

Joseph City Schools

Personnel Handbook

DISTRICT MISSION AND BELIEF STATEMENT

Vision/Motto

"A Continuing Tradition of Excellence."

Mission

**United in Preparing Life-Long Learners through Leadership,
Teamwork, Accountability, Integrity and Excellence.**

Core values:

Leadership - Consistently and respectfully giving guidance and direction within our stewardship, thus creating future leaders.

Teamwork - Students, parents, community, staff and administration working together.

Accountability - Reliable and answerable for our actions and inactions at all times.

Integrity - Ethical, honest and trustworthy in all actions.

Excellence - Continually striving for improvement.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY / SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

The District was established by the state legislature, under the authority contained in the Arizona State Constitution, for the sole purpose of providing an education to the students of the District. While the establishment of the District also provides other services, such as caring for students during the school day, providing employment to the school staff, and providing facilities for the use of the community, all of these services are necessarily subordinate to the District's prime function of providing an education to students. The Governing Board of the District is selected by the citizens of the community to ensure that this responsibility is accomplished. However, the Board recognizes that it cannot accomplish this objective unless all of the sectors of the school community also accept and perform their responsibilities. The Board considers the responsibilities of these elements of the school community to be as follows:

Staff

The Board fulfills its responsibility for the education of students by employing first a competent Superintendent, on whose recommendation it also employs a competent staff. As a condition of this employment, the Board expects each staff member's best efforts to be exerted toward the accomplishment of the educational objectives of the District. Because education is imparted primarily by teachers, the Board specifically places responsibility for maintaining and expanding educational ability on each teacher, to the end that each student may reach maximum potential and develop a sense of dignity and self-worth.

Parents

The Board recognizes that the ultimate responsibility for the well-being of all children rests with their parents. All parents are expected to cooperate in the District's educational effort by ensuring maximum attendance of their children, by requiring that their children cooperate in the educational endeavor of the District, and by fostering an attitude in their children that recognizes the importance of education.

Community

The resources necessary to provide education for students are provided by members of the community through their taxes and other supporting services. The Board's goal is that all members of the community, both individually and through their governmental, civic, and social organizations, will continue to support the educational activities of the District.

Students

Education is an opportunity provided to the children of the District by their community. The Board expects that all students will learn to recognize the value of this opportunity, and will therefore work diligently to help ensure that their maximum potentials are realized. The Board further expects that all students will recognize that their fellow students have the right to be educated, and will avoid any action that may interfere with their ability to exercise that right.

The Board believes that education should develop habits, attitudes, understanding, and skills necessary for a productive, satisfying life in our society. Students should be taught to understand the duties and privileges of responsible citizenship as such duties and privileges relate to themselves as individuals and to the whole community. The vast changes brought about by increasing technology, population, and urbanization must also be taught. The input and support of the citizens of the community, and especially the professional staff, are solicited as the school community endeavors to develop the attitudes and abilities demanded in this age of rapid change.

In consideration of the accomplishment of these responsibilities by each sector of the school community listed above, the Governing Board, with the concurrence of each individual Board member, pledges its best efforts to ensure that the District is governed effectively and efficiently so that the goal of an appropriate and outstanding educational experience is available for all students of the District.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIORITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Board recognizes that education is a vital function of the state and community. The community should be encouraged to participate in the establishment and regular review of the educational goals for the District.

The Board shall establish educational goals for the District. Suggestions by the following will be considered:

- Representatives of the community
- Students
- District personnel
- Members of the Board

As a base for its educational program, the Board adopts the following educational goals for each pupil of the District:

- To learn and enjoy the process of learning and to acquire the skills necessary for a lifetime of learning and adaptation to change.
- To acquire basic skills in obtaining information, solving problems, thinking critically, and communicating effectively.
- To become an effective and responsible contributor to the decision-making processes of the social and political institutions of the community, state, and nation.
- To acquire the necessary skills to be employable and, also, to acquire knowledge necessary for further education.
- To acquire current technological skills that will allow them to become functional in a technocratic society.
- To acquire the capacities for a satisfying and responsible role as a family member.

- To acquire the knowledge, habits, and attitudes that promote personal and public health, both physical and mental.
- To acquire an understanding of ethical principles and values and the ability to apply them to the student's own life.
- To develop an understanding of the student's own worth, abilities, potentialities, and limitations.

NONDISCRIMINATION / EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Board is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, and disability. This policy will prevail in all matters concerning staff members, students, the public, educational programs and services, and individuals with whom the Board does business.

NONDISCRIMINATION / EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Compliance Officer

The Superintendent shall be the compliance officer. Any person who feels unlawfully discriminated against or to have been the victim of unlawful discrimination by an agent or employee of the District or who knows of such discrimination against another person should file a complaint with the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is the one alleged to have unlawfully discriminated, the complaint shall be filed with the President of the Board.

Complaint Procedure

The District is committed to investigating each complaint and to taking appropriate action on all confirmed violations of policy. The Superintendent shall investigate and document complaints filed pursuant to this regulation as soon as reasonable, within the established timelines. In investigating the complaint, the Superintendent will maintain confidentiality to the extent reasonably possible. The Superintendent shall also investigate incidents of policy violation that are raised by the Governing Board, even though no complaint has been made.

If after the initial investigation the Superintendent has reason to believe that a violation of policy has occurred, the Superintendent shall determine whether or not to hold an administrative hearing and/or to recommend bringing the matter before the Board.

If the person alleged to have violated policy is a teacher or an administrator, the due process provisions of the District's Policy GCQF shall apply, except that the supervising administrator may be assigned to conduct the hearing. In cases of serious misconduct, dismissal or suspension proceedings in accordance with A.R.S. [15-539](#) *et seq.* may be initiated.

If the person alleged to have violated policy is a support staff employee, the Superintendent may follow due process and impose discipline under Policy GDQD if the evidence so warrants. The Superintendent also may recommend a suspension without pay, recommend dismissal, or impose other appropriate discipline.

If the person alleged to have violated policy is a student, the Superintendent may impose discipline in accordance with Policies JK, JKD and JKE.

If the Superintendent's investigation reveals no reasonable cause to believe policy has been violated, the Superintendent shall so inform the complaining party in writing.

Timelines

The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days after the complaining party knew or should have known that there were grounds for a complaint/grievance.

Once the written complaint has been filed using the forms provided by the District, the Superintendent shall require the immediate supervisor or site administrator to investigate and respond in writing to the complaining party within five (5) working days.

If the immediate supervisor or site administrator does not respond, the Superintendent will have ten (10) additional working days to respond in writing to the complaining party.

If the Superintendent does not respond within the established time, then the complaining party may request in writing that the issue be brought before the Board. The Board will then review the record of the investigation and have thirty (30) days to respond to the complaining party in writing.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

All individuals associated with this District, including, but not necessarily limited to, the Governing Board, the administration, the staff, and students, are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by a member of the school staff to a student or to another staff member, or when made by a student to another student where:

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

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, derogatory comments, slurs, jokes, epithets, assault, touching, impeding or blocking movement, leering, gestures, or display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons.
- Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. (Reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment.)
- Implying or withholding support for an appointment, promotion, or change of assignment; suggesting that a poor performance report will be prepared; suggesting that probation will be failed; implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved; or suggesting that a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
- Coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence, or affect the career, salary, and/or work environment of another employee; or engaging in coercive sexual behavior to control, influence, or affect the educational opportunities, grades, and/or learning environment of a student.
- Offering or granting favors or educational or employment benefits, such as grades or promotions, favorable performance evaluations, favorable assignments, favorable duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassifications, et cetera, in exchange for sexual favors.

Anyone who is subject to sexual harassment, or who knows of the occurrence of such conduct, should inform the compliance officer, as provided in ACA-R.

A substantiated charge against a staff member in the District shall subject such staff member to disciplinary action.

A substantiated charge against a student in the District shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion.

All matters involving sexual harassment complaints will remain confidential to the extent possible.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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STAFF ETHICS

(Statement of Ethics for School Employees)

All employees of the District are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships. These standards must be idealistic and at the same time practical, so that they can apply reasonably to all staff members. The employees acknowledge that the schools belong to the public they serve for the purpose of providing educational opportunities to all. However, every employee assumes responsibility for providing leadership in the school and community. This responsibility requires the employee to maintain standards of exemplary conduct. It must be recognized that the employee's actions will be viewed and appraised by the community, associates, and students. To these ends, the Board adopts the following statements of standards.

The school employee:

- A. Makes the well-being of students the fundamental value of all decision making and actions.
- B. Maintains just, courteous, and proper relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others.
- C. Strives for the maintenance of efficiency and knowledge of developments in the employee's field of work.

D. Fulfills job responsibilities with honesty and integrity.

E. Directs any criticism of other staff members or of any department of the school system toward improving the District. Such constructive criticism is to be made directly to the school administrator who has the responsibility for improving the situation.

F. Supports the principle of due process and protects the civil and human rights of all individuals.

G. Obeys local, state, and national laws and does not knowingly join or support organizations that advocate, directly or indirectly, the overthrow of the government.

H. Implements the Governing Board's policies and administrative rules and regulations.

I. Refrains from using school contacts and privileges to promote political or sectarian religious views or personal agenda of any kind.

J. Pursues appropriate measures to correct any laws, policies, or regulations that are not consistent with sound educational goals.

K. Avoids using position for personal gain through political, social, religious, economic, or other influence.

L. Maintains the standards and seeks to improve the effectiveness of the profession through research and continuing professional development.

M. Stresses the proper use and protection of all school properties, equipment, and materials.

N. Honors all contracts until fulfillment or release.

In the performance of duties, employees shall keep in confidence such information as they may secure unless disclosure serves District purposes or is required by law.

PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES

Disclosure Protected

It is a prohibited personnel practice for any District employee, who has control over personnel actions, to take reprisals against another employee for a disclosure of a matter of public concern, by that other employee, to a public body when the employee believes there has been:

- A violation of law.
- Mismanagement, a gross waste of monies, or an abuse of authority.

An employee, or former employee, who believes that an adverse personnel action taken is the result of such person's disclosure of information under A.R.S. [38-532](#) shall make a complaint to the Board. The Board shall make a determination pursuant to the rules under A.R.S. [41-783](#).

Reporting Protected

A governing board or school district employee who has control over personnel decisions shall not take unlawful reprisal against an employee for good-faith reports about certificated personnel engaged in conduct involving minors that is reportable under A.R.S. [13-3620](#) (Reporting Child Abuse). *Unlawful reprisal* means an action taken by a governing board that results in:

- Disciplinary action.
- Transfer or reassignment.
- Suspension, demotion, or dismissal.
- An unfavorable performance evaluation.
- Other significant changes in duties or responsibility that are inconsistent with the employee's salary or employment classification.

STAFF CONDUCT

All employees of the District are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with effective and orderly education and to protect students and District property. No employee shall, by action or inaction, interfere with or disrupt any District activity or encourage any such disruption. No employee, other than one who has obtained authorization from the appropriate school administrator, shall carry or possess a weapon on school grounds. All employees shall at all times

attempt to maintain order, abide by the policies, rules, and regulations of the District, and carry out all applicable orders issued by the Superintendent.

Potential consequences to employees of the District who violate these rules may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Removal from school grounds.
- B. Both civil and criminal sanctions, which may include, but are not limited to, criminal proceedings under Title 13, Chapter 29, Arizona Revised Statutes.
- C. Warning.
- D. Reprimand.
- E. Suspension.
- F. Dismissal.
- G. Having consideration given to any such violations in the determination of or establishment of any pay or salary in later contracts or employment, if any.

Reporting Suspected Crimes or Incidents

Staff members are to report any suspected crime against a person or property that is a serious offense, involves a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument or that could pose a threat of death or serious injury and any conduct that poses a threat of death or serious physical injury to employees, students or others on school property. All such reports shall be documented and communicated to the Superintendent who shall be responsible for reporting to local law enforcement. Conduct that is considered to be bullying, harassment or intimidation shall be addressed according to Policy JICK as required in A.R.S. [15-341\(A\)\(36\)](#).

The school district or charter school is to notify the parent or guardian of each student who is involved in a suspected crime or any conduct that is described above, subject to the requirements of federal law.

On or before January 1, 2020, the District shall post the policies and procedures pertaining to "Reporting Suspected Crimes or Incidents" on its website as the department of education shall develop a process to verify that each school district has adopted the required policies and procedures by this date.

If the District maintains an online Manual of policies and procedures, the District may post a link to that manual with a reference to the appropriate policies and procedures.

A person who violates the reporting requirements may be disciplined for violating the policies of the School District Governing Board pursuant to A.R.S. [15-341](#) and notwithstanding A.R.S. [15-341](#), may be subject to dismissal. Each school district governing board shall prescribe and enforce policies and procedures that require the School District to maintain a record on any person who is disciplined pursuant to this policy and, on request, shall make that record available to any public school, school district governing board or charter school governing body that is considering hiring that person.

A person who is employed by the School District or is an applicant for employment with the School District, who is arrested for or charged with any non-appealable offense listed in section [41-1758.03](#), subsection B and who does not immediately report the arrest or charge to the person's supervisor or potential employer is guilty of unprofessional conduct and the person shall be immediately dismissed from employment with the School District or immediately excluded from potential employment with the School District. A person dismissed from employment for failure to report being arrested for or charged with a non-appealable offense has no right to appeal under the provisions of A.R.S. [15-539](#), subsection F. Prior to an action to terminate for failure to report, an employee will be given the opportunity to provide a written explanation of circumstances or events which they believe mitigate the failure to report.

Use of Physical Force by Supervisory Personnel

Any administrator, teacher, or other school employee entrusted with the care and supervision of a minor may use reasonable and appropriate physical force upon the minor to the extent reasonably necessary and appropriate to maintain order. Similar physical force will be appropriate in self-defense, in the defense of other students and school personnel, and to prevent or terminate the commission of theft or criminal damage to the property of the District or the property of persons lawfully on the premises of the District.

The threat or use of physical force is not justified as a response to verbal provocation alone, nor when the degree of physical force used is disproportionate to the circumstances or exceeds that necessary to avoid injury to oneself or to others or to preserve property at risk.

STAFF CONDUCT

No employee, while on or using school property, otherwise acting as an agent, or working in an official capacity for the District shall engage in:

- A. Physical or verbal abuse of, or threat of harm to, anyone.

- B. Causing damage, or threat of damage, to property of the District or property of a member of the community or a visitor to the school when the property is located on premises controlled by the District.
- C. Forceful or unauthorized entry to or occupation of District facilities, including buildings and grounds.
- D. Use, possession, distribution, or sale of alcohol or of drugs or other illegal substances.
- E. Use of profane or abusive language, symbols, or conduct.
- F. Failure to comply with lawful direction of District officials, security officers, or any other law-enforcement officer, or failure to identify oneself to such officials or officers when lawfully requested to do so.
- G. The carrying or possession of a weapon on school grounds without authorization from the appropriate school administrator.
- H. A violation of District policies and regulations.
- I. Any conduct violating federal, state, or applicable municipal law or regulation.
- J. Any other conduct that may obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with teaching, research, service, administrative, or disciplinary functions of the District, or any other activity sponsored or approved by the Board.
- K. The use of District resources, as defined in A.R.S. [15-511](#) and District Policy GBI, Staff Participation in Political Activities, to influence the outcome of an election.

In addition to the foregoing, all staff members are expected to:

- A. Thoroughly acquaint themselves with the rules, regulations, and other information applicable to them contained within the policies of the Board.
- B. Conduct themselves in a manner consistent with effective and orderly education and to protect the students and the District property.
- C. Maintain order in a manner consistent with District policies and regulations.
- D. Comply promptly with all orders of the Superintendent and the administrator who is their immediate supervisor.
- E. Dress and maintain a general appearance that reflects their position and does not detract from the educational program of the school.

F. Comply with the requirement of A.R.S. [15-153](#) and [15-515](#) by immediately reporting to the Superintendent or the administrator who is their immediate supervisor:

1. A violation of A.R.S. [13-3102](#) [possession of a deadly weapon on school grounds].
2. A violation of A.R.S. [13-3111](#) [possession of a firearm by a minor without authorization (in Maricopa and Pima Counties and where otherwise adopted by local ordinance)].
3. A violation of A.R.S. [13-3411](#) [possession, use, or intent to sell marijuana, peyote, or dangerous or narcotic drugs, or intent to sell prescription-only drugs in a drug-free school zone (i.e., school grounds and the area within three hundred [300] feet and public property within one thousand [1,000] feet of school grounds, the area at a school bus stop, and a school bus)].

Any administrator receiving a report of a violation of A.R.S. [13-3102](#), [13-3111](#), or [13-3411](#) shall immediately report such violation to a peace officer in compliance with A.R.S. [15-153](#) and [15-515](#).

Employees of the District who violate these rules are subject to disciplinary action.

STAFF CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS

Employees are expected to exercise general supervision over the conduct of students, not only while in the schoolroom, but also before and after school and during recess. At all times teachers and other staff members will accord students the dignity and respect that they deserve, and avoid embarrassing any student unnecessarily.

Students are expected to regard all school employees as individuals who are employed to provide direct or indirect contributions to learning. While students are to have considerable latitude in making choices for themselves, they shall be required to respect the rights of all school employees and other students, and interference with those rights will not be tolerated.

Students shall not have the right to interfere with the efforts of instructional staff members to coordinate or assist in learning, to disseminate information for purposes of learning, or to otherwise implement a learning program. Nor shall a student have the right to interfere with the motivation to learn or the learning activities and efforts of other students. No student shall have the right to interfere with or disrupt any employee's work activities.

All personnel employed by the District are expected to relate to students of the District in a manner that maintains social and moral patterns of behavior consistent with community standards and acceptable professional conduct.

Relationships between staff members and students that include "dating," "courtship," or "romantic involvement" are prohibited. These behaviors deviate from ethical or professional standards and shall be deemed unacceptable and contrary to the expectations of District governance.

Staff/student relationships shall reflect mutual respect between staff members and students and shall support the dignity of the entire profession and educational process.

Violations of the above shall be considered serious and may result in severe disciplinary action.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONTRACTS AND COMPENSATION

Salaries in the District will be differentiated in relationship to duties and responsibilities.

The Governing Board at any time may establish, within the budgetary constraints of the District, the salaries and benefits for all employees necessary for the succeeding year.

Subject to the terms of employment contracts, the Governing Board at any time may reduce salaries or eliminate certificated teachers in the District in order to effectuate economies in the operation of the District or to improve the efficient conduct and administration of the District's schools. Notice of a general salary reduction shall be given each certificated teacher affected. These provisions do not apply to salary reductions from classroom site fund money.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SCHEDULES AND CALENDARS

The teacher's minimum full working day shall consist of seven and three-quarter (7.75) hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.). The teacher's minimum half working day shall consist of four and one-half (4.5) hours. Teachers will also be present for faculty meetings on a regular basis, and the work hours on such days may extend before 7:30 a.m. or after 3:45 p.m.

A teacher who finds it necessary to leave the school campus during the specified minimum time schedule shall secure prior approval from the principal or designee.

Activities conducted beyond the standard teaching day that are directly related to a teacher's subject area or to general school and community relations activities involving faculty participation in support of the educational program are considered part of the standard teaching assignment. Such activities include faculty, grade-level, department, or committee meetings and school-sponsored activities.

Although club sponsorships and faculty assistance at athletic and social activities normally are accommodated on a voluntary basis, certificated personnel may be assigned to provide such assistance if required. Such assignments shall be impartially distributed among the staff members and reasonable in number.

Administrators/Supervisors

The work hours of administrative/supervisory personnel may vary and extend as necessary to fulfill requirements of the position.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**(Duties of Teachers; Failure to Comply
is Unprofessional Conduct; Penalty)**

Every teacher shall:

- A. Make student learning the primary focus of the teacher's professional time.
- B. Hold students to strict account for disorderly conduct.
- C. Exercise supervision over students on the playgrounds and during recess if assigned to such duty.
- D. Take and maintain daily classroom attendance.
- E. Make the decision to promote or retain a student in grade in a common school or to pass or fail a student in a course in high school. Such decisions may be overturned only as provided in A.R.S. [15-342](#).
- F. Comply with all rules, regulations, and policies of the Governing Board that relate to the duties as prescribed.

A teacher shall not use sectarian or denominational books or teach any sectarian doctrines or conduct religious exercises.

A teacher who instructs a course offered under Policy IHAL, Teaching About Religion, in its appropriate historical context and in good faith shall be immune from civil liability and disciplinary action pursuant to section A.R.S. [15-535](#).

A teacher who fails to comply with the above is guilty of unprofessional conduct and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Governing Board and by the State Board of Education.

A teacher who is arrested for or charged with any non-appealable offense listed in section [41-1758.03](#), subsection B and who does not immediately report the arrest or charge to the teacher's supervisor is guilty of unprofessional conduct and shall be immediately dismissed from employment with the School District.

STUDENT SAFETY

Teachers will be responsible for their classes at all times. At no time are students to be left unsupervised. Students are not to be sent on errands from the school premises.

Teachers have the authority to prohibit the use of and/or to confiscate any article that is a hazard to a student or that may damage school property. In the case of an emergency, the teacher will seek help from the principal.

Every student, teacher, and visitor shall wear appropriate protective eyewear while participating in or when observing vocational, technical, industrial arts, art, or laboratory science activities involving exposure to items as listed in A.R.S. [15-151](#).

The Superintendent will establish procedures covering the duty hours of crossing guards, the use of bicycles to and from school and while they are at school, and the conduct of students going to and from school. In addition, school buildings, playgrounds, and equipment will be regularly inspected for health, fire, and safety hazards.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

Adequate and prompt accident reporting is essential if similar accidents are to be prevented. If there are injuries or property damage, prompt reports are also vital in assuring the District of insurance coverage.

Reports will be filed on accidents that take place on school property or that involve school vehicles, students, or staff members on school-sponsored trips, including staff members on authorized school business trips. Such reports are required whether or not there are any immediately evident injuries or damage to property.

Any employee of the District who suffers a job-related injury/accident must file a report with the District business office within five (5) days after the date of

occurrence. Should circumstances render the individual unable to submit such a report within five (5) days, the time limit may be extended.

Injury accidents should be promptly reported to the District's liability carrier determined by the conditions established with the carrier.

(Student Accidents)

Employees are to report to the nurse or office any accident involving a student who is at school.

For any student who is injured on school grounds, in a school building, or in connection with a school-related or approved activity, an accident report form is to be completed by an employee who is at the scene of the accident.

A student who is ill should be sent to the nurse or the office, with an appropriate pass. If a student is sent home (only with parent knowledge), the teacher will be notified. Students are discharged to go home only from the office.

Any special health concern should be reported to the nurse.

A written report of an accident shall be made by the school principal to the Superintendent not later than noon of the school day following the incident. The insurance carrier shall be notified as appropriate.

After reviewing each accident report, the Superintendent will forward the report to the school nurse, who will maintain a file of accident reports.

STUDENT ACCIDENT REPORT

School _____ Date of report _____

School address _____

Name _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Grade _____ Date of Birth _____

Home address _____

Phone _____ Teacher _____

E-mail address _____

Time of accident: Hour _____ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. Date _____

Place of accident: ☐ School building ☐ School grounds ☐ To or from school

☐ Interscholastic athletics

Witness name _____ Address _____

Phone number _____ Title/Position _____

Description of Accident:

What occurred and how did it occur? Using quotation marks appropriately, what did the student state? Where was the student?

Signature of person reporting

continued

Was the parent or other individual notified? ☐ No ☐ Yes When? _____

Name of individual notified _____ How? _____

By whom? _____

First aid treatment _____ By whom? _____

☐ Called 911; Sent to: ☐ Home ☐ Physician ☐ Class ☐ _____ Hospital

How was student transported? _____

☐ District office notified. Time _____ By whom? _____

Location of accident: ☐ Athletic field ☐ Playground ☐ Classroom ☐ Corridor
☐ Cafeteria ☐ Dressing room ☐ Gymnasium ☐ Home ec.
☐ Bus ☐ Science lab ☐ Rest room ☐ School grounds
☐ Shop ☐ Showers ☐ Stairs ☐ Bus stop ☐ Other: _____

Follow-up:

Report to law enforcement agency or fire department? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Agency/Dept. _____ Date of Report: _____

Officer ID Number _____ D.R./I.R. # _____

Agency/Dept. Response _____

Other _____

Total number of days absent: _____ Nature of injury: ☐ Abrasion
☐ Amputation ☐ Animal bite ☐ Avulsed tooth ☐ Fracture
☐ Human bite ☐ Laceration ☐ Puncture ☐ Scratches ☐ Sprain
☐ Strain ☐ Other: _____

Part of body injured: ☐ Ankle ☐ Arm ☐ Back ☐ Clavicle ☐ Elbow
☐ Eye ☐ Face ☐ Finger ☐ Foot ☐ Hand ☐ Head ☐ Knee ☐ Leg
☐ Nose ☐ Scalp ☐ Toe ☐ Tooth ☐ Wrist ☐ Other: _____

Superintendent's signature _____ Date _____ H/A or Nurse signature _____ Date _____

STUDENT BULLYING / HARASSMENT /INTIMIDATION

The District does not tolerate bullying, harassment, or intimidation in any form. Further, the District shall investigate each complaint of bullying, harassment, or intimidation and will take appropriate, timely, and responsive action.

Bullying: Bullying may occur when a student or group of students engages in any form of behavior that includes such acts as intimidation and/or harassment that

- A. has the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property,
- B. is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that the action, behavior, or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment in the form of physical or emotional harm,
- C. occurs when there is a real or perceived imbalance of power or strength,
- D. may constitute a violation of law.

Any student who feels he or she has been the victim of bullying, harassment, or intimidation or suspects other students of being bullied, harassed, or intimidated should file a complaint with the principal or the principal's designee or other school employee. The student's report may be provided verbally or in writing. A student's verbal report will be documented in writing by the employee receiving the report.

Any staff member who becomes aware of or suspects that a student is experiencing bullying, harassment, or intimidation shall immediately notify the principal or the principal's designee. Employees may initially give verbal notice to the principal or the principal's designee but shall submit a written report to the principal or the principal's designee within one (1) school day of the verbal report.

Reprisal directed toward a student or employee for the reporting of a case of bullying, harassment, or intimidation or a suspected case of bullying, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated. Students involved directly or indirectly in reprisal will be disciplined pursuant to Board Policies JK, JKD, and JKE. Any suspected violation of the law will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

Investigation of submitted complaints shall be initiated by the principal or the principal's designee as soon as is feasible, but not later than two (2) school days after the initial report. Each investigation will be comprehensive to the extent determined appropriate by the principal or the principal's designee. In investigating the complaint, the principal or the principal's designee will maintain confidentiality to the extent reasonably possible, subject to the restrictions pertaining to disclosure of personally identifiable student information established in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Each investigation will be documented by the principal or the principal's designee. Documentation will be maintained by the District for at least six (6) years. In the event the District must report incidents to persons other than school officials or law enforcement, all individually identifiable information shall be redacted.

Should the principal or the principal's designee determine that bullying, harassment, or intimidation has occurred discipline will be administered pursuant to Board Policies JK, JKD, and JKE. Regardless of the outcome of the investigation the principal or the principal's designee will meet with the student who reported or was reported as being bullied, harassed, or intimidated to review the findings of the investigation. Additionally, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the involved students will be informed of the findings of the investigation.

The Superintendent is responsible for determining the methods of information delivery to employees and students. The Superintendent shall provide to the school principals, supervisors and all other District employees the information necessary to comply with Governing Board Policy JICK. The information related to bullying, harassment, or intimidation is to include but not be limited to preventive measures, incident reporting, related support services available (proactive and reactive), student rights, employee responsibilities, and the ramifications of not reporting a bullying incident or suspicion of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. The information shall be disseminated to District personnel at the beginning of each year and as the Superintendent otherwise determines to be appropriate.

The principal or the principal's designee is responsible to ensure information related to bullying, harassment, or intimidation is disseminated to students, and parents and guardians. The information shall include but not be limited to Governing Board policy, incident reporting, support services (proactive and reactive) and student's rights. The dissemination of this information will

- A. occur during the first (1st) week of each school year,
- B. be posted in each classroom and in common areas of the school,
- C. be summarized in the student handbook and on the District website, and
- D. be provided to each incoming student during the school year at the time of registration.

The principal or the principal's designee is also responsible to ensure information is disseminated to all students who report bullying, harassment, or intimidation, including, at the time the incident is reported, a written copy of student rights, protections and support services available to the student; a copy of the report shall also be given to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

The principal or the principal's designee is responsible for the maintenance of documentation related to bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

HAZING

A person who reports or complains regarding hazing may report or complain directly to the school administrator or to a professional staff member. The professional staff member receiving the report/complaint shall retrieve sufficient detail from the person to complete the form designated for such purpose. At a minimum the report/complaint shall be put in writing containing the identifying information on the complainant and such specificity of names, places and times as to permit an investigation to be carried out. When a professional staff member receives the information, the staff member will transmit a report to the school administrator or supervising administrator not later than the next school day following the day the staff member receives the report/complaint.

The report/complaint will be investigated by the school administrator or a supervising administrator. The procedures to be followed are:

- An investigation of the reported incident or activity shall be made within ten (10) school days when school is in session or within fifteen (15) days during which the school offices are open for business when school is not in session. Extension of the time line may only be by necessity as determined by the Superintendent.
- The investigator shall meet with the person who reported/complained at or before the end of the time period and shall discuss the conclusions and actions to be taken as a result of the investigation. Confidentiality of records and student information shall be observed in the process of making such a report.
- The investigator shall prepare a written report of the findings and a copy of the report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Where disciplinary action is necessary, District policies shall be followed.

STAFF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Employment of Close Relatives

No person employed by the District may be directly supervised by a close relative (father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, or spouse). This policy will apply for summer or part-time work as well as for full-time employment.

A dependent of a Board member (a person more than half of whose support is obtained from a Board member) cannot be hired in the District except by consent of the Board. The spouse of a Board member cannot be employed by the District.

Business Relations

Any employee who has, or whose relative has, a substantial interest in any decision of the District shall make known this interest in the official records of the District, and shall refrain from participating in any manner as an employee in such a decision.

Refrain from participating in any manner means more than just refraining from making a final decision. It means participating in any way in the process leading up to a decision. An employee with a conflict of interest must not make recommendations, give advice, or otherwise communicate in any manner with anyone involved in the decision-making process.

Vendor Relations

No employee of the District will accept gifts from any person, group, or entity doing, or desiring to do, business with the District as described in Policy DJ, purchasing (Purchasing Ethics Policy).

District Purchases from Employees

The District must comply with competitive purchasing rules for any acquisition of goods or services from District employees regardless of the dollar amount. The District may acquire equipment, material, supplies, or services from its employees only under an award or contract let after public competitive bidding [A.R.S. [38-503](#); A.G.O. 106-002]. The requirement applies to any purchase using District monies, including extracurricular activities fees, tax credit contributions, and monies held in trust by the District such as student activities monies, when a District employee acts as the vendor. Oral and written quotations do not satisfy the public competitive bidding requirements.

Employee Training and Acknowledgement of Understanding

The Governing Board may require annual employee training to ensure District conflict of interest policies are communicated to employees and acknowledged as

received and understood. Each employee shall complete and sign the conflict of interest form, GBEEA-E, as determined by the District.

The District will investigate allegations of inadequate disclosure of substantial interests and/or inappropriate participation when a substantial interest may exist.

DRUG - FREE WORKPLACE

No employee shall violate the law or District policy in the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use, on or in the workplace, of alcohol or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled substance, as defined in schedules I through V of section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. 1308.11 through 1308.15.

Workplace includes any school building or any school premises and any school-owned vehicle or any other school-approved vehicle used to transport staff members or students to and from school or school activities or on school business. Off school property, the workplace includes any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function where students or staff members are under the jurisdiction of the District. In addition, the workplace shall include all property owned, leased, or used by the District for any educational or District business purpose.

Any employee who has been convicted under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace, as defined above, shall notify the supervisor within five (5) days thereof that such conviction has occurred.

As a condition of employment, each employee shall abide by the terms of the District policy respecting a drug-free workplace.

Any employee who violates this policy in any manner is subject to discipline, which may include, but is not limited to, dismissal.

DRUG - FREE WORKPLACE

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that it is a violation of Policy GBEC for any employee to violate the law or District policy in the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use, on or in the workplace, of alcohol or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled substance, as defined in schedules I through V of section 202 of the

Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. 1308.11 through 1308.15.

Workplace includes any school building or any school premises and any school-owned vehicle or any other school-approved vehicle used to transport staff members or students to and from school or school activities or on school business. Off school property, the workplace includes any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function where students or staff members are under the jurisdiction of the District. In addition, the workplace shall include all property owned, leased, or used by the District for any educational or District business purpose.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that it is a condition of your employment that you will comply with Policy GBEC, and will notify your supervisor of your conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace, not later than five (5) days after such conviction.

Any employee who violates the terms of the District's drug-free workplace policy in any manner is subject to discipline, which may include, but is not limited to, dismissal and/or referral for prosecution.

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NONMEDICAL USE OR ABUSE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Employee Drug Use, Abuse or Possession

The nonmedical use, abuse, or possession of drugs and/or use or possession of alcohol is forbidden on District property or at District-sponsored activities. Employees determined to be in possession of, using, or abusing drugs or alcohol shall be reported immediately to the employee's principal or supervisor. The Superintendent shall be notified immediately.

The Superintendent shall conduct an investigation in consultation with legal counsel as necessary. Employees that violate this policy may be disciplined up to and including termination. If the investigation shows sufficient evidence to suggest that the employee was involved with distribution or otherwise in violation of the law, law enforcement authorities shall be notified.

Medical Marijuana

The District recognizes Arizona's medical marijuana law and shall not discriminate against a person in hiring, termination or imposition of any term or condition of employment or otherwise penalize a person on the basis of the person's status as

an eligible medical marijuana cardholder, or as a registered qualifying patient, having a positive drug test for marijuana components or metabolites, unless the person used, possessed or was impaired by marijuana on District property, at a District event, or during the hours of the persons regular or extended hours of employment, or as prescribed by law.

STAFF PERSONAL SECURITY AND SAFETY

Threats

Any employee who is threatened with harm by an individual or a group while carrying out assigned duties shall immediately notify the school principal or supervisor. The principal or supervisor shall then immediately notify the Superintendent's office of the threat and together they shall take immediate steps in cooperation with the employee to provide every reasonable precaution for the employee's safety. Precautionary steps, including any advisable legal action, shall be reported to the Superintendent's office at the earliest possible time.

Eye Protective Devices

Every student, teacher, and visitor in public schools shall wear appropriate eye protective ware while participating in or when observing vocational, technical, industrial arts, art, or laboratory science activities involving exposure to:

- A. Molten metals or other molten materials.
- B. Cutting, shaping, and grinding of materials.
- C. Heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials.
- D. Welding fabrication processes.
- E. Explosive materials.
- F. Caustic solutions.
- G. Radiation materials.

The Board shall equip the schools with eye protective ware.

Schools may receive and expend federal, state, and local monies to provide eye protective devices.

For purposes of this procedure, *eye protective ware* means devices meeting the standards of the U.S.A. Standard Safety Code for head, eye, and respiratory protection, Z21-1959, and subsequent revisions thereof, approved by the United States of America Standards Institute, Inc.

Face Coverings

All persons, including, but not limited to, staff, students, vendors, visitors, and volunteers, shall wear a face covering while on any District property, in any District facility, at any District event, whether indoors or outdoors, and in any District vehicle, including District busses or vehicles rented or leased by the District when possible and directed to do so by the school employee responsible for supervising the facility, or event.

Face coverings should not be worn by:

- A. Children under the age of two (2);
- B. Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- C. Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The Superintendent may make exceptions to the requirement to wear a face covering while keeping in mind the health and safety of everyone involved.

Face coverings are to fully cover a person's nose and mouth, ideally fitting snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and under the chin. They are to remain affixed in place without the use of one's hands and are to not have holes. They are to be laundered regularly or disposed of appropriately.

A face covering does not replace the need for frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing physical distancing (six feet [6'] away) to the extent possible. Individuals are to be reminded to avoid touching their cloth face covering and to wash their hands frequently. To ensure the proper use of cloth face coverings, staff and students are to be educated on how to wear and care for their cloth face coverings.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Board recognizes its particular responsibility to provide opportunity for the continual professional growth of its certificated staff. Such opportunities include, within budgetary limitation, special in-service training courses, workshops, school or District visitations, conferences, professional library, and assistance from supervisors and consultants.

In line with such opportunities, the Board encourages educational research by staff members when the conduct of the project does not conflict with the major functions of the schools.

In-Service Training Courses

The Superintendent may establish local in-service training courses for teachers and other certificated employees in the schools, credit for which may be granted beyond the bachelor's degree in the manner that graduate courses in institutions of higher learning are taken into account.

This credit may be granted in cases where the scope, level, quality, and content of the local course is equal to college graduate work and the instructor is qualified to teach on the college level. The Superintendent may establish reasonable rules by which to select such courses and designate them for credit. The maximum number of credits earned in such courses that may be counted toward the salary differentials is one-half (1/2) the credits required for each column of the salary schedule. The number of credits to be granted for each course shall be determined by the Superintendent.

The attendance of teachers in these courses shall be recorded, and no credit shall be allowed unless the teacher has completed the assigned work of the course.

If the District compensates the staff member for attending in-service training courses, no credit shall be allowed for advancement on the salary schedule.

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Measles (Rubella)

It shall be a condition of employment that, unless exempted, all employees, including substitutes, shall present proof of immunity to rubella (measles) prior to reporting for work.

Evidence of immunity to measles shall consist of:

- A record of immunization against measles with a live virus vaccine given on or after the first birthday; or
- A statement, signed by a licensed physician or a state or local health officer, that affirms serologic evidence of having had measles.
- Anyone born prior to January 1, 1957 shall be considered to be immune to measles. (Rubella)

German Measles (Rubella)

Similarly, unless exempted, all employees, including substitutes, shall present proof of immunity to rubella (German measles) prior to reporting for work.

Evidence of immunity to rubella shall consist of:

- A record of immunization against rubella given on or after the first birthday;
or
- A statement, signed by a licensed physician or a state or local health officer, that affirms serologic evidence of having had rubella.

General Information

Exempted employees include those with medical contraindications for receiving vaccines and those who refuse immunization for religious reasons.

Nonimmune employees, including those who utilize the exemption, shall, in the event of an outbreak of either disease, be put on leave without pay, or they may use accumulated sick leave during the period they are excluded from work due to the outbreak. If a staff member does not have any earned sick leave, a salary deduction of one (1) contract day will be made for each day of authorized leave used.

Unless legally exempted, all staff members must show proof of immunity to measles and rubella [see GBGCA].

Measles (Rubella)

Acceptable proof of immunity to measles shall consist of:

- A record of immunization against measles with a live virus vaccine given on or after the first birthday; or
- A statement, signed by a licensed physician or a state or local health officer, that affirms serologic evidence of having had measles.
- Anyone born prior to January 1, 1957 shall be considered to be immune to measles. (Rubella)

German Measles (Rubella)

Evidence of immunity to rubella shall consist of:

- A record of immunization against rubella given on or after the first birthday;
or
- A statement, signed by a licensed physician or a state or local health officer, that affirms serologic evidence of having had rubella.

General Information

In the event of an outbreak of either disease, memory of immunization date is not acceptable; medical documentation of immunity is required.

Staff members who are not in compliance shall be put on leave without pay until they are in compliance.

In the event of an outbreak of measles or rubella, nonimmune staff members, including those who utilize the exemption, must be excluded from school.

Implementing Policy

The District shall generate a list of all employees to identify those who need proof of immunity to measles.

The Superintendent shall distribute information about the District's policy on measles and rubella.

The Superintendent shall collect proof of immunity from staff members and compile a list denoting immunity or non-immunity of staff members.

Nonimmune staff members shall be referred for vaccine to a physician or the County Health Department. Their records will be updated as they receive vaccine.

Maintaining Policy

Throughout each school year, new staff members shall be required to show proof of immunity before employment.

A list of non-immune employees shall be maintained and updated throughout the year.

STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Handling Body Fluids in School

The following guidelines are meant to provide simple and effective precautions against transmission of disease for all people potentially exposed to the blood or body fluids of any person (student and/or school employee). No distinction is made between body fluids from persons with a known disease or those from persons without symptoms or with an undiagnosed disease.

The body fluids of all people should be considered to contain potentially infectious agents. The term *body fluids* include blood, semen, drainage from scrapes and cuts, feces, urine, vomit, respiratory secretions (such as nasal discharge), and saliva.

- Whenever possible, avoid direct skin contact with body fluids. Disposable gloves are recommended when direct hand contact with body fluids is

anticipated. If extensive contact is made with body fluids, hands must be washed afterwards. Gloves used for this purpose should be put in a plastic bag, secured, and disposed of daily.

- If direct skin contact does occur, hands and other affected skin areas of all exposed people shall be routinely washed with soap and water.
- Proper handwashing requires the use of soap and water and vigorous washing under a stream of running water for approximately ten (10) seconds.
- Clothing and other non-disposable items that are soaked through with body fluids should be rinsed and placed in plastic bags. If presoaking is required to remove stains, rinse or soak the item in cold water prior to bagging. Clothing should be sent home with the student for washing, with appropriate directions to parents and teachers (see *laundry instructions below*). Always wear gloves when handling items that have come in contact with body fluids.
- Contaminated disposable items shall be handled with disposable gloves, put in a plastic bag, secured, and disposed of daily.
- Body fluid spills on hard surfaces (i.e., floors, countertops, books, et cetera) shall be disinfected with bleach (diluted to ten [10] parts water and one [1] part bleach). Gloves shall always be worn during cleanup.
- Cleaning equipment:
 - Non-disposable cleaning equipment (such as dust pans, brooms, and buckets) shall be disinfected by thoroughly rinsing in diluted bleach (ten [10] parts water and one [1] part bleach). Mops shall be soaked in the disinfectant after use and then rinsed with hot water. The disinfectant solution shall be promptly disposed of down a drain pipe.
 - Disposable cleaning equipment (such as paper towels, the vacuum bag, or sweepings) shall be placed in plastic bags, secured, and disposed of daily. No special handling is required for vacuuming equipment. Gloves shall always be used during cleanup.
- Laundry instructions:
 - Clothing soaked with body fluids shall be washed separately from other items. Presoaking may be required for heavily soiled clothing. Otherwise, wash and dry as usual. If the material can be bleached, add one-half (1/2) cup of household bleach to the wash cycle. If the material is not colorfast, add one-half (1/2) cup of all-fabric bleach to the wash cycle.

STAFF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Board recognizes the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, school time, personnel, equipment, supplies, materials, buildings, or other resources may not be used to influence the outcomes of elections.

A staff member, a person acting on behalf of the District or a person who aids another person acting on behalf of the District shall be guided by the following:

- A. No employee while on duty shall engage in political activities upon property under the jurisdiction of the Board.
- B. The prohibition on the use of public resources to influence the outcome of bond, budget override and other tax-related elections includes the use of School District-focused promotional expenditures that occur after an election is called and through election day. This prohibition does not include routine School District communications which are messages or advertisements that are germane to the functions of the School District and that maintain frequency, scope and distribution consistent with past practices or are necessary for public safety.
- C. Campaigning and other election activities must be done in off-duty hours, when not working in an official capacity or representing the District, and without the participation of District employees or students acting in the capacity of District or school representatives.
- D. Invitations to participate in election activities on a given campus, except when extended by groups leasing or using school facilities, shall be permitted only when such invitations are to all candidates for the office. The rental use of District property by a private person or entity that may lawfully attempt to influence the outcome of an election is permitted if it does not occur at the same time and place as a related District-sponsored forum or debate.
- E. Political circulars or petitions may not be posted or distributed in school.
- F. The collection of campaign funds and/or the solicitation of campaign workers is prohibited on school property.
- G. Students may not be given written materials to influence the outcome of an election or to advocate support for or opposition to pending or proposed legislation.

H. Students may not be involved in writing, addressing or distribution of material intended to influence the outcome of an election or to advocate support for or opposition to pending or proposed legislation.

Employees of the District may not use the authority of their position to influence the vote or political activities of any subordinate employee.

District employees who hold elective or appointive office are not entitled to time off from their school duties for reasons incident to such offices, except as such time may qualify under the leave policies of the Board.

The discussion and study of politics and political issues, when such discussion and study are appropriate to classroom studies, are not precluded under the provisions of this policy.

District employees shall be permitted time as provided in statute, if required, to vote in the primary or general election.

The District may distribute informational reports on a proposed budget override election as provided in A.R.S. [15-481](#) and on a proposed bond election as provided in A.R.S. [15-491](#) if those informational reports present factual information in a neutral manner, except for those arguments allowed under A.R.S. [15-481](#).

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the District from producing and distributing impartial information on elections other than District budget override elections or reporting on official actions of the Governing Board.

The District shall not make expenditures for literature associated with a campaign conducted by or for a District official.

DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, AND DISMISSAL OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

Categories of Misconduct

Certificated staff members may be disciplined for infractions that include, but are not limited to, the following categories:

- A. Engaging in unprofessional conduct.
- B. Committing fraud in securing appointment.
- C. Exhibiting incompetency in their work.
- D. Exhibiting inefficiency in their work.
- E. Exhibiting improper attitudes.

- F. Neglecting their duties.
- G. Engaging in acts of insubordination.
- H. Engaging in acts of child abuse or child molestation.
- I. Engaging in acts of dishonesty.
- J. Being under the influence of alcohol while on duty.
- K. Engaging in the illicit use of narcotics or habit-forming drugs.
- L. Being absent without authorized leave.
- M. Engaging in discourteous treatment of the public.
- N. Engaging in improper political activity.
- O. Engaging in willful disobedience.
- P. Being involved in misuse or unauthorized use of school property.
- Q. Being involved in excessive absenteeism.
- R. Carrying or possessing a weapon on school grounds unless they are peace officers or have obtained specific authorization from the appropriate school administrator.

Statutory Requirements

Certificated staff members disciplined under A.R.S. [15-341](#), A.R.S. [15-539](#), or other applicable statutes:

- A. May not be suspended with or without pay for a period exceeding ten (10) school days under A.R.S. [15-341](#).
- B. May be suspended without pay for a period of time greater than ten (10) school days or dismissed under A.R.S. [15-539](#).
- C. Shall be disciplined under procedures that provide for notice, hearing, and appeal, subject to the requirements of A.R.S. [15-341](#) or A.R.S. [15-539](#), whichever is appropriate.
- D. Shall, if disciplined under A.R.S. [15-539](#) or other applicable statutes, excluding A.R.S. [15-341](#), receive notice in writing served upon the certificated staff member personally or by United States registered or certified mail addressed to the employee's last-known address. A copy of charges specifying instances of behavior and the acts of omissions

constituting the charge(s), together with a copy of all applicable statutes, shall be attached to the notice.

E. Shall have the right to a hearing in accordance with the following:

1. *Suspension under A.R.S. [15-341](#)*. The supervising administrator will schedule a meeting not less than two (2) days nor more than ten (10) days after the date the certificated staff member receives the notice.

2. *Dismissal or dismissal with suspension included under A.R.S. [15-539](#)*. A certificated staff member's written request for a hearing shall be filed with the Board within ten (10) days after service of notice. The filing of a timely request shall suspend the imposition of a suspension without pay or a dismissal pending completion of the hearing.

General Provisions for Discipline Under A.R.S. [15-341](#)

General provisions for discipline are as follows:

A. *Informal consultation*. Nothing contained herein will limit a supervising administrator's prerogative to engage in informal consultation with a certificated employee to discuss matters of concern related to the employee's performance, conduct, et cetera; however, when it is apparent that disciplinary action toward a certificated employee is likely to become a part of the certificated staff member's personnel record as permitted by A.R.S. [15-341](#), the procedures outlined herein shall be followed.

B. *Persons authorized to impose discipline*. Any supervising administrator who is the immediate or primary supervisor of a certificated staff member is authorized to impose a penalty or penalties, short of dismissal. Only the Board may dismiss a certificated staff member.

C. *Notice*. Any person who is required by this policy to give written notice to any other person affected by this policy may do so by any means reasonably calculated to give the recipient actual knowledge of the notice within a reasonable amount of time. When time is calculated from the date a notice is received, the notice is deemed to be received on the date it is hand delivered or three (3) calendar days after it is placed in the mail.

D. *Administrative discretion*. In adopting these policies and procedures, it is the intention of the District that they be interpreted and applied in a reasonable fashion. The policies and regulations are not intended to restrict or eliminate the discretion traditionally afforded to supervising administrators to determine whether discipline is appropriate. Supervising administrators are therefore directed to continue to use reasonable discretion in determining whether a particular alleged violation merits discipline.

E. *Right not to impose discipline.* The District reserves the right not to discipline a certificated staff member for conduct that violates this policy.

F. *Definition of work days.* For the purposes of this policy, a work day is any day that the District's central administrative office is open for business.

G. *Additional reasons for discipline.* A certificated staff member may be disciplined for conduct that has occurred but that, at or near the time of misconduct, was not the subject of or identified as a reason for a specific proceeding under this policy.

Procedure for Discipline Under A.R.S. [15-341](#)

The following procedures will be used to impose any discipline that 1) shall become a part of the certificated staff member's personnel record and 2) is permitted under A.R.S. [15-341](#):

Step 1 - Notice:

A. Upon the supervising administrator's determination of the existence of cause to impose discipline, the supervising administrator shall notify the certificated staff member of intent to impose discipline. The notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person or by first-class mail. The notice shall include the following:

1. The conduct or omission on the part of the certificated staff member that constitutes the reason for discipline.
2. A scheduled meeting time between the supervising administrator and the certificated staff member. Such meeting shall be scheduled not more than ten (10) working days after the date the certificated staff member receives the notice.
3. A statement of the disciplinary action the supervising administrator intends to impose, including, if applicable, the number of days of suspension with or without pay.
4. Copies of any available relevant documentation, at the discretion of the supervising administrator.

Step 2 - Discipline Hearing:

A. At the hearing, the supervising administrator shall discuss with the certificated staff member the conduct that warrants disciplinary action and shall provide the certificated staff member with any appropriate evidence and a copy of relevant documentation if not previously provided.

B. The supervising administrator shall conduct the hearing in an informal manner, without adherence to the rules of evidence and procedure required in judicial proceedings.

Step 3 - Decision:

At the hearing, or within ten (10) working days following the hearing, the supervising administrator shall, in writing, inform the certificated staff member of the decision. If the decision is to impose discipline, written notice of the discipline shall be enclosed. The written notice of the decision shall state that a copy of the notice, decision, and a record of the disciplinary action shall be placed in the certificated staff member's personnel file and shall specify the date the discipline shall be imposed unless the certificated staff member files a written request for appeal within five (5) working days after the decision is delivered to the certificated staff member. If the certificated staff member requests an appeal of the decision, the imposition of any discipline shall be suspended pending the outcome of the appeal.

Step 4 - Appeal:

Discipline imposed may be appealed at the next organizational level, in writing, to the appropriate assistant superintendent or the Superintendent. Only when the discipline is determined by the Superintendent shall the appeal be to the Board, which, at its discretion, may appoint a hearing officer. The appeal shall contain a brief statement of the reasons why the certificated staff member believes the administrator's decision is incorrect. Appeal is limited to one (1) organizational level above the level of the supervising administrator who imposed the discipline.

The appeal shall specifically describe the part of the determination with which the certificated staff member disagrees:

- A. Determination was founded upon error of construction or application of any pertinent regulations or policies.
- B. Determination was unsupported by any evidence as disclosed by the entire record.
- C. Determination was materially affected by unlawful procedure.
- D. Determination was based on violation of any statutory or constitutional right.
- E. Determination was arbitrary and capricious.
- F. The penalty was excessive.

The supervising administrator, the Superintendent, or, when appropriate, the Board or the Board-appointed hearing officer may, at the conclusion of the appeal, uphold the discipline, modify the decision, or refer the matter back to the level from which it was appealed for rehearing and additional information. Such decision, along with specific direction as to the effective date of any discipline, shall be communicated to the certificated staff member within a reasonable amount of time following the appeal, not to exceed seven (7) working days.

The assigned hearing officer shall, by use of a mechanical device, make a record of the appeal hearing.

This policy, under A.R.S. [15-341](#), does not apply to dismissal of a certificated staff member except to the extent that the Board may find, subsequent to dismissal proceedings, that a lesser form of discipline as set forth in this policy should be imposed.

Not all administrative actions regarding a certificated staff member are considered "discipline," even though they may involve alleged or possible violations by the certificated staff member. This policy addresses only discipline and has no application to any of the following:

- A. The certificated staff member evaluation procedure or the resulting evaluations as they pertain to the adequacy of the certificated staff member's classroom performance.
- B. Letters or memorandums directed to a certificated staff member containing directives or instructions for future conduct.
- C. Counseling of a certificated staff member concerning expectations of future conduct.
- D. Nonrenewal of a contract of a certificated staff member employed by the District for less than the major portion of three (3) consecutive school years (non-continuing certificated staff member).

**General Provisions for Suspension
Without Pay or Dismissal Under
A.R.S. [15-539](#)**

Step 1 - Notice:

- A. The Governing Board, except as otherwise provided by A.R.S. [15-539](#), shall upon receipt of a written statement of charges from the Superintendent that cause exists for the suspension of a certificated teacher without pay for a period longer than ten (10) school days or dismissal, shall give notice to the teacher of the Board's intention to suspend without pay or dismiss the teacher at the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of service of the notice.

1. If charges presented to the Board for dismissal of a certificated person allege immoral conduct, the charge or a resignation involving such charges shall be reported to the Department of Education.

2. Whenever the statement of charges by the Superintendent allege immoral or unprofessional conduct as the cause for dismissal, the Board may adopt a resolution to file a complaint with the State Department of Education. Pending disciplinary action by the State Board, the certificated teacher may be reassigned by the Superintendent or the Governing Board may place the teacher on administrative leave and give notice to the teacher of the administrative leave of absence pursuant to A.R.S. [15-540](#).

3. As used in this policy, immoral conduct means any conduct that is contrary to the moral standards of the community and that reflects an unfitness to perform the duties assigned to the certificated staff member.

B. The Governing Board, upon adoption of a written statement charging a certificated teacher with cause for suspension without pay or dismissal, may immediately place the teacher on administrative leave of absence and give the teacher notice of the administrative leave of absence.

C. Written notice of the administrative leave of absence shall be served on the teacher personally or by United States registered mail addressed to the teacher at the teacher's last known address.

Step2– Hearing for Suspension Without Pay or Dismissal:

A. The Governing Board shall decide whether to hold a hearing on the dismissal or suspension of a certificated teacher without pay for a period of time longer than ten (10) days as provided in A.R.S. [15-541](#).

The Governing Board provides, *by policy*, that all hearings conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted before a hearing officer.

B. The Board shall designate a hearing officer to:

1. hold the hearing,
2. hear the evidence,
3. prepare a record of the hearing, and
4. issue a recommendation to the Board for action.

C. If the parties cannot mutually agree on a hearing officer, a hearing officer shall be selected by the Governing Board from a list provided by the State Department of Education or the American Arbitration Association.

D. A hearing held pursuant to A.R.S. [15-541](#) may not be conducted by any hearing officer having a personal interest which would conflict with the hearing officer's objectivity in the hearing.

E. The hearing shall be held:

1. not less than fifteen (15) days, nor
2. not more than thirty (30) days.
3. after the request is filed, unless all parties to the hearing mutually agree to a different hearing date.

F. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given to the teacher not less than three (3) days before the date of the hearing.

G. The teacher may request that the hearing be conducted in public or private.

H. The Governing Board shall provide any officer, appointee, or employee to be considered or discussed at a meeting with written notice of the executive session as is appropriate but not less than twenty-four (24) hours for the officer, appointee, or employee to determine whether the discussion or consideration should occur at a public meeting.

I. At the hearing the teacher may appear in person and by counsel, if desired, and may present any testimony, evidence or statements, either oral or in writing, in the teacher's behalf.

J. An official record of the hearing, including all testimony recorded manually or by mechanical device, and exhibits shall be prepared by the Governing Board or the hearing officer.

K. The teacher who is the subject of the hearing may not request that the testimony be transcribed unless the teacher agrees in writing to pay the actual cost of the transcription.

L. Within ten (10) days after a hearing conducted by a hearing officer, the hearing officer shall deliver a written recommendation to the Governing Board that includes findings of fact and conclusions.

M. Parties to the hearing have the right to object to the findings of the hearing officer and present oral and written arguments to the Governing Board.

N. The Governing Board has an additional ten (10) days to determine whether good and just cause existed for the notice of dismissal or suspension and shall render its decision accordingly, either affirming or withdrawing the notice of suspension or dismissal.

Good and just cause does not include religious or political beliefs or affiliations unless they are in violation of the oath of the teacher.

Additional Provisions and Conditions

During the pendency of a hearing, neither the certificated staff member nor the supervising administrator shall contact the Superintendent or a Board member to discuss the merits of the supervising administrator's recommendation or charges and proposed discipline except as provided by this policy. No attempt shall be made during such period to discuss the merits of the charges with the person designated to act as hearing officer.

The Governing Board shall keep confidential the name of a student involved in a hearing for dismissal, discipline, or action on a teacher's certificate, with exceptions as noted in A.R.S. [15-551](#).

Amendments. The District reserves the right to amend this policy in any way at any time. Any amendment shall have prospective application only.

Severability. If any provision of this policy is held to be invalid for any reason, such action shall not invalidate the remainder of this policy. If any provision of this policy conflicts with any provisions in any other policies adopted by the District, the provisions of this policy shall prevail.

Teachers Working Under Short-Term Certification

A teacher who holds a teaching intern certificate, an emergency teaching certificate or another type of nonstandard certificate, that is valid for one (1) year or less, may be dismissed by the Board effective ten (10) days after delivery of the notice of dismissal to the teacher without complying with the requirements of A.R.S. conditions found in [15-537](#), [15-538](#), or [15-541](#). Notice of the Board's authority to dismiss pursuant to this shall be included in each teacher's contract.

STAFF CONDUCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING NONAPPEALABLE OFFENSES

Notice is herein provided, in accordance with A.R.S. [15-550](#), that any employee of a public school district or charter school in this state who is arrested for or charged with one (1) or more of the offenses listed below as non-appealable offenses precluding that person from receiving a fingerprint clearance card shall immediately report the arrest or charge to the person's supervisor or the person shall be immediately dismissed from employment with the public school district or charter school. A person dismissed from employment for failure to report being arrested for or charged with a non-appealable offense has no right to appeal under the provisions of A.R.S. [15-539](#), subsection F.

1. Sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult.
2. Incest.
3. First or second degree murder.
4. Sexual assault.
5. Sexual exploitation of a minor.
6. Sexual exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
7. Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.
8. Commercial sexual exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
9. Child prostitution as prescribed in section [13-3212](#).
10. Child abuse.
11. Abuse of a vulnerable adult.
12. Sexual conduct with a minor.
13. Molestation of a child.
14. Molestation of a vulnerable adult.
15. A dangerous crime against children as defined in section [13-705](#).
16. Exploitation of minors involving drug offenses.

17. Taking a child for the purpose of prostitution as prescribed in section [13-3206](#).
18. Neglect or abuse of a vulnerable adult.
19. Sex trafficking.
20. Sexual abuse.
21. Production, publication, sale, possession and presentation of obscene items as prescribed in section [13-3502](#).
22. Furnishing harmful items to minors as prescribed in section [13-3506](#).
23. Furnishing harmful items to minors by internet activity as prescribed in section [13-3506.01](#).
24. Obscene or indecent telephone communications to minors for commercial purposes as prescribed in section [13-3512](#).
25. Luring a minor for sexual exploitation.
26. Enticement of persons for purposes of prostitution.
27. Procurement by false pretenses of person for purposes of prostitution.
28. Procuring or placing persons in a house of prostitution.
29. Receiving earnings of a prostitute.
30. Causing one's spouse to become a prostitute.
31. Detention of persons in a house of prostitution for debt.
32. Keeping or residing in a house of prostitution or employment in prostitution.
33. Pandering.
34. Transporting persons for the purpose of prostitution, polygamy and concubinage.
35. Portraying adult as a minor as prescribed in section [13-3555](#).
36. Admitting minors to public displays of sexual conduct as prescribed in section [13-3558](#).
37. Unlawful sale or purchase of children.

38. Child bigamy.

Further, an employee who is convicted of one (1) or more of the above listed offenses shall immediately:

- A. Surrender any certificates issued by the department of education.
- B. Notify the person's employer or potential employer of the conviction.
- C. Notify the department of public safety of the conviction.
- D. Surrender the person's fingerprint clearance card.

STAFF GRIEVANCES

Definitions

A *grievance* is a complaint by a District employee alleging a violation or misinterpretation, as to the employee, of any District policy or regulation that directly and specifically governs the employee's terms and conditions of employment. The term *grievance* shall not apply to any matter for which the method of review is prescribed by law, or the Governing Board is without authority to act. The suspension or dismissal of employees is covered by statute and, therefore, is not a grievable matter. Assignment, reassignment, or transfer of an employee to another position or duties is not grievable beyond the Superintendent unless there is a reduction in compensation or the Superintendent requests that it go to the Board.

A *grievant* shall be any employee of the District filing a grievance.

Terms and conditions of employment means the hours of employment, the compensation therefore, including fringe benefits, and the employer's personnel policies directly affecting the employee. In the case of professional employees, the term does not include educational policies of the District. A *day* is any day during which the District conducts business. The *immediate supervisor* is the lowest-level administrator having line supervisory authority over the grievant.

Informal Level

Before filing a formal written grievance, the grievant must attempt to resolve the matter by one (1) or more informal conferences with the immediate supervisor. The first of these informal conferences must be conducted within ten (10) days after the employee knew, or should have known, of the act or omission giving rise to the grievance. A second or any subsequent conference must occur

within five (5) days after the initial informal conference, or any subsequent conference.

Formal Level

Level I. Within fifteen (15) days after the employee knew, or should have known, of the act or omission giving rise to the grievance, the grievant must present the grievance in writing to the immediate supervisor.

The grievance shall be a clear, concise statement of the circumstances giving rise to the grievance, a citation of the specific article, section, and paragraph of the policy or regulation that directly and specifically governs the employee's terms and conditions of employment that are alleged to have been violated, the decision rendered at the informal conference, and the specific remedy sought.

The immediate supervisor shall communicate a decision to the employee in writing within five (5) days after receiving the grievance.

Within the above time limits either party may request a personal conference to attempt to resolve the matter.

Level II. In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the decision at Level I, the decision may be appealed to the Superintendent within five (5) days after receipt of the decision.

The appeal shall include a copy of the original grievance, the decision rendered, and a clear, concise statement of the reasons for the appeal. The Superintendent shall communicate a decision within five (5) days after receiving the appeal. Either the grievant or the Superintendent may request a personal conference within the above time limits.

Level III. If the grievant is not satisfied with the decision at Level II, the grievant may, within five (5) days, submit an appeal in writing to the Superintendent for consideration by the Governing Board.

General Provisions

Section 1. Failure at any step of this procedure to appeal a grievance to the next step within the specified time limits shall be deemed an acceptance of the decision rendered at that step, and there shall be no further right of appeal. Failure to file a grievance within fifteen (15) days after the employee knew, or should have known, of the circumstances upon which the grievance is based shall constitute a waiver of that grievance.

Section 2. The filing or pendency of any grievance under the provisions of this policy shall in no way operate to impede, delay, or interfere with the jurisdiction of the Governing Board or the Superintendent.

PROFESSIONAL / SUPPORT STAFF SICK LEAVE

Sick leave for District personnel is a designated amount of compensated leave that is to be granted to a staff member who, through personal or family illness, injury, or quarantine, is unable to perform the duties assigned.

The employee shall provide notice of the need to use sick leave through means established by the Superintendent which may include the following information:

- A. Attestation the sick leave is being used for a purpose that complies with this policy.
- B. Expected dates and hours of absence.
- C. Where the staff member may be contacted during the leave.

When the use of accrued paid sick leave is not foreseeable, the employee is expected to provide notice of the need for such sick leave by either contacting his or her supervisor or the Superintendent prior to the commencement of the employee's regularly scheduled work day. In the event that circumstances prevent such advance notice, then the employee (or have a member of the employee's family or a third party) shall provide such notice. It is the intent that the employee provides notice of the need to use earned sick leave where the need is not foreseeable, as soon as it is possible. This allows the District an opportunity to make appropriate arrangements caused by the unexpected absence. Only in extreme circumstances as determined by the Superintendent, will this required notice be considered met if the employee (or family member or third party) fails to notify the Superintendent or supervisor by the close of the business day that sick leave was taken.

Use of Earned Paid Sick Leave

Earned paid sick leave shall be provided to an employee by the District for:

- A. An employee's mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; an employee's need for medical diagnosis, care, or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; an employee's need for preventive medical care;
- B. Care of a family member with a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; care of a family member who needs medical diagnosis, care, or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; are of a family member who needs preventive medical care.

C. Reasons related to child care, domestic violence, sexual violence, abuse or stalking, and legal services as described in A.R.S. [23-373](#).

Earned paid sick leave shall be provided upon the request of an employee. Such request may be made orally, in writing, by electronic means or by any other means as determined by the Superintendent. When possible, the request shall include the expected duration of the absence.

When the use of earned paid sick leave is foreseeable, the employee shall make a good faith effort to provide notice of the need for such time to the District in advance of the use of the earned paid sick leave and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the use of earned paid sick leave in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the operations of the District.

The District shall provide a written procedure for the employee to provide notice.

The District may not require, as a condition of an employee's taking earned paid sick leave, that the employee search for or find a replacement worker to cover the hours during which the employee is using earned paid sick leave.

Earned paid sick leave may be used in increments as small as fifteen (15) minutes.

For earned paid sick leave of three (3) or more consecutive work days, the Superintendent or designee may require reasonable documentation that the earned paid sick leave has been used for a purpose covered by A, B, or C above. Documentation signed by a healthcare professional indicating that earned paid sick time is necessary shall be considered reasonable documentation for purposes of this section.

As defined in statute (A.R.S. [23-371](#)), "family member" means:

A. Regardless of age, a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild or legal ward, a child of a domestic partner, a child to whom the employee stands *in loco parentis*, or an individual to whom the employee stood *in loco parentis* when the individual was a minor;

B. A biological, foster, stepparent or adoptive parent or legal guardian of an employee or an employee's spouse or domestic partner or a person who stood *in loco parentis* when the employee or employee's spouse or domestic partner was a minor child;

C. A person to whom the employee is legally married under the laws of any state, or a domestic partner of an employee as registered under the laws of any state or political subdivision;

D. A grandparent, grandchild or sibling (whether of a biological, foster, adoptive or step relationship) of the employee or the employee's spouse or domestic partner; or

E. Any other individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship.

Notice:

A. Employers shall give employees written notice of the following at the commencement of employment or by July 1, 2017, whichever is later: employees are entitled to earned paid sick time and the amount of earned paid sick time, the terms of its use guaranteed in statute, that retaliation against employees who request or use earned paid sick time is prohibited, that each employee has the right to file a complaint if earned paid sick time as required by statute is denied by the employer or the employee is subjected to retaliation for requesting or taking earned paid sick time, and the contact information for the commission where questions about rights and responsibilities under can be answered.

B. The required notice required shall be in English, Spanish, and any language that is deemed appropriate by the Industrial Commission of Arizona.

C. The amount of earned paid sick time available to the employee, the amount of earned paid sick time taken by the employee to date in the year and the amount of pay the employee has received as earned paid sick time shall be recorded in, or on an attachment to, the employee's regular paycheck.

D. The Industrial Commission of Arizona shall create and make available to employers, in English, Spanish, and any language deemed appropriate by the commission, model notices that contain the information for employers' use in complying with the statute.

E. Employer violation of the notice requirements shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed in A.R.S. [23-364](#).

Accrual:

A. The District shall accrue a minimum of one (1) hour of earned paid sick time for every thirty (30) hours worked, but employees shall not be entitled to accrue or use more than forty (40) hours of earned paid sick time per year, unless the Superintendent selects a higher limit.

B. Earned paid sick time shall begin to accrue at the commencement of employment or on July 1, 2017, whichever is later.

C. An employee may use earned paid sick time as it is accrued.

D. Employees who are exempt from overtime requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 United States Code section 213(A)(1)) will

be assumed to work forty (40) hours in each work week for purposes of earned paid sick time accrual unless their normal work week is less than forty (40) hours, in which case earned paid sick time accrues based upon that normal work week.

E. Earned paid sick time shall be carried over to the following year, subject to the limitations on usage indicated above.

F. If an employee is transferred, but remains employed by the District, the employee is entitled to all earned paid sick time accrued and is entitled to use all earned paid sick time as provided in this section.

G. When there is a separation from employment and the employee is rehired within nine (9) months of separation by the District, previously accrued earned paid time that had not been used shall be reinstated. Further, the employee shall be entitled to use accrued earned paid sick time and accrue additional earned paid sick time at the re-commencement of employment.

Retaliation Prohibited

It shall be unlawful for the District or any other person to interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise, any right in this policy that is protected in statute.

The District shall not engage in retaliation or discriminate against any employee or former employee because the person has exercised protected rights. Such rights include but are not limited to the right to request or use earned paid sick time pursuant to the statute; the right to file a complaint with the commission or courts or inform any person about any employer's alleged violation; the right to participate in an investigation, hearing or proceeding or cooperate with or assist the commission in its investigations of alleged violations and the right to inform any person of his or her potential rights.

It shall be unlawful for the District's absence control policy to count earned paid sick time taken as an absence that may lead to or result in discipline, discharge, demotion, suspension, or any other adverse action.

Protections of this section shall apply to any person who mistakenly but in good faith alleges violations of this policy based on the supporting statutes.

PROFESSIONAL / SUPPORT STAFF SICK LEAVE

Accumulated sick leave in excess of forty (40) hours will be converted to Extended Illness Bank leave as of June 30 of each year for full-time employees whose regular duty schedule is thirty (30) hours or more per week.

PROFESSIONAL / SUPPORT STAFF PERSONAL / EMERGENCY / RELIGIOUS LEAVE

(Extended Illness Bank)

Each full-time staff member whose regular duty schedule is thirty (30) hours or more per week will be granted personal leave not to exceed eight (8) days per year for ten (10)-month employees, ten (10) days per year for eleven (11)-month employees and twelve (12) days per year for twelve (12)-month employees. No more than ten percent (10%) of the staff or other groupings of employees may take personal leave at any one time. Requests for personal leave must be received at least four (4) working days prior to the first day of leave, and must be approved by the principal or supervisor.

In the event of an emergency, the Superintendent has the authority to grant personal leave with less than four (4) working days' notice.

Requests for personal leave during the first two (2) weeks of school or the last two (2) weeks of school must be submitted two (2) weeks prior to the date of leave and must be approved by the Superintendent.

Requests shall be acted upon in order of receipt, and the availability of substitutes, if necessary, may limit the number of requests granted at any one time.

Personal leave will not be granted:

A. For the purpose of extending holidays or vacations.

B. On the day immediately preceding or following a holiday or vacation except in the event of an emergency which will require the approval of the Superintendent. The Superintendent may also consider and approve requests that are not for the purpose of extending holidays or vacations. For such requests, the employee will be required to provide a complete explanation for the personal leave on the leave request form. Requests to be considered include, but are not limited to, graduation ceremonies, family weddings, professional activities not sponsored by the District, et cetera.

Unused personal leave will be converted to Extended Illness Bank leave at the end of each fiscal year in accord with Board policy.

Extended Illness Bank

Extended Illness Bank is compensated leave that is accumulated through the conversion of unused or excess Personal and Sick leave in accordance with Policy GCCB and Regulation GCCA-R. Extended Illness Bank leave is to be granted to

a staff member who, through personal or family illness, injury, or quarantine, is unable to perform the duties assigned. Family, for purposes of Extended Illness Bank leave, shall include:

Spouse, Grandparents, Children, Grandchildren, Parents, Like-relations created by marriage, Siblings (e.g., stepchild, in-laws, et cetera)

Family illness, for purposes of sick leave, shall not exceed a period of three (3) days, unless an approval is granted by the Superintendent.

Extended Illness Bank leave may include other excused absences, such as parental leave following the birth of a child, medical, dental, or optical examination or treatment impossible to schedule on nonduty days.

Extended Illness Bank shall accumulate to a maximum of one-thousand (1,000) hours.

The staff member shall provide notice of their need to use Extended Illness Bank leave by means established by the Superintendent, which may include the following:

- A. Purpose for which sick leave is being taken;
- B. Expected dates and hours of absence;
- C. Where the staff member may be contacted during the leave.

Extended Illness Bank leave is only for the purpose of illness, recuperative activities, e.g., obtaining medical care or treatment, procuring medications or other prescribed materials, convalescing at home or at a medical facility, or other therapy or activity prescribed by the employee's physician or health practitioner (with verification required if requested by the Superintendent). The District may, at District expense, require the employee to submit to medical or psychiatric examination by a physician or psychiatrist selected by the District to determine 1) whether or not the continued use of Extended Illness Bank leave is appropriate or 2) whether return to duty is appropriate.

Any employee who can be shown to have willfully violated or misused the District's Extended Illness Bank leave policy or misrepresented any statement or condition will be subject to discipline, which may include reprimand, suspension, and/or dismissal.

PROFESSIONAL / SUPPORT STAFF LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

The District recognizes that on occasion extenuating circumstances arise that may necessitate absence from duty that is not covered by other specific leave provisions of the District. To address such situations, a leave of absence, without pay, may be granted a member of the certificated or support staff for not longer than one (1) year.

Leave of absence may be requested for, but not limited to, the following purposes:

- For additional education that relates to the employee's primary assignment. A plan of contemplated course work must be presented.
- To provide for an unpaid leave in a situation where the employee will be absent from work because of 1) a reason that conforms to a policy currently in effect but the maximum number of days provided for in that policy will be exceeded, or 2) failure to report to work without prior notification to the Superintendent.
- For a leave of absence that benefits or is in the best interest of the District, as determined by the Board upon review of the application.
- For leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

A leave of absence requested pursuant to this policy may be:

- Approved by the Superintendent if the leave period does not exceed twelve (12) weeks; or
- Recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Governing Board if the leave period exceeds twelve (12) weeks.

A request for leave of absence shall not be denied by the District if the employee is entitled to the leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act. All other applications for leave of absence may be granted or denied by the District, in its sole discretion.

Each request for such a leave of absence shall be in a written application stating the purpose, starting date, and duration of the leave of absence, the reasons for its necessity or desirability, and any other information the applicant deems relevant to the request.

The leave of absence shall be only for the purpose and duration approved and may not be extended without written approval by the District.

All rights of continuing status (certificated teachers only), retirement, salary increments, and other benefits shall be restored at the level earned when the leave was granted. All accrued sick, vacation, personal, and other paid leave shall be applied to the leave period unless otherwise agreed to by the District or prohibited by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The District shall fully comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act and all interim and final regulations interpreting the FMLA issued by the U.S. Department of Labor. Accordingly, all portions of this policy that pertain to the FMLA shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the FMLA and its regulations. Subject to the conditions set forth herein, any eligible employee of the District may take up to twelve (12) weeks of leave (FMLA leave) measured backward for each employee from the first time such employee uses leave under FMLA without pay, for any one (1) or more of the following reasons:

- Because of the birth of a child of the employee and in order to care for such child.
- Because of the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care.
- In order to care for the spouse or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee, if such person has a serious health condition.
- Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the position of such employee.
- Because of any qualifying exigency (as the Secretary shall, by regulation, determine) arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation.

An *eligible* employee is one who has been employed by the District at least twelve (12) months and who has completed at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours of service immediately prior to the time the FMLA leave is to commence.

Serious health condition means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility, or outpatient care with continuing medical treatment by a licensed physician. Any employee who has been employed by the District at least twelve (12) months and who has completed at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours of service immediately prior to the time the leave is to commence shall be eligible for FMLA leave.

Special conditions applicable to FMLA. Entitlement to leave for the birth of a child or the placement of a child for adoption or foster care ends at the expiration of a twelve (12)-month period, beginning on the date of the event. 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 twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave during a twelve (12)-month period to care for the service member. The leave described to care for a covered servicemember shall only be available during one (1) single twelve (12)-month period.

A husband and wife working for the District may be limited to a total of twelve (12) weeks of leave during each applicable twelve (12)-month period for leave for the birth of a child or the placement of a child for adoption or foster care and to care for an employee's parent with a serious health condition. The aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both the husband and wife may be entitled under covered service member family leave combined with leave as described in the previous sentence shall be limited to twenty-six (26) workweeks during one (1) single twelve (12)-month period.

The District shall not require an employee to substitute accrued sick leave for FMLA leave used by reason of a birth, adoption, or foster placement. An employee shall substitute accrued vacation or personal leave for FMLA leave used by reason of a birth, adoption, or foster placement, to the extent available by policy, unless otherwise agreed to by the District. In any other circumstance, an employee's accrued sick, vacation, personal, or other applicable leave shall be substituted for FMLA leave, to the extent available by policy, unless otherwise agreed to by the District.

Notice. An employee must provide at least thirty (30) day notice before the FMLA leave is to begin if the need for the leave is foreseeable based on an expected birth, placement for adoption, or foster care, planned medical treatment for a serious health condition, or military service leave of the employee or family member. If thirty (30) day notice is not practicable, notice must be given as soon as practicable. The notice shall be in the form of a request for leave of absence as specified in this policy. The District may deny FMLA leave to any eligible employee until such time as the employee has provided the required notice.

Certification. All FMLA leave shall be supported by medical certificate provided by the employee's health provider in the form of the exhibit accompanying this policy. In any instance where the FMLA leave must be preceded by thirty (30) day notice, the medical certificate should accompany the request for leave of absence. In any other instance, the medical certificate should be provided within fifteen (15) days after the FMLA leave commences.

Certification of active military duty or call to active duty in support of a contingency operation for purpose of receiving family leave shall be required under the same conditions as FMLA certification for leave indicated above.

The employee may be requested (at the District's expense) to provide recertification of medical conditions in support of leave if the District feels that the circumstances so warrant and notice is given. Recertification shall not be required for intervals shorter than thirty (30) days.

Whenever a medical certification or recertification is required of an employee, notice describing such requirement and providing the form of such certification shall be provided to the employee. An employee shall not be denied FMLA leave or other rights under the FMLA unless a notice required by FMLA in such situation has first been provided to the employee.

In the case of continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition to the employee, covered family of the employee (including a service member being cared for by an employee) and the employee is unable to return to work, certification issued by the health care provider of the entity with the serious health condition shall be required to support the inability of the employee to return to work.

Intermittent or reduced time (IRT) leave. FMLA leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule under the following circumstances:

- If medically necessary to care for a family member or for the employee's own serious health condition;
- Because of any qualifying exigency the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent, of the employee is on active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation; or
- If approved by the District.

The District may, for the term of the leave, transfer the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits.

If the IRT leave is for an *instructional employee* (one whose principal function is to instruct students in a class, small group, or as individuals), the District can require the employee either to take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration not greater than the duration of the planned treatment or to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits that provides better accommodation of recurring periods of leave, provided the leave is:

- Requested to care for a qualifying family member or as a result of the employee's serious health condition preventing job performance;
- Foreseeable, based upon planned medical treatment; and
- For more than twenty percent (20%) of the working days in the leave period.

The employee may be granted leave under these circumstances, subject to reasonable efforts to schedule treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the educational program.

Special end-of-semester circumstances for instructional employees. Under each of the following conditions, leave for an instructional employee may be required to continue to the end of the academic semester:

- Leave begins more than five (5) weeks before the end of the semester, leave is for at least three (3) weeks, and return to employment would occur during the last three (3) weeks of the semester.
- Leave other than for the employee's serious health condition begins within the last five (5) weeks of the semester, leave is for greater than two (2) weeks duration, and return to employment would occur during the last two (2) weeks of the semester.
- Leave other than for the employee's serious health condition begins within the last three (3) weeks of the semester and leave exceeds five (5) working days.

Employee notification. With each request for FMLA leave, the employee shall be notified:

- About FMLA by provision of the FMLA fact sheet.
- As appropriate concerning the expectations, obligations, and consequences of taking FMLA leave per 29 C.F.R. 825.300(a) of FMLA.
- That FMLA leave may be withheld until a requested notice is provided or the time frame is met.
- That if leave is granted to an employee who is unable to perform the work required, restoration may be denied until the employee has complied with the request to provide medical certification of ability to return to work.

The District will post notices in conspicuous places on the District premises that provide a summary of FMLA and information on how to file a charge for an FMLA violation.

Health care continuation. An employee taking FMLA leave shall be entitled to have the health care plan in which the employee is participating continue under the same terms and conditions applicable to actively working employees. The District shall require the repayment of any health care premiums paid by the District for continuing coverage during the period of the FMLA leave if the employee fails to return to work after the FMLA leave expires and the failure to return is not due to circumstances beyond the employee's control.

Position restoration. Upon return from FMLA leave, an employee shall be restored to the same position held before the FMLA leave commenced or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and working conditions. The District requires an employee to provide a medical certificate from a health care provider that the employee is able to resume work before returning from FMLA leave for a serious personal health condition. The District may delay the return of an instructional employee from FMLA leave at the end of a semester, in accordance with Section 825.602 of FMLA rules. The District may deny restoration of position to any key employee (i.e., one who is among the highest-paid ten percent [10%] of all employees of the District), in accordance with Section 825.218 of FMLA rules.

PROFESSIONAL / SUPPORT STAFF LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) requires covered employers to provide up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. Employees are eligible if they have worked for their employer for at least one (1) year, and for one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours over the previous twelve (12) months, and if there are at least fifty (50) employees within seventy-five (75) miles. The FMLA permits employees to take leave on an intermittent basis or to work a reduced schedule under certain circumstances.

Reasons for Taking Leave

Unpaid leave must be granted for any of the following reasons:

- To care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- To care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent who has a serious health condition; or
- For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.

At the employee's or employer's option, certain kinds of paid leave may be substituted for unpaid leave.

Advance Notice and Medical Certification

The employee may be required to provide advance leave notice and medical certification. Taking of leave may be denied if requirements are not met.

- The employee ordinarily must provide thirty (30) days advance notice when the leave is "foreseeable."
- An employer may require medical certification to support a request for leave because of a serious health condition, and may require second or third opinions (at the employer's expense) and a fitness for duty report to return to work.

Job Benefits and Protection:

- For the duration of FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan."
- Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.
- The use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

Unlawful Acts by Employers

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA.
- discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

Enforcement:

- The U.S. Department of Labor is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of violations.
- An eligible employee may bring a civil action against an employer for violations.

FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

For Additional Information

If you have access to the Internet visit the FMLA website: <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmla>. To locate your nearest Wage-Hour Office, telephone the Wage-Hour toll-free information and help line at 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243): a customer service representative is available to assist you with referral information from 8am to 5pm in your time zone; or log onto the following at <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov>.

***A Spanish translation of this form may be downloaded
at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/index.htm>***

FACT SHEET NO. 28: THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, administers and enforces the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for all private, state and local government employees, and some federal employees. Most federal and certain congressional employees are also covered by the law and are subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or the Congress.

The FMLA became effective on August 5, 1993 for most employers and entitles eligible employees to take up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a twelve (12)-month period for specified family and medical reasons. Amendments to the FMLA by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008 (NDAA). Public Law 110-181, expanded the FMLA to allow eligible employees to take up to twelve (12) weeks of job-protected leave in the applicable twelve (12)-month period for any "qualifying exigency" arising out of the fact that a covered military member is on active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in support of a contingency operation. The NDAA also amended the FMLA to allow eligible employees to take up to twenty-six (26) weeks of job-protected leave in a "single twelve (12)-month period" to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Employer Coverage

FMLA applies to all public agencies, including state, local and federal employers, local education agencies (schools), and private-sector employers who employed fifty (50) or more employees in twenty (20) or more workweeks in the current or preceding calendar year, including joint employers and successors of covered employers.

Employee Eligibility

To be eligible for FMLA benefits, an employee must:

- work for a covered employer;
- have worked for the employer for a total of twelve (12) months;
- have worked at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours over the previous twelve (12) months; and
- work at a location in the United States or in any territory or possession of the United States where at least fifty (50) employees are employed by the employer within seventy-five (75) miles.

While the twelve (12) months of employment need not be consecutive, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven (7) years or more need not be counted unless the break is occasioned by the employee's fulfillment of his or her National Guard or Reserve military obligation (as protected under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)), or a written agreement, including a collective bargaining agreement, exists concerning the employer's intention to rehire the employee after the break in service. See, special rules for returning reservists under USERRA.

Leave Entitlement

A covered employer must grant an eligible employee up to a total of twelve (12) workweeks of unpaid leave during any twelve (12)-month period for one (1) or more of the following reasons:

- For the birth and care of a newborn child of the employee;
- For placement with the employee of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care;
- To care for a spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
- To take medical leave when the employee is unable to work because of a serious health condition; or
- For qualifying exigencies arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on active duty or call to active duty status as a member of the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation.

A covered employer also must grant an eligible employee who is a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a current member of the Armed Forces, including

a member of the National Guard or Reserves, with a serious injury or illness up to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of unpaid leave during a "single twelve (12)-month period" to care for the service member.

Spouses employed by the same employer are limited in the amount of family leave they may take for the birth and care of a newborn child, placement of a child for adoption or foster care, or to care for a parent who has a serious health condition to a combined total of twelve (12) weeks (or twenty-six [26] weeks if leave to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness is also used). Leave for birth and care, or placement for adoption or foster care, must conclude within twelve (12) months of the birth or placement.

Under some circumstances, employees may take FMLA leave intermittently - taking leave in separate blocks of time for a single qualifying reason - or on a reduced leave schedule - reducing the employee's usual weekly or daily work schedule. When leave is needed for planned medical treatment, the employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer's operation. If FMLA leave is for birth and care, or placement for adoption or foster care, use of intermittent leave is subject to the employer's approval.

Under certain conditions, employees or employers may choose to "substitute" (run concurrently) accrued paid leave (such as sick or vacation leave) to cover some or all of the FMLA leave. An employee's ability to substitute accrued paid leave is determined by the terms and conditions of the employer's normal leave policy.

"Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either:

- Inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical-care facility, including any period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular daily activities) or subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or
- Continuing treatment by a health care provider, which includes:
 - A period of incapacity lasting more than three (3) consecutive, full calendar days, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also includes:
 - ⇒ treatment two (2) or more times by or under the supervision of a health care provider (i.e., in-person visits, the first within seven (7) days and both within thirty (30) days of the first day of incapacity); or
 - ⇒ one (1) treatment by a health care provider (i.e., an in-person visit within seven (7) days of the first day of incapacity) with a

continuing regimen of treatment (e.g., prescription medication, physical therapy); or

- Any period of incapacity related to pregnancy or for prenatal care. A visit to the health care provider is not necessary for each absence; or
- Any period of incapacity or treatment for a chronic serious health condition which continues over an extended period of time, requires periodic visits (at least twice a year) to a health care provider, and may involve occasional episodes of incapacity. A visit to a health care provider is not necessary for each absence; or
- A period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. Only supervision by a health care provider is required, rather than active treatment; or
- Any absences to receive multiple treatments for restorative surgery or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three (3) days if not treated.

Maintenance of Health Benefits

A covered employer is required to maintain group health insurance coverage for an employee on FMLA leave whenever such insurance was provided before the leave was taken and on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. If applicable, arrangements will need to be made for employees to pay their share of health insurance premiums while on leave. In some instances, the employer may recover premiums it paid to maintain health coverage for an employee who fails to return to work from FMLA leave.

Job Restoration

Upon return from FMLA leave, an employee must be restored to the employee's original job, or to an equivalent job with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment. An employee's use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that the employee earned or was entitled to before using FMLA leave, nor be counted against the employee under a "no fault" attendance policy. If a bonus or other payment, however, is based on the achievement of a specified goal such as hours worked, products sold, or perfect attendance, and the employee has not met the goal due to FMLA leave, payment may be denied unless it is paid to an employee on equivalent leave status for a reason that does not qualify as FMLA leave.

An employee has no greater right to restoration or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed.

Notice and Certification

Employee Notice

Employees seeking to use FMLA leave are required to provide thirty (30)-day advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable and such notice is practicable. If leave is foreseeable less than thirty (30) days in advance, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable - generally, either the same or next business day. When the need for leave is not foreseeable, the employee must provide notice to the employer as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Absent unusual circumstances, employees must comply with the employer's usual and customary notice and procedural requirements for requesting leave.

Employees must provide sufficient information for an employer reasonably to determine whether the FMLA may apply to the leave request. Depending on the situation, such information may include that the employee is incapacitated due to pregnancy, has been hospitalized overnight, is unable to perform the functions of the job, and/or that the employee or employee's qualifying family member is under the continuing care of a health care provider.

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

Employer Notice

Covered employers must post a notice approved by the Secretary of Labor explaining rights and responsibilities under FMLA. An employer that willfully violates this posting requirement may be subject to a fine of up to one hundred ten dollars (\$110) for each separate offense. Additionally, employers must either include this general notice in employee handbooks or other written guidance to employees concerning benefits, or must distribute a copy of the notice to each new employee upon hiring.

When an employee requests FMLA leave or the employer acquires knowledge that leave may be for a FMLA purpose, the employer must notify the employee of his or her eligibility to take leave, and inform the employee of his/her rights and responsibilities under FMLA. When the employer has enough information to determine that leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason, the employer must notify the employee that the leave is designated and will be counted as FMLA leave.

Certification

Employers may require that an employee's request for leave due to a serious health condition affecting the employee or a covered family member be supported by a certification from a health care provider. An employer may require second or third medical opinions (at the employer's expense) and periodic recertification of a serious health condition. An employer may use a health care provider, a human resource professional, a leave administrator, or a management official - but not the employee's direct supervisor - to authenticate or clarify a medical certification of a serious health condition. An employer may have a uniformly-applied policy requiring employees returning from leave for their own serious health condition to submit a certification that they are able to resume work. If reasonable safety concerns exist, an employer may, under certain circumstances, require such a certification for employees returning from intermittent FMLA leave.

Unlawful Acts

It is unlawful for any employer to interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided by FMLA. It is also unlawful for an employer to discharge or discriminate against any individual for opposing any practice, or because of involvement in any proceeding, related to FMLA.

Enforcement

The Wage and Hour Division investigates complaints. If violations cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the U.S. Department of Labor may bring action in court to compel compliance. Individuals may also be able to bring a private civil action against an employer for violations.

Other Provisions

Special rules apply to employees of local education agencies. Generally, these rules apply to intermittent leave or when leave is required near the end of a school term.

Salaried executive, administrative, and professional employees of covered employers who meet the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) criteria for exemption from minimum wage and overtime under Regulations, 29 C.F.R. Part 541, do not lose their FLSA-exempt status by using any unpaid FMLA leave. This special exception to the "salary basis" requirements for FLSA's exemption extends only to an "eligible" employee's use of leave required by FMLA.

For additional information, visit the Wage and Hour Division Website: <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov> and/or call the toll-free information and helpline, available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in your time zone, 1-866- 4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243).

PROFESSIONAL STAFF CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS

(Fingerprinting Requirements)

New Hires

All certificated personnel to be hired by the District shall be fingerprinted as a condition of employment, except for personnel who, as a condition of certification are required to have a valid fingerprint clearance card.

The candidate's fingerprints shall be submitted, along with the form presented as an exhibit to this policy, immediately upon being notified of possible employment. The form shall be considered a part of the application for employment.

An expired fingerprint clearance card may be used to satisfy the fingerprint requirements of section [15-183](#), [15-503](#), [15-512](#), [15-534](#), [15-782.02](#), [15-1330](#) or [15-1881](#) if the person signs an affidavit stating both of the following:

- A. The person submitted a completed application to the Finger Printing Division of the Department of Public Safety for a new fingerprint clearance card within ninety (90) days before the expiration date on the person's current fingerprint clearance card.
- B. The person is not awaiting trial on and has not been convicted of a criminal offense that would make the person ineligible for a fingerprint clearance card.

This does not apply to a fingerprint clearance card that has been denied, suspended or revoked or to a person who has requested a good cause exception hearing.

Candidates shall certify on the prescribed notarized forms whether they are awaiting trial on or have ever been convicted of or admitted in open court or pursuant to a plea agreement committing any of the following criminal offenses in Arizona or similar offenses in any other jurisdiction, including a charge or conviction that has been vacated, set aside or expunged:

- A. Sexual abuse of a minor.
- B. Incest.
- C. First- or second-degree murder.
- D. Kidnapping.

- E. Arson.
- F. Sexual assault.
- G. Sexual exploitation of a minor.
- H. Felony offenses involving contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- I. Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.
- J. Felony offenses involving sale, distribution, or transportation of, offer to sell, transport, or distribute, or conspiracy to sell, transport, or distribute marijuana or dangerous or narcotic drugs.
- K. Felony offenses involving the possession or use of marijuana, dangerous drugs, or narcotic drugs.
- L. Misdemeanor offenses involving the possession or use of marijuana or dangerous drugs.
- M. Burglary in the first degree.
- N. Burglary in the second or third degree.
- O. Aggravated or armed robbery.
- P. Robbery.
- Q. A dangerous crime against children as defined in A.R.S. [13-705](#).
- R. Child abuse.
- S. Sexual conduct with a minor.
- T. Molestation of a child.
- U. Manslaughter.
- V. Aggravated assault.
- W. Assault.
- X. Exploitation of minors involving drug offenses.

A person who makes a false statement, representation, or certification in any application for employment with the School District is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor.

The District may refuse to hire or may review or terminate personnel who have been convicted of or admitted committing any of the criminal offenses above or a similar offense in another jurisdiction. In conducting a review, the Governing Board shall utilize the guidelines, including the list of offenses that are not subject to review, as prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to A.R.S. [15-534](#). In considering whether to hire or terminate the employment of a person, the Governing Board shall take into account the factors listed in A.R.S. [15-512](#).

When considering termination of an employee pursuant to A.R.S. [15-512](#), a hearing shall be held to determine whether a person already employed shall be terminated.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Board recognizes its particular responsibility to provide opportunity for the continual professional growth of its certificated staff. Such opportunities include, within budgetary limitation, special in-service training courses, workshops, school or District visitations, conferences, professional library, and assistance from supervisors and consultants.

In line with such opportunities, the Board encourages educational research by staff members when the conduct of the project does not conflict with the major functions of the schools.

In-Service Training Courses

The Superintendent may establish local in-service training courses for teachers and other certificated employees in the schools, credit for which may be granted beyond the bachelor's degree in the manner that graduate courses in institutions of higher learning are taken into account.

This credit may be granted in cases where the scope, level, quality, and content of the local course is equal to college graduate work and the instructor is qualified to teach on the college level. The Superintendent may establish reasonable rules by which to select such courses and designate them for credit. The maximum number of credits earned in such courses that may be counted toward the salary differentials is one-half (1/2) the credits required for each column of the salary schedule. The number of credits to be granted for each course shall be determined by the Superintendent.

The attendance of teachers in these courses shall be recorded, and no credit shall be allowed unless the teacher has completed the assigned work of the course.

If the District compensates the staff member for attending in-service training courses, no credit shall be allowed for advancement on the salary schedule.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

It is recognized that certain kinds of professional activities may benefit the total instructional program:

- Attendance at educational conferences.
- Planned visitations to other school districts.
- Serving on committees, boards, and commissions.
- Other specific activities designated by the Superintendent.

All such attendance shall comply with the following desires of the Governing Board:

- Travel shall be within budget limitations.
- All travel beyond a four hundred (400) mile radius of Joseph City must have prior Board approval.
- The school vehicle is to be used for all travel when possible.
- Information on all travel will be shared with the Board.
- Consideration will be given to staff development programs instead of travel so as to involve more staff members in receiving information relating to current educational practices.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

Employees may be allowed absences for professional activities. Released time for professional activities must be applied for on District forms thirty (30) days in advance of the travel date. The thirty (30)-day time limit may be waived by the Superintendent and/or the Governing Board when unusual circumstances exist.

Attendance at a conference or approval of a visitation should not be considered a reward or vacation.

The Superintendent may authorize released time for professional activity for state workshops or conferences and planned visitations to other school districts. The Superintendent shall determine what activities may be approved using criteria listed below.

The Superintendent shall use the criteria listed below and either approve or disapprove travel beyond a four hundred (400) mile radius of Joseph City. All approved out-of-state travel shall be presented and recommended for final approval to the Governing Board.

The following criteria will be used in approving or disapproving visitations and conference requests:

- Does the impact of the activity (on children, personnel, and the educational program) justify the expense to the District?
- Have funds been budgeted for the purpose?
- Is the travel at the direction of the principal, with approval by the Superintendent?
- Is the trip mandated by federal program guidelines?
- Is the employee a member of the organization sponsoring the conference?
- What is the length of time since the employee was last approved to attend a conference or make a visitation?
- Would other staff members benefit from the type of information to be presented at the conference or observed at the visitation? If so, would a staff development program be more appropriate?

If the professional activity has an agenda that includes a meal as part of the program, District participants may submit claims for reimbursement of cost of the meal by the District.

Employees authorized to attend professional activities are representatives of the District and should exhibit high professional decorum.

EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

Evaluators

Qualified Evaluators for JCUSD include: Bryan Fields, Eric Miller, and Daniel Hutchens.

The Superintendent will compile an updated listing of those who have successfully completed the District required evaluator training and submit this list of newly trained evaluators prior to the first scheduled staff observation by an evaluator to the Governing Board for designation as qualified evaluators. The evaluator shall be responsible for the final written and official statement of evaluation, which shall

be in writing, and a copy shall be transmitted to the certificated teacher within five (5) days after completion of the evaluation. [A.R.S. [15-537](#)]

The Superintendent shall implement the specific training requirements for qualified evaluators prescribed by the Governing Board.

Best practices for professional development and evaluator training adopted by the State Board of Education should be referenced by the Superintendent periodically as the State Board has the authority to periodically make adjustments to align with the model framework for teacher and principal evaluations with assessment data changes at the state level.

Classroom Observations by Evaluator:

- The teacher performance evaluation system shall include at least two (2) actual classroom observations of the certificated teacher demonstrating teaching skills in a complete and uninterrupted lesson by the qualified evaluator. However, the Governing Board may waive the requirement of a second classroom observation for a continuing teacher whose teaching performance based on the first classroom observation places the teacher in one (1) of the two (2) highest performance classifications for the current school year, unless the teacher requests a second observation.
- There shall be at least sixty (60) calendar days between the first and last observations.
- Preliminary notice of inadequacy may follow the first observation.
- The last observation may follow the issuance of a preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance, the completion of any performance improvement plan and be used to determine whether the teacher has corrected inadequacies and has demonstrated adequate classroom performance.
- An observation shall not be conducted within two (2) instructional days of any scheduled period in which school is not in session for one (1) week or more.
- Informal or additional formal observations may be made at the discretion of the administrator. Observations that do not constitute a complete and uninterrupted lesson shall not be considered in determining performance ratings and may only be used to provide feedback to improve instructional performance.

Procedural Steps in the Process of Evaluation:

- The evaluation procedures shall be reviewed at each school. At the beginning of the school year, the principal shall meet with the school's faculty

for the purpose of orienting the teachers to the total evaluation plan. Any teacher that is hired after the school year begins must also be given a review of evaluation procedures prior to the teacher's evaluation.

- Within ten (10) business days after each observation, the qualified evaluator observing the teacher shall provide written feedback to the teacher and a copy shall be retained for the principal's file. A third copy shall be placed in the teacher's personnel file and made available to authorized District officers and employees and as otherwise provided by law.
- The results of an annual evaluation shall be in writing, or provided in electronic format to the certificated teacher and a copy shall be transmitted or provided in an electronic format to the certificated teacher within five (5) business days after completion of the evaluation.
- Either the qualified evaluator or another Board designee shall confer with the teacher to make specific recommendations as to the areas of improvement in the teacher's performance and to provide professional development opportunities for the certificated teacher to improve performance and follow up with the teacher after a reasonable period of time for the purpose of ascertaining that the teacher is demonstrating adequate performance.
- The certificated teacher may initiate a written reaction or response to the evaluation. The official evaluation shall be reduced to writing and signed by both the teacher and the evaluator. The teacher's signature shall not mean concurrence. The teacher shall be allowed ten (10) calendar days to write and submit any comments, which shall be attached to the evaluation.
- Copies of the evaluation report and performance classification of a certificated teacher retained by the Governing Board and the Department of Education are confidential, do not constitute a public record and shall not be released to any person except to those stipulated in A.R.S. [15-537](#) which allows release to certain prescribed parties, including school districts and charter schools that inquire about the performance of the teacher for prospective employment purposes.
- A school district or charter school that receives information about a certificated teacher from the evaluation report and performance classification shall use this information solely for employment purposes and shall not release to or allow access to this information by any other person, entity, school district or charter school for employment purposes.

Preliminary Notice of Inadequacy of Classroom Performance:

- A teacher whose classroom performance has been evaluated as being inadequate shall be given a preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance if the teacher may be dismissed or non-renewed because of

this notice. The notice will provide the teacher at least forty-five (45) instructional days in which to overcome the inadequacies and shall specify the nature of the inadequacy with such particularity as to furnish the teacher an opportunity to correct the inadequacies and maintain adequate classroom performance as defined by the Governing Board.

- The Superintendent is authorized to issue preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance without prior Board approval. The Superintendent will notify the Board of such issuance within ten (10) days of such issuance.
- The preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance shall be accompanied by a performance improvement plan designed to help the teacher correct inadequacies and demonstrate adequate classroom performance.

Nonrenewal/Dismissal of Certificated Employees:

- The Board shall authorize, as necessary, and send notice to teachers who will not be reemployed for the ensuing school year.
- The written notice of intention to dismiss or not to reemploy shall include a copy of any valid evaluation pertinent to the charges made.
- Notice of the Board's intention not to reemploy the teacher shall be made by delivering it personally to the teacher or by sending it by registered or certified mail to the teacher at the teacher's place of residence, as recorded in the District's records. The notice shall incorporate a statement of reasons for not reemploying the teacher.
- If a teacher does not correct inadequacies and demonstrate adequate classroom performance following the preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance accompanied by a performance plan and the statutory time allocated for such improvement has elapsed, a written notice of intention to dismiss or not to reemploy may be issued.
- The Governing Board shall give any certificated teacher notice of intention to dismiss or not to reemploy if such intention is based on charges of inadequacy of classroom performance. The Governing Board or its authorized representative at least forty-five (45) instructional days before such notice, shall give the teacher written preliminary notice of inadequacy of classroom performance, specifying the nature thereof with such particularity as to furnish the teacher an opportunity to correct inadequacies and maintain adequate classroom performance. A notice of the Governing Board's intention to dismiss or not to reemploy for inadequacy of classroom performance shall not be issued until the District has completed an observation at the conclusion of a performance improvement plan.

- In the case of a continuing teacher, if the teacher does not demonstrate adequate classroom performance within the allotted time the Board shall dismiss the teacher as provided by statute.

Contracts of Certificated Employees

The Governing Board shall offer a teaching contract for the next ensuing school year to each certificated probationary teacher who is under a contract of employment with the District for the current school year, unless the Governing Board, a member of the Board acting on behalf of the Board or the Superintendent gives notice to the teacher of the Board's intention not to offer a teaching contract or unless such teacher has been dismissed.

The Governing Board shall offer to each certificated continuing teacher who has been employed more than the major portion of three (3) consecutive years and who is under contract of employment with the District for the current year a contract renewal for the next ensuing school year unless the teacher has been given notice of the Board's intent not to offer a contract and to dismiss the teacher as provided by statute.

The Governing Board shall offer a contract to each certificated teacher who is not designated in the lowest performance classification and was offered a contract in the prior year unless the teacher has been given notice of the Board's intent not to offer a contract and to dismiss the teacher.

The teacher's acceptance of the contract must be indicated within fifteen (15) business days from the date of the teacher's receipt of the written contract or the offer of a contract is revoked.

Receipt is considered to have occurred when the written contract is:

- personally delivered,
- placed in the teacher's school-provided mailbox, including electronic mail, or
- two (2) days after being placed in a United States Postal Service mail box.

The teacher accepts the contract by signing the contract and returning it to the Governing Board or by making a written instrument which accepts the terms of the contract and delivering it to the Governing Board. If the written instrument includes terms in addition to the terms of the contract offered by the Board, the teacher fails to accept the contract.

The Governing Board may transmit and receive contracts of certificated employees in an electronic format and may accept electronic signatures on those contracts. Additional provisions are as follows:

- If a contract has not been transmitted to the certificated employee by the end of the current school year, an electronic contract to that certificated employee, if provided in that format by the District, shall be transmitted prior to the start of the next school year and shall be submitted to both the certificated employee's District e-mail as well as the certificated employee's personal e-mail in order to notify the certificated employee of the offer of contract.
- Each certificated employee shall be responsible for submitting his or her personal e-mail to human resources personnel at the District for this purpose.
- Documents transmitted in an electronic format pursuant to this subsection shall be considered written documents for the purposes of sections [15-536](#) and [15-538.01](#).
- If the Governing Board has so adopted, electronic signatures are to be followed by original signatures within a specified time period.
- The Governing Board that accepts an electronic signature for a certificated employee's contract shall provide validation to the certificated employee that the contract has been transmitted.

Principals, Other Administrators, Certificated School Psychologists:

- Evaluation will be a cooperative procedure, with the evaluator and the evaluatee having full knowledge of the criteria and process.
- The results of an annual evaluation shall be in writing, or be provided in electronic format, to the evaluatee and a copy shall be transmitted or provided in an electronic format within five (5) business days after completion of the evaluation.
- Evaluation documents and procedures shall be developed based on the unique responsibilities and expectations inherent in the assignment.
- The evaluation and performance classification of each principal in the District will be made available to school districts and charter schools that are inquiring about the performance of the principal for hiring purposes.

Principal, Other Administrator, Certificated School Psychologist

Contract Renewal

If the administrator's contract with the District is for more than one (1) year, but not exceeding three (3) years, on or before May 15 of the last year of the contract, the

Board shall offer a contract for the next school year to the administrator unless on or before April 15 the Board gives notice to the administrator of the Board's intention not to offer a new administrative contract.

If the administrator's or psychologist's contract with the District is for a single year, on or before May 15 of each year the Board shall offer a contract for the next school year to the administrator or psychologist unless on or before April 15 the Board gives notice to the administrator or psychologist of the Board's intention not to offer a new administrative contract or psychologist's contract.

(Procedures for Appeal of Evaluation)

When an evaluation is used as the criterion for establishing a teacher's compensation, the teacher will be so informed at the conference where the evaluation is discussed.

A teacher whose evaluation is used as a criterion for establishing compensation and who disagrees with the evaluation may make a written appeal to the Superintendent no later than ten (10) days after the conference where the disputed evaluation is discussed.

The appeal to the Superintendent shall be limited to the sole issue of how the evaluation procedure used is at variance from the Board-adopted procedure. The burden of proof is on the teacher and the appeal may consist of a paper review. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final and not subject to further appeal or review.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(Duties of Teachers; Failure to Comply is Unprofessional Conduct; Penalty)

Every teacher shall:

- A. Make student learning the primary focus of the teacher's professional time.
- B. Hold students to strict account for disorderly conduct.
- C. Exercise supervision over students on the playgrounds and during recess if assigned to such duty.
- D. Take and maintain daily classroom attendance.

E. Make the decision to promote or retain a student in grade in a common school or to pass or fail a student in a course in high school. Such decisions may be overturned only as provided in A.R.S. [15-342](#).

F. Comply with all rules, regulations, and policies of the Governing Board that relate to the duties as prescribed.

A teacher shall not use sectarian or denominational books or teach any sectarian doctrines or conduct religious exercises.

A teacher who instructs a course offered under Policy IHAL, Teaching About Religion, in its appropriate historical context and in good faith shall be immune from civil liability and disciplinary action pursuant to section A.R.S. [15-535](#).

A teacher who fails to comply with the above is guilty of unprofessional conduct and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Governing Board and by the State Board of Education.

A teacher who is arrested for or charged with any non-appealable offense listed in section [41-1758.03](#), subsection B and who does not immediately report the arrest or charge to the teacher's supervisor is guilty of unprofessional conduct and shall be immediately dismissed from employment with the School District.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE / CHILD PROTECTION

Abuse means the infliction or allowing of physical injury, impairment of bodily function, or disfigurement, or the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior, and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist pursuant to A.R.S. [8-821](#), and which is caused by the acts or omissions of an individual having care, custody, and control of a child. *Abuse* shall include inflicting or allowing sexual abuse pursuant to A.R.S. [13-1404](#), sexual conduct with a minor pursuant to A.R.S. [13-1405](#), sexual assault pursuant to A.R.S. [13-1406](#), molestation of a child pursuant to A.R.S. [13-1410](#), commercial sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to A.R.S. [13-3552](#), sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to A.R.S. [13-3553](#), incest pursuant to A.R.S. [13-3608](#), or child prostitution pursuant to A.R.S. [13-3212](#).

Child, youth, or juvenile means an individual who is under the age of eighteen (18) years.

Abuses classified by statute as "reportable offenses" are:

- Indecent exposure [A.R.S. [13-1402](#)]
- Public sexual indecency to a minor [A.R.S. [13-1403](#)]
- Sexual abuse [A.R.S. [13-1404](#)]
- Sexual conduct with a minor [A.R.S. [13-1405](#)]
- Sexual assault [A.R.S. [13-1406](#)]
- Molestation of a child [A.R.S. [13-1410](#)]
- Furnishing items that are harmful to a minor via the Internet [A.R.S. [13-3506.01](#)]
- Surreptitious photographing, videotaping, filming, or digitally recording or viewing of a minor [A.R.S. [13-3019](#)]
- Incest [A.R.S. [13-3608](#)]
- Child prostitution [A.R.S. [13-3212](#)]
- Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor [A.R.S. [13-3552](#)]
- Sexual exploitation of a minor (concerning visual depiction of a minor engaged in exploitive exhibition or other sexual conduct) [A.R.S. [13-3553](#)]
- Luring a minor for sexual exploitation [A.R.S. [13-3554](#)]
- Admitting a minor to public displays of sexual conduct [A.R.S. [13-3558](#)]

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE / CHILD PROTECTION

Any school personnel or any other person who has responsibility for the care or treatment of a minor and who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or neglect that appears to have been inflicted upon the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature or who reasonably believes there has been a denial or deprivation of necessary medical treatment or surgical care or nourishment with the intent to cause or allow the death of an infant who is protected under A.R.S. [36-2281](#) shall immediately report or cause reports to be made of such information to a peace officer or to the Department of Child Safety (DCS) of the Department of Economic Security, except if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody, or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only. Such reports shall be made immediately either electronically or by telephone.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families, has determined that all mandated reporters may now electronically submit non-emergency reports via a secure online reporting website. Non-emergency reports are those in which a child is not at immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in serious harm. Mandated reporters will be able to submit non-emergency reports twenty-four (24) hours a day without wait times.

All reports made via the online website will *require the person making the report (reporting source) to provide contact information*. A representative from the Child Abuse Hotline may contact the source for additional information, if necessary. This process will make it more convenient to meet the mandated reporting requirements and help ensure child safety.

All *emergency situations* where a child faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in serious harm *must* still be reported by calling 911 or 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445). If a reporting source is unsure as to whether or not the report is an emergency situation, the reporting source should call the Child Abuse Hotline to make a report.

Any concerns for the safety of a child due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, *must be reported*, by:

Calling 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445),

TDD: 602-530-1831 (1-800-530-1831), or

Submitting *non-emergency* concerns via the Online Reporting Service at <https://dcs.az.gov/about/contacts>.

Pursuant to A.R.S. [13-3620](#), such reports shall contain, if known:

- A. The names and addresses of the minor, the parents, or the person or persons having custody of such minor, if known.
- B. The minor's age and the nature and extent of the minor's abuse, child abuse, or physical injuries or neglect, including any evidence of previous abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.
- C. Any other information that such person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

A person who furnishes a report, information, or records required or authorized under Arizona Revised Statutes or a person who participates in a judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from a report, information or records required or authorized under Arizona Revised Statutes is immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of that action unless such person has acted with malice or unless such person has been charged with or is suspected of abusing or neglecting the child or children in question.

A report is not required under A.R.S. [13-3620](#) for conduct prescribed by A.R.S. [13-1404](#) and [13-1405](#) if the conduct involves only minors who are fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age and there is nothing to indicate that the conduct is other than consensual.

A report is not required if a minor is of elementary school age, the physical injury occurs accidentally in the course of typical playground activity during a school day, occurs on the premises of the school that the minor attends and is reported to the legal parent or guardian of the minor and the school maintains a written record of the incident. The school will maintain a written record of the physical injury as part of the student's health file as required by Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records (ASLAPR).

A person who fails to report abuse as provided in A.R.S. [13-3620](#) is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor, except if the failure to report involves a reportable offense, the person is guilty of a class 6 felony.

Any certificated person or Governing Board member who reasonably suspects or receives a reasonable allegation that a person certificated by the Department of Education has engaged in conduct involving minors that would be subject to the reporting requirements of A.R.S. [13-3620](#) shall report or cause reports to be made to the Department of Education in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable but not later than three (3) business days after the person first suspects or receives an allegation of the conduct.

Any person who is employed as the immediate or next higher-level supervisor to or administrator of a person who is statutorily required to report is not required to report if the supervisor or administrator reasonably believes that the report has been made by the person who is required to report.

Any school employee who has orally reported to DCS or a peace officer a reasonable belief of an offense to a minor must provide written notification to the principal of the oral report not later than the next workday following the making of the report.