency situations.

An emergency system response operator or 911 public safety communications dispatcher;

A hospital or emergency room;

A physician's office or health clinic;

An ambulance or fire department rescue service;

A fire department, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department; or

A police department.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-19-120

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised:

## **8.25 CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES**

Use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices by employees during instructional time for other than school-related purposes is strictly forbidden unless in case of emergencies or specifically approved in advance by the Superintendent, building principal, or their designees.

District staff shall not be given cell phones or computers for any purpose other than their specific use associated with school business. School employees who use school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the District's policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. School employees who are issued District cell phones due to the requirements of their position may use the phone for personal use on an "as needed" basis provided it is not during instructional time.

Legal Reference: IRS Publication 15 B

Date Adopted: June 8, 2010

Date Revised: May 22, 2012

## 8.26 RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BULLYING

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

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

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

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

### **Definitions:**

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

**Bullying** means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Sarcastic comments, "compliments," about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
4. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student's race, gender, ethnicity or actual or perceived attributes,
6. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
7. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
8. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
9. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
10. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
11. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 8:17, is also a form of bullying,
12. Teasing or name-calling based on the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles (Example: "Slut") or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual (Examples: "You are so gay." "Fag" "Queer").

**Notes:** A school employee who has reported violations under the school district's policy shall be immune from any tort liability which may arise from the failure to remedy the reported incident.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-514

Date Adopted: June 2006  
Last Revised: May 22, 2012

## **8.27—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL LEAVE — INJURY FROM ASSAULT**

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

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

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

Legal Reference:      A.C.A. § 6-17-1308

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised:

## **8.28 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE**

The conduct of district staff plays a vital role in the social and behavioral development of our students. It is equally important that the staff have a safe, healthy, and professional environment in which to work. To help promote both interests, the district shall have a drug free workplace.

It is, therefore, the district's policy that district employees are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances, illegal drugs, inhalants, alcohol or drug paraphernalia as well as inappropriate or illegal possession or use of prescription drugs.

If an employee is required to take prescription medication, and that medication impedes the employee's ability to safely and effectively fulfill the requirements of their job, the employee will be sent home and appropriate sick leave will be applied, if available.

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

Any employee who is charged with a violation of any state or federal law relating to this policy must notify their supervisor immediately. The supervisor will immediately notify the Superintendent. Immediately is defined as a five (5) day maximum. Within ten (10) days of any conviction for violations of this policy, the district shall notify federal granting agencies from which it receives funds.

Any employee found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

To help promote a drug free workplace, the district shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the district's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling\*, rehabilitation\*, and employee assistance abuse programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations. (\*Such services are available from the following sources: Wilbur Mills Center, Searcy; Family Service Agency, NLR; Recovery Centers of Arkansas, NLR; Bridgeway, Maumelle; U of A for Substance Abuse Treatment Clinic, LR; Mid Arkansas Substance Abuse Services, LR; BCD Hover Center, LR; Serenity House, LR; Recovery at Baptist Health Med. Center, LR; and Catar Clinic, LR)

Legal References: 41 USC § 702, 703, and 706

Date Adopted: April 22, 2002

Date Revised: June 22, 2006



**8.28F—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CERTIFICATION**

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

A copy of the signed policy will be kept in the employee’s personnel file.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **8.29 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER MONITORING**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date Adopted: June 23, 2011

Last Revised:

## **8.30 REDUCTION IN FORCE**

### **SECTION ONE**

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

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

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

When the District is conducting a RIF, all potentially affected employee's length of service shall be ranked within the category in which he/she has been assigned within the last two years, including the current year. In the event that an employee's assignment is different this school year from the previous school year, separate point totals shall be developed for each category of assignment. All non-certified employees shall receive a listing of the personnel within their category with corresponding point totals. Upon receipt of the list, each employee has ten (10) working days within which to appeal his or her assignment of points with the Superintendent whose decision shall be final.

Total years of service to the district shall include non-continuous years of service; in other words, an employee who left the district and returned later will have the total years of service counted, from all periods of employment. Length of service in a certified position shall not count for the purpose of length of service for a non-certified position. There is no right or implied right for any employee to "bump" or displace any other employee. A full year of service is equal to the completion of 65% of an employee's annual contract. It is each employee's individual responsibility to ensure his/her year totals are current in District files.

In the event the district is involved in an annexation or consolidation, employees from all the districts involved will be ranked according to years of service. A year of employment at an annexed or consolidated district will be counted the same as a year at the receiving or resulting

district. No credit for years of service will be given at other public or private schools, or for higher education or Educational Service Cooperative employment.

Pursuant to any reduction in force brought about by consolidation or annexation and as a part of it, the salaries of all employees will be brought into compliance, by a partial RIF if necessary, with the receiving district's salary schedule and further adjustments made if length of contract or job assignments change.

If classified employee is non-renewed under this policy, he or she shall be offered an opportunity to fill a classified vacancy comparable as to pay, responsibility and contract length to the position from which the employee was non-renewed, and for which he or she is qualified for a period of up to two (2) years. The non-renewed employee shall be recalled for a period of two (2) years in reverse order of the layoff to any position for which he or she is qualified. Notice of vacancies to non-renewed employees shall be by certified mail and they shall have 10 working days from the date that the notification is received in which to accept the offer of a position. A lack of response or a non-renewed employee's refusal of a position shall end the district's obligation to replace the laid-off employee.

## **SECTION TWO**

The employees of any school district which annexes to, or consolidates with, the Cabot School District will be subject to dismissal or retention at the discretion of the school board, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, solely on the basis of need for such employees on the part of the Cabot School District, if any, at the time of the annexation or consolidation, or within ninety (90) days after the effective date of the annexation or consolidation. The need for any employee of the annexed or consolidated school district shall be determined solely by the Superintendent and school board of the Cabot School District.

Such employees will not be considered as having any seniority within the Cabot School District and may not claim an entitlement under a reduction in force to any position held by a Cabot School District employee prior to, or at the time of, or prior to the expiration of ninety (90) days after the consolidation or annexation, if the notification provision below is undertaken by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall mail or have hand-delivered the notification to such employee of his intention to recommend non-renewal or termination pursuant to a reduction in force within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the annexation or consolidation in order to effect the provisions of this section of the Cabot School District's reduction-in-force policy. Any such employees who are non-renewed or terminated pursuant to Section Two are not subject to recall. Any such employees shall be paid at the rate for each person on the appropriate level on the salary schedule of the annexed or consolidated district during those ninety (90) days and/or through the completion of the reduction-in-force process.

This subsection of the reduction-in-force policy shall not be interpreted to provide that the Superintendent must wait ninety (90) days from the effective date of the annexation or consolidation in order to issue notification of his intention to recommend dismissal through

reduction-in-force, but merely that the Superintendent has that period of time in which to issue notification so as to be able to invoke the provisions of this section.

The intention of this section is to ensure that those Cabot District employees who are employed prior to the annexation or consolidation shall not be displaced by employees of the annexed or consolidated district by application of the reduction-in-force policy.

**Notes:** <sup>1</sup> For example, if the district's salary schedule provided for a range of salaries for maintenance employees ranging from \$8.50 an hour to \$12.50 an hour, and one maintenance employee is making \$14.00 an hour, the Superintendent, as part of the RIF, would send a letter of partial nonrenewal to the maintenance employee to bring the salary into compliance with the salary schedule.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2407

Date Adopted: July, 2005

Last Revised: June 23, 2011

### **8.31 TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL**

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

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

Date Adopted: July, 2005

Last Revised:

### **8.32 PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS**

The Superintendent shall be responsible for assigning and reassigning classified personnel.

Date Adopted: July, 2005

Last Revised:

## 8.33 PERSONNEL SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

The Cabot School District shall operate by the following calendar.

July 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

  

August 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

  

September 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

  

October 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

  

November 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

  

December 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

  

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

  

February 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

  

March 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

  

April 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

  

May 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

  

June 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

  

### 2013-2014 STUDENT CALENDAR

**Grading Periods**

Grading Period 1: Aug. 19 – Oct. 11 (39 days)  
 Grading Period 2: Oct. 14 – Dec. 20 (44 days)  
**1<sup>st</sup> Semester – 83 days**

Grading Period 3: Jan 6 – Mar 14 (48 days)  
 Grading Period 4: Mar 17 – May 29 (47 days)  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester – 95 days**

**Significant Dates**

August 19 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School  
 September 2 Labor Day  
 October 15 Parent Conf. 3:30 – 7:00  
 October 17 Parent Conf. 3:30 – 7:00  
 October 18 No School  
 November 25-29 Fall Break  
 Dec 16-19 Dead Days  
 Dec 18-20 Semester Tests  
 Dec 23 – Jan 3 Semester Break

January 6 Second Semester Begins  
 January 29 Martin Luther King Day  
 March 18 Parent Conf. 3:30 – 7:00  
 March 20 Parent Conf. 3:30 – 7:00  
 March 21 No School  
 March 24-28 Spring Break  
 May 16 Graduation  
 May 22-28 Dead Days  
 May 26 Memorial Day  
 May 27-29 Semester Tests  
 May 29 Last Day of School

**Snow Days**  
 Feb 17 and Jun 2-5  
 Students will be in school on snow days only if days are missed due to inclement weather.

**Professional Development Days**  
**Non Student Contact**

**Back to School**  
 Required: August 12-15 mornings  
 Flex: August 12-15 afternoons and August 16 morning

**End of School**  
 Required: May 30 all day

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised: May 21, 2013



### 8.34 DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, MALTREATMENT OR NEGLECT

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

The duty to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment is a direct and personal duty for statutory mandatory reporters, and cannot be assigned or delegated to another person. There is no duty to investigate, confirm or substantiate statements a student may have made which form the basis of the reasonable cause to believe that the student may have been abused or subjected to maltreatment by another person; however, a person with a duty to report may find it helpful to make a limited inquiry to assist in the formation of a belief that child abuse, maltreatment or neglect has occurred, or to rule out such a belief<sup>2</sup>. Employees and volunteers who call the Child Abuse Hotline in good faith are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution.

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

Notes: <sup>1</sup> For a listing of who qualifies as mandatory reporters refer to A.C.A. § 12-18-402(b).

Act 1236 of 2009, codified at A.C.A. § 6-61-133, requires professional development related to child maltreatment for licensed employees and includes school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists in the list of “licensed employees” who must receive the required PD.

Legal References:     A.C.A. § 12-18-107  
                              A.C.A. § 12-18-201 et seq.  
                              A.C.A. § 12-18-402

Date Adopted: June 23, 2011  
Last Revised:

## **8.35 OBTAINING and RELEASING STUDENT'S FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **Obtaining Eligibility Information**

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

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

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

### **Releasing Eligibility Information**

As part of the district's participation in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, the district collects eligibility data from its students. The data's confidentiality is very important and is governed by federal law. The district has made the determination to release student eligibility status or information<sup>1</sup> as permitted by law. Federal law governs how eligibility data may be released and to whom. The district will take the following steps to ensure its confidentiality:

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

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

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

Legal References: Commissioner's Memos IA-05-018, FIN 09-041, and IA 99-011

ADE Eligibility Manual for School Meals Revised July 2008

7 CFR 210.1 – 210.31

7 CFR 220.1 – 220.22

42 USC 1758(b)(6)

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Last Revised: May 21, 2013

### **8.36 PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The district provides Workers' Compensation Insurance, as required by law. Employees who sustain any injury at work must immediately notify their immediate supervisor. The employee must then fill out a Form N in the District Business Office. While many injuries will require no medical treatment or time lost at work, should the need for treatment arise later, it is important that there be a record that the injury occurred. All employees have a duty to provide information and make statements as requested for the purposes of the claim assessment and investigation.

For injuries requiring medical attention, the district will exercise its right to designate the initial treating physician and an injured employee will be directed to seek medical attention, if necessary, from a specific physician or clinic.

A Workers' Compensation absence may run concurrently with FMLA leave (policy 3.32) when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee at the rate necessary to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted daily rate of pay. If the health care provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a "light duty job," but is unable to return to the employee's same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the District's offer of a "light duty job." As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers' compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee's FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

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

- the employee will be charged for a day's sick leave for the all days missed until such time as the WC claim has been approved or denied;
- an employee whose WC claim is accepted by the WC insurance carrier as compensable and who is absent for eight or more days shall be charged sick leave at the rate necessary, when combined with WC benefits, to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of the employee's usual contracted daily rate of pay;

an employee whose WC claim is accepted by the WC insurance carrier as compensable and is absent for 14 or more days will be credited back that portion of sick leave for the first seven (7) days of absence that is not necessary to have brought the total amount of combined income up to 100% of the employee's usual contracted gross pay.

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

A.C.A. § 11-9-508(d)(5)(A)

A.C.A. § 11-9-514(a)(3)(A)(i)

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012  
Last Revised: May 21, 2013

### **8.38 VACATION LEAVE**

#### **EMPLOYEES HIRED FOR PER ANNUM EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2005**

Classified personnel on per annum employment (**250 days**) shall earn ten (10) days vacation per year plus an additional one-half (1/2) day per year after five (5) years until reaching a maximum of fifteen (15) days vacation leave per year. Vacation days begin to accumulate on the date that a person begins his/her contracted employment.

Employees must work a full year to earn all vacation time. Upon approval of the Superintendent or his designee, an employee may be allowed to take vacation days prior to the completion of their contract; however, in the event the employee does not complete the contract year, their last check will be reduced by the cost of unearned vacation days that have been taken.

All vacation time given after July 1, 2005 must be used before the end of each anniversary year following the year it is earned with the exception of fifteen (15) days which may be carried forward to the next year. Employees terminating service at the end of the fiscal year will take accumulated vacation time prior to termination. There shall be no cash surrender value for unused vacation time.

Employees may not generally take vacation during instructional time. All vacation time must be approved, in advance to the extent practicable, by the Superintendent or designee. If vacation is requested, but not approved, and the employee is absent from work in spite of the vacation denial, disciplinary action will be taken against the employee, which may include termination or nonrenewal.

#### **EMPLOYEES HIRED FOR PER ANNUM EMPLOYMENT AFTER JULY 2, 2005**

Classified personnel on per annum employment (250 days) shall earn ten (10) days vacation per year. On July 1<sup>st</sup> following the completion of five years employment, classified employees on per annum employment shall receive an additional one-half (1/2) day of vacation per year until reaching a maximum of fifteen (15) days of vacation leave per year. Vacation time earned during the first year of employment will be prorated so that all vacation anniversary dates are July 1<sup>st</sup>. Vacation days will begin to accrue on July 1 following each year of service. All vacation time must be used before the end of the fiscal year (June 30) following the year it is earned with the exception of fifteen (15) days which may be carried forward to the next year. Employees terminating service at the end of the fiscal year will take accumulated vacation time prior to termination. There shall be no cash surrender value for unused vacation time.

Date adopted: July, 2005

Date amended:

### **8.39 DEPOSITING COLLECTED FUNDS**

From time to time, staff members may collect funds in the course of their employment. It is the responsibility of the person who collects the funds to submit them to the designated person in the building so that funds will be deposited daily into the appropriate accounts for which they have been collected. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for determining the need for receipts for funds collected and other record keeping requirements and of notifying staff of the requirements.

Collected funds shall be stored in a locked closet, cabinet or safe until they are deposited.

Staff that use any funds collected in the course of their employment for personal purposes, or who deposit such funds in a personal account, may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Date adopted: June 23, 2011

Last Revised: May 21, 2013

## **8.40 REQUIREMENTS FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS**

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

1. completed at least 60 hours of study at an institution of higher education;
2. obtained an associate's (or higher) degree;
3. taken and passed the Parapro Assessment Test certifying they are highly qualified;

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

Exceptions to the highly qualified requirements of NCLB are allowed for paraprofessionals who are proficient in English and a language other than English and who provide services primarily to enhance the participation of children in programs served under Title I by acting as a translator. Those whose duties consist solely of conducting parental involvement activities consistent with the requirements of NCLB, or those whose duties consist solely of providing personal care for individual students.

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 6319(c)(d)(e)

Date Adopted: July, 2005

Last Revised: June 2007



#### **8.41 PERSONNEL RECORDS**

The Cabot School District shall maintain a personnel file for each employee in compliance with the provisions of Act 936 of 1983. Personnel files will be maintained in the personnel office at the central office. The Superintendent or designee shall be the custodian of the files.

The custodian of personnel files shall protect the confidentiality of all files in his/her custody by allowing only authorized persons access to the files. Persons authorized to examine the personnel files are the respective employee, the custodian of the file, other supervisory personnel of the employee and the confidential support personnel who work with the files.

Employees may examine their personnel file upon request. The district may remove from a file any confidential letters, recommendations, or references. The employee shall have the opportunity to respond in writing to any item placed in his/her personnel file.

Date Adopted: May 22, 2012

Date Revised: