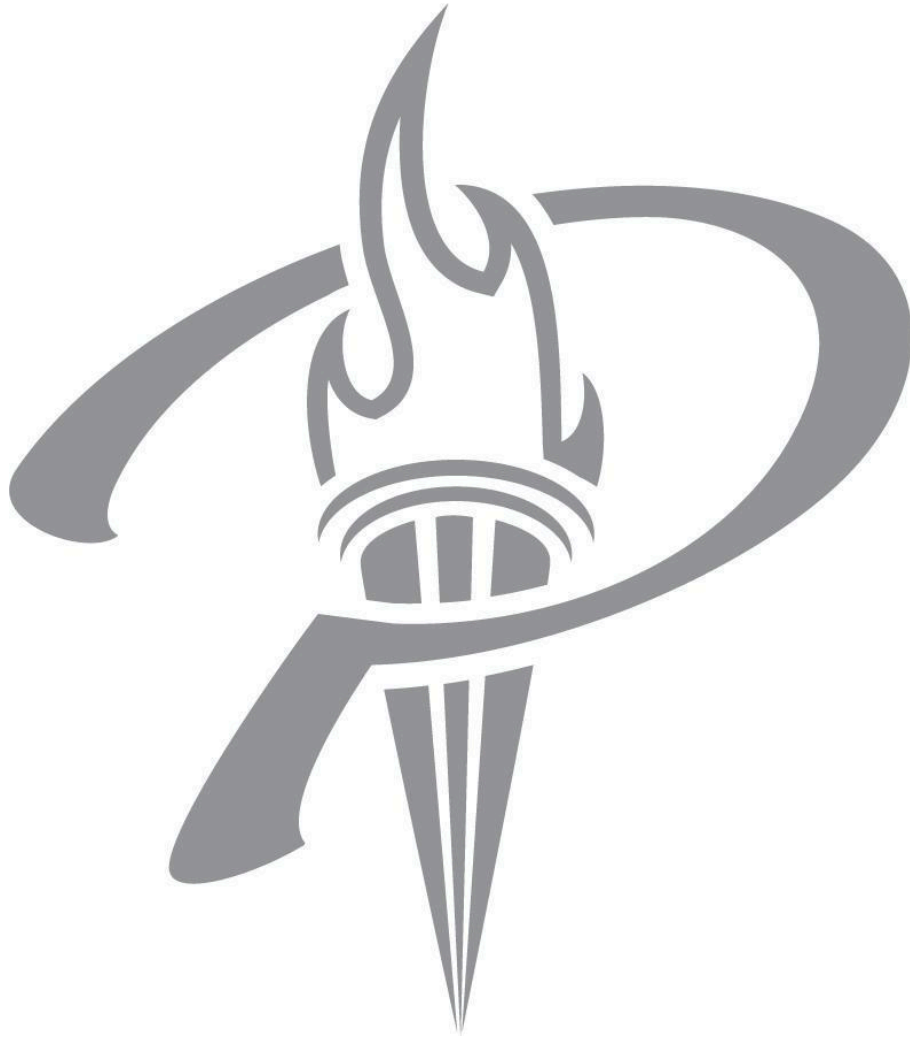


# Prosper ISD

## 2025–2026 Employee Handbook

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of a disability, please email [lghamlin@prosper-isd.net](mailto:lghamlin@prosper-isd.net).



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# Employee Handbook Receipt

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Campus/Department \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Prosper ISD Employee Handbook. I agree to read the handbook and abide by the standards, policies, and procedures defined or referenced in this document.

Employees have the option of receiving the handbook in electronic format or hard copy.

<https://www.prosper-isd.net/o/pisd/page/employee-resources>

Please indicate your choice by checking the appropriate box below:

- I choose to receive the employee handbook in electronic format and accept responsibility for accessing it according to the instructions provided.
  
- I choose to receive a hard copy of the employee handbook and understand I am required to contact \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain a hard copy.

The information in this handbook is subject to change. I understand that changes in district policies may supersede, modify, or render obsolete the information summarized in this document. As the district provides updated policy information, I accept responsibility for reading and abiding by the changes.

I understand that no modifications to contractual relationships or alterations of at-will employment relationships are intended by this handbook.

I understand that I have an obligation to inform my supervisor or department head of any changes in personal information such as phone number, address, etc. I also accept responsibility for contacting my supervisor or the Human Resources Department if I have questions or concerns or need further explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please sign and date this receipt and forward it to the Human Resources Office.

# Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information that will help with questions and pave the way for a successful year. Not all district policies and procedures are included. Those that are have been summarized. Suggestions for additions and improvements to this handbook are welcome and may be sent to the **Chief Human Resources Officer**.

This handbook is neither a contract nor a substitute for the official district policy manual. Nor is it intended to alter the at-will status of non contract employees in any way. Rather, it is a guide to and a brief explanation of district policies and procedures related to employment. These policies and procedures can change at any time; these changes shall supersede any handbook provisions that are not compatible with the change. For more information, employees may refer to the policy codes that are associated with handbook topics, confer with their supervisor, or call the appropriate district office. District policies can be accessed online at <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/314>.

# District Information

## Description of the District

Prosper ISD is 57.75 square miles, encompassing parts of Prosper, McKinney, Frisco, Celina, Aubrey and Denton County.

## District Map



## **Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives**

### *Policy AE*

The mission of the district is to develop and graduate motivated, academically prepared individuals with the strength of character to make contributions to a rapidly changing society through an educational system that maintains high expectations, provides quality instruction, and establishes a safe, orderly learning environment in the community that lives its name.

## **Board of Trustees**

### *Policies BA, BB series, BD series, and BE series*

Texas law grants the board of trustees the power to govern and oversee the management of the district's schools. The board is the policy-making body within the district and has overall responsibility for the curriculum, school taxes, annual budget, employment of the superintendent and other professional staff, and facilities. The board has complete and final control over school matters within limits established by state and federal laws and regulations.

The board of trustees is elected by the citizens of the district to represent the community's commitment to a strong educational program for the district's children. Board members are elected each May and serve three-year terms. Board members serve without compensation, must be qualified voters, and must reside in the district.

The list of current board members can be found [here](#):

## **Board Meeting Schedule**

The board usually meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM (unless otherwise publicized) at the Prosper ISD Administration Building. Special meetings may be called when necessary. A written notice of regular and special meetings will be posted on the district website and at the Prosper ISD Administration Building at least three business days before the scheduled meeting time. The written notice will show the date, time, place, and subjects of each meeting. In emergencies, a meeting may be held with a one-hour notice.

All meetings are open to the public. In certain circumstances, Texas law permits the board to go into a closed session from which the public and others are excluded. Closed session may occur for such things as discussing prospective gifts or donations, real-property acquisition, certain personnel matters including employee complaints, security matters, student discipline, or consulting with legal counsel.

The meetings take place at the Central Administration Board Room located at 605 E. 7th St., Prosper, TX 75078. For current information about school board meetings, visit the Prosper ISD School Board page: <https://www.prosper-isd.net/page/school-board>

# Executive Cabinet

For information regarding Executive Cabinet members, visit the Prosper ISD website:

<https://www.prosper-isd.net/staff>

# School Calendar

For information regarding the district academic calendar, visit the Prosper ISD calendars page:

<https://www.prosper-isd.net/events>

PROSPER
2025-2026  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT      DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR

JULY 2025							AUGUST 2025							SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
27	28	29	30	31			31																				
NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025							JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31																	
30																											
MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026							MAY 2026							JUNE 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31												31							28	29	30				

SCHOOL TIMES

<b>Early Childhood School</b> • AM Half Day: 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM • PM Half Day: 11:50 AM - 2:50 PM • Full Day: 7:30 AM - 2:50 PM	<b>Elementary School</b> • School Day: 7:50 AM - 3:10 PM	<b>Middle School</b> • School Day: 8:20 AM - 3:40 PM <b>High School</b> • School Day: 8:50 AM - 4:15 PM	<b>DAEP</b> • School Day: 7:45 AM - 3:15 PM
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1 <sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER - 85 DAYS	2 <sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER - 86 DAYS
<b>AUGUST</b> 4 Staff Professional Learning 12 <b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> / Beginning of 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 Weeks  <b>SEPTEMBER</b> 1 School Holiday 2 Professional Learning / Student Holiday  <b>OCTOBER</b> 9 End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 Weeks 10 Professional Learning / Elementary Conference / Student Holiday 13 School Holiday 14 Beginning of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks  <b>NOVEMBER</b> 24-28 Thanksgiving Break / School Holiday  <b>DECEMBER</b> 19 End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks 22-31 Winter Break / School Holiday	<b>JANUARY</b> 1-2 Winter Break / School Holiday 5 Professional Learning / Student Holiday 6 Beginning of 3 <sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks 19 School Holiday  <b>FEBRUARY</b> 13 Professional Learning / Student Holiday 16 Bad Weather Make-Up Day  <b>MARCH</b> 13 End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks 16-20 Spring Break / School Holiday 23 Professional Learning / Student Holiday 24 Beginning of 4 <sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks  <b>APRIL</b> 3 School Holiday 6 Bad Weather Make-Up Day  <b>MAY</b> 20 End of 4 <sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks / <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> 21-22 Staff Professional Learning 21-22 <b>PROSPER ISD GRADUATIONS</b> (schedule to be determined)

**Key**    Nine Weeks Begin/End    Holiday    Bad Weather Make-Up Day    Professional Learning / Student Holiday

## School Directory

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools
<a href="#">Baker Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Hays Middle School</a>
<a href="#">Boyer Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Jones Middle School</a>
<a href="#">Bryant Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Moseley Middle School</a>
<a href="#">Calhoun Early Childhood</a>	<a href="#">Rogers Middle School</a>
<a href="#">Christie Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Reynolds Middle School</a>
<a href="#">Cockrell Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Rushing Middle School</a>
<a href="#">Folsom Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Furr Elementary</a>	<b>High Schools</b>
<a href="#">Hall Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Prosper High School</a>
<a href="#">Hughes Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Rock Hill High School</a>
<a href="#">Jackson Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Richland High School</a>
<a href="#">Johnson Elementary</a>	<a href="#">Walnut Grove High School</a>
<a href="#">Light Farms Elementary</a>	<a href="#">DAEP</a>
<a href="#">Lilyana Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Reeves Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Rucker Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Smothermon Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Spradley Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Stuber Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Thomson Elementary</a>	
<a href="#">Windsong Elementary</a>	

# Employment

## Equal Employment Opportunity

*Policies DAA, DIA*

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Prosper ISD does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information, or on any other basis prohibited by law. Additionally, the district does not discriminate against an employee or applicant who acts to oppose such discrimination or participates in the investigation of a complaint related to a discriminatory employment practice. Employment decisions will be made on the basis of each applicant's job qualifications, experience, and abilities.

In accordance with Title IX, the district does not discriminate on the basis of sex and is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. The prohibition against discrimination extends to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

The district designates and authorizes the following employee as the Title IX coordinator for employees to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment: **Jeff Crownover, Deputy Superintendent**, [jrcrownover@prosper-isd.net](mailto:jrcrownover@prosper-isd.net). Reports can be made at any time and by any person, including during non-business hours, by mail, email, or phone. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person.

The district designates and authorizes the following employee as the ADA/Section 504 coordinator for employees for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of a disability: **ADA/504 Coordinator, Courtney Jennings**, [cljennings@prosper-isd.net](mailto:cljennings@prosper-isd.net).

Questions or concerns relating to discrimination for any other reason should be directed to the Superintendent.

## Job Vacancy Announcements

*Policy DC*

Announcements of job vacancies by position and location are posted on a regular basis to the district's website.

## **Employment after Retirement**

### *Policy DC*

Individuals receiving retirement benefits from the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) may be employed under certain circumstances on a full or part-time basis without affecting their benefits, according to TRS rules and state law. In accordance with House Bill (HB) 2 of the 89th Regular Legislative Session, Prosper ISD will require rehired retirees to assume the cost of TRS surcharges. Detailed information about employment after retirement is available in the TRS publication *Employment after Retirement*. Employees can contact TRS for additional information by calling 800-223-8778 or 512-542-6400. Information is also available on the TRS Website ([www.trs.texas.gov](http://www.trs.texas.gov)).

## **Contract and Non Contract Employment**

### *Policy DC series*

State law requires the district to employ all full-time professional employees in positions requiring a certificate from the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and nurses under probationary, term, or continuing contracts. Employees in all other positions are employed at-will or by a contract that is not subject to the procedures for nonrenewal or termination under Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. The paragraphs that follow provide a general description of the employment arrangements used by the district.

**Probationary Contracts.** Nurses and full-time professional employees new to the district and employed in positions requiring SBEC certification must receive a probationary contract during their first year of employment. Former employees who are hired after a two-year lapse in district employment or employees who move to a position requiring a new class of certification may also be employed by probationary contract. Probationary contracts are one-year contracts.

In accordance with the District's innovation plan, the District is exempt from state law regarding the maximum length of time an experienced teacher may be employed on a probationary contract. At the recommendation of the Superintendent, a probationary contract may be renewed for two additional one-year periods, for a total of three years, for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the District.

For those with less experience, the probationary period will be three school years (i.e., three one-year contracts) with the option for a fourth school year.

All employees whose contract begins after the first instructional day of the school year will be placed on a probationary, partial-year contract.

**Term Contracts.** Full-time professionals employed in positions requiring certification and nurses will be employed by term contracts after they have successfully completed the probationary period. The terms and conditions of employment are detailed in the contract and employment policies. All employees will receive a copy of their contract. Employment policies can be accessed online or copies will be provided upon request.

**Noncertified Professional and Administrative Employees.** Employees in professional and administrative positions that do not require SBEC certification (such as non instructional administrators and other non instructional employees) are employed by a one-year contract that is not subject to the provisions for nonrenewal or termination under the Texas Education Code.

**Paraprofessional and Auxiliary Employees.** All paraprofessional and auxiliary employees, regardless of certification, are employed at will and not by contract. Employment is not for any specified term and may be terminated at any time by either the employee or the district.

## **Certification and Licenses**

### *Policies DBA, DF*

Professional employees whose positions require SBEC certification or a professional license are responsible for taking actions to ensure their credentials do not lapse. Employees must submit documentation that they have passed the required certification exam and/or obtained or renewed their credentials to the Human Resources Office in a timely manner. Employees licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) must notify the Human Resources Office when there is action against, or revocation of, their license.

A certified employee's contract may be voided without Chapter 21 due process and employment terminated if the individual does not hold a valid certificate or fails to fulfill the requirements necessary to renew or extend a temporary certificate, emergency certificate, probationary certificate, or permit. A contract may also be voided if SBEC suspends or revokes certification because of an individual's failure to comply with criminal history background checks. Contact Christine Buys, Director of Human Resources, if you have any questions regarding certification or licensure requirements.

## **Recertification of Employment Authorization**

### *Policy DC*

At the time of hire all employees must complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9) and present documents to verify identity and employment authorization.

Employees whose immigration status, employment authorization, or employment authorization documents have expired must present new documents that show current employment authorization. Employees should file the necessary application or petition sufficiently in

advance to ensure that they maintain continuous employment authorization or valid employment authorization documents. Contact the Human Resources Office if you have any questions regarding reverification of employment authorization. Failure to verify employment authorization may result in termination.

## **Searches and Alcohol and Drug Testing**

### *Policy DHE*

Non-investigatory searches in the workplace including accessing an employee's desk, file cabinets, or work area to obtain information needed for usual business purposes may occur when an employee is unavailable. Therefore, employees are hereby notified that they have no legitimate expectation of privacy in those places. In addition, the district reserves the right to conduct searches when there is reasonable cause to believe a search will uncover evidence of work-related misconduct. Such an investigatory search may include drug and alcohol testing if the suspected violation relates to drug or alcohol use. The district may search the employee, the employee's personal items, and work areas including district-owned technology resources, lockers, and private vehicles parked on district premises or work sites or used in district business. Disciplinary action, up to and including termination, may result if an employee refuses to submit to testing or is found to violate district policy or standards of conduct.

The District may remove an employee from duty and require testing if there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs used in violation of District policy. The determination of reasonable suspicion may be based on specific observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the employee whose motor ability, emotional equilibrium, or mental acuity seems to be impaired while on duty or other relevant information. Any employee who is asked to submit to drug or alcohol testing shall be given the opportunity to provide relevant information about prescription or nonprescription medications that may affect the screening. A District employee who refuses to comply with a directive to submit to testing based upon reasonable suspicion shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. A District employee confirmed to have violated the District's policy pertaining to alcohol or drugs may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Employees Required to Have a Commercial Driver's License.** Any employee whose duties require a commercial driver's license (CDL) is subject to alcohol and drug testing. This includes all drivers who operate a motor vehicle designed to transport 16 or more people counting the driver, drivers of large vehicles, or drivers of vehicles used in the transportation of hazardous materials. Teachers, coaches, or other employees who primarily perform duties other than driving are subject to testing requirements if their duties include driving a commercial motor vehicle.

Drug testing will be conducted before an individual assumes driving responsibilities. Alcohol and drug tests will be conducted when reasonable suspicion exists, at random, when an employee returns to duty after engaging in prohibited conduct, and as a follow-up measure. Testing may be conducted following accidents. Return-to-duty and follow-up testing will be conducted if an

employee who has violated the prohibited alcohol conduct standards or tested positive for alcohol or drugs is allowed to return to duty.

All employees required to have a CDL or who otherwise are subject to alcohol and drug testing will receive a copy of the district's policy, the testing requirements, and detailed information on alcohol and drug abuse and the availability of assistance programs.

Employees with questions or concerns relating to alcohol and drug testing policies and related educational material should contact the **Director of Transportation**.

## **Health Safety Training**

*Policies DBA, DMA*

Certain employees who are involved in physical activities for students must maintain and submit to the district proof of current certification or training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), concussion, and extracurricular athletic activity safety. Certification or documentation of training must be issued by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or another organization that provides equivalent training and certification. Employees subject to this requirement must submit their certification or documentation to the **Executive Director of Student Engagement**.

School nurses and employees with regular contact with students must complete a Texas Education Agency approved, online training regarding seizure disorder awareness, recognition, and related first aid.

## **Reassignments and Transfers**

*Policy DK*

All personnel are employed subject to assignment and reassignment by the Superintendent or designee when the Superintendent or designee determines that the assignment or reassignment is in the best interest of the District. Reassignment shall be defined as a transfer to another position, department, or facility that does not necessitate a change in the employment contract of a contract employee. Any change in an employee's contract shall be in accordance with policy DC.

Any employee may request reassignment within the District to another position for which they are qualified. Lateral transfer guidelines and timelines will be coordinated by the Human Resources Office and communicated to current employees through district communication. As part of the lateral transfer process, employees must notify their current supervisor of their intent to submit a transfer form during the official lateral transfer window. Employees on a current action plan or plan of support are not eligible. Employees must also already hold the appropriate certification(s) for the position they intend to transfer to. Employees who choose not to submit a lateral transfer form during the window, for any reason, will not be considered should a desirable position or location become available after the transfer submission window

closes. Any transfer must be approved by the receiving supervisor and the Human Resources Department.

## **Workload and Work Schedules**

*Policies DEAB, DK, DL*

**Professional Employees.** Professional employees and academic administrators are exempt from overtime pay and are employed on a 10-, 11-, or 12-month basis, according to the work schedules set by the district. A school calendar is adopted each year designating the work schedule for teachers and all school holidays. Notice of [work schedules](#) including start and end dates and scheduled holidays will be posted each school year.

Classroom teachers will have planning periods for instructional preparation including conferences. The schedule of planning periods is set at the campus level but must provide at least 450 minutes within each two-week period in blocks not less than 45 minutes within the instructional day. Teachers and librarians are entitled to a duty-free lunch period of at least 30 minutes. The district may require teachers to supervise students during lunch one day a week when no other personnel are available. However, in accordance with the District's innovation plan, the District is exempt from the state law regarding minimum planning and preparation periods for classroom teachers. Planning and preparation periods shall be determined in accordance with standards established by district leadership.

**Paraprofessional and Auxiliary Employees.** Support employees are employed on an at-will basis and will receive annual notification of their designated duty days, holidays, and work hours specific to their position. Paraprofessional and auxiliary staff are eligible for overtime compensation and may not work beyond their assigned schedule without prior approval from their supervisor. Please note that summer hours and scheduled workdays may be adjusted based on the operational needs of the district. See Overtime Compensation in the table of contents for additional information.

**Duties.** Building principals may assign extra duties to employees as part of their employment duties. Duties may include, but are not limited to the following: lunch duty, hall duty, duty at extracurricular activities or events, bus loading duty, parking lot duty, supervising detention hall or in-school suspension, tutoring, and housekeeping duties (such as turning out lights, locking doors, straightening classrooms at the end of the day, etc.).

**Faculty and Staff Meetings.** Building meetings may be scheduled by the campus administrator(s). The efficient operation of the school depends upon the timely and orderly dissemination of information and development of campus policies and procedures related to improving education. All staff members are expected to attend faculty meetings unless otherwise excused by the principal.

## **ADA Accommodations**

*Policies DAA, DBB, DIA*

The district will provide reasonable accommodations to employees with a disability if the accommodation would allow the individual to perform the essential functions of their job, unless doing so would create an undue hardship. An employee or their supervisor may initiate a request for accommodation by contacting the Benefits and Leave Department ([benefits@prosper-isd.net](mailto:benefits@prosper-isd.net)) and identifying an adjustment or change at work that is needed because of a disability. Upon receiving the reasonable accommodation request, HR will meet with the employee and conduct an informal, interactive discussion to identify an accommodation that will allow the employee to perform the essential functions of the job effectively. The district may request medical information concerning the employee's disability to assist in determining what accommodation(s) may be available and appropriate. The employee will be responsible for obtaining the information from their health care provider. Medical information received will be confidential and kept separate from the employee's personnel file.

After meeting with the employee and reviewing medical documentation, HR will determine whether the employee is a qualified individual with a disability and develop a reasonable accommodation plan for the employee. Accommodation will be determined on a case-by-case basis. HR will work closely with the employee and supervisor to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided and effective.

## **Supervising Relatives**

*Policy DK*

Employees who are members of the same immediate family, as defined in DEC(LOCAL), shall not be assigned to the same campus or the same department on a full-time basis when the related employees are assigned responsibilities requiring that one directly supervises or evaluates the duties or performance of the other.

## **Breaks for Expression of Breast Milk**

*Policies DEAB, DG*

The district supports the practice of expressing breast milk and makes reasonable accommodations for the needs of employees who express breast milk for a nursing child for one year after the child's birth. A place, other than a multiple user bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from other employees and the public where the employee can express breast milk will be provided.

A reasonable amount of break time will be provided when the employee has a need to express milk. For nonexempt employees, these breaks are unpaid and are not counted as hours worked. Employees should meet with their supervisor to discuss their needs and arrange break times.

The Providing Urgent Maternal Protections of Nursing Mothers Act (PUMP Act) requires an employee to notify the district if they believe the district is out of compliance in providing breaks for a nursing mother. The employee must give the district 10 days to come into compliance before making any claim of liability against the district. An employee with concerns should contact the **Human Resources Director** assigned to the campus or department.

## **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**

*Policies DEAB, DG*

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) provides consideration of accommodations to employees who have known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. An employee seeking a PWFA accommodation should contact the **Director of Benefits** to begin the interactive process.

## **Notification to Parents Regarding Qualifications**

*Policies DK, DBA*

In schools receiving Title I funds, the district is required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to notify parents at the beginning of each school year that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. ESSA also requires that parents be notified if their child has been assigned or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements.

Texas law requires that parents be notified if their child is assigned for more than 30 consecutive instructional days to a teacher who does not hold an appropriate teaching certificate. This notice is not required if parental notice under ESSA is sent. Inappropriately certified or uncertified teachers include individuals on an emergency permit (including individuals waiting to take a certification exam) and individuals who do not hold any certificate or permit. Information relating to teacher certification will be made available to the public upon request. Employees who have questions about their certification status can call the Human Resources Office.

## **Outside Employment and Tutoring**

*Policy DBD*

All employees are required to disclose in writing to their immediate supervisor any outside employment that may create a potential conflict of interest with their assigned duties and responsibilities or the best interest of the district. An employee shall not privately tutor any students for pay for whom the employee is a current teacher of record for the student without prior approval from his or her immediate supervisor.

## **Administrators**

An employee who has significant administrative duties relating to the operation of a school district, including the operation for a campus, program, or other subdivision of the district is restricted from outside employment. Administrators may not receive financial benefits for performing personal services for any business entity that conducts or solicits business with the district. Administrators are also prohibited from receiving financial benefits for performing personal services for any education business that provides services regarding the curriculum or administration of any school district or financial benefits for performing personal services for other school districts, open enrollment charter schools, and education service centers. An exception applies to an administrator who is not a superintendent, assistant superintendent, or member of a board of managers if the board approves as required by statute. Services must be performed on the administrator's personal time. Contact **Jeff Crownover, Deputy Superintendent**, for more information.

## **Performance Evaluation**

### *Policy DN series*

Evaluation of an employee's job performance is a continuous process that focuses on improvement. Performance evaluation is based on an employee's assigned job duties and other job-related criteria. All employees will participate in the evaluation process with their assigned supervisor at least annually unless otherwise noted by Board policy. Evaluations will be completed on forms approved by the district. Reports, correspondence, and memoranda also can be used to document performance information. All employees will receive a copy of their evaluation, may participate in a performance conference with their supervisor, and have the opportunity to respond to the evaluation.

## **Nurses**

Upon receiving a report, a nursing review committee may review a nurse's nursing services, qualifications, and quality of patient care, as well as the merits of a complaint concerning a nurse, and a determination or recommendation regarding a complaint. A nurse may request, orally or in writing, a determination by the committee regarding conduct requested of the nurse believed to violate the nurse's duty to a patient.

## **Teacher Request for Second Appraisal**

### *Policy DNA*

A teacher may request a second appraisal by another certified appraiser at the following times:

- For Domains I, II, and III after receiving a written observation summary with which the teacher disagrees; or

- For Domain IV, and for the performance of teachers' students, as defined in 19 Administrative Code 150.1001(f)(2), after receiving a written summative annual appraisal report with which the teacher disagrees.

Requests for an additional observation by a different appraiser must be made in writing by the teacher to the Human Resources Department within 10 working days of the teacher's receipt of written observation and/or annual summative report. Requests must be received no later than **4:00 PM of the 10th working day**. The second appraiser will be assigned by the Human Resources Department. The appraisal resulting from the second appraiser will be included with the teacher's appraisal documentation. A teacher may be given advance notice of the date or time of a second appraisal, but advance notice is not required.

The second appraiser shall make observations and walk-throughs as necessary to evaluate the dimensions in Domains I–III or shall review the Goal-Setting and Professional Development Plan for evidence of goal attainment and professional development activities, when applicable. Cumulative data may also be used by the second appraiser to evaluate other dimensions.

A district shall adopt written procedures for determining the selection of second appraisers. The procedures shall be disseminated to each teacher at the time of employment and updated annually or as needed.

A teacher may not request a second appraisal by another certified appraiser in response to a written summative annual appraisal report for the ratings of dimensions in Domains I, II, and III if those ratings are based entirely on observation summaries or written documentation already received by the teacher earlier in the appraisal year for which the teacher already had the opportunity to request a second appraisal.

If a teacher requests a second appraisal for the written summative annual appraisal report after the due date specified on the district teacher [appraisal calendar](#), then the teacher waives the timeline that requires the 15 days before the last day of instruction for students to conduct the second written summative appraisal report.

## **Employee Involvement**

*Policies BQA, BQB*

At both the campus and district levels, Prosper ISD offers opportunities for input in matters that affect employees and influence the instructional effectiveness of the district. As part of the district's planning and decision-making process, employees are elected to serve on district- or campus-level advisory committees. Plans and detailed information about the shared decision-making process are available in each campus office.

## **Staff Development**

*Policy DMA*

Staff development activities are organized to meet the needs of employees and the district. Staff development for instructional personnel is predominantly campus-based, related to achieving campus performance objectives, addressed in the campus improvement plan, and approved by a campus-level advisory committee. Staff development for non-instructional personnel is designed to meet specific licensing requirements (e.g., bus drivers) and continued employee skill development.

Individuals holding renewable SBEC certificates are responsible for obtaining the required training hours and maintaining appropriate documentation.

## **Mental Health Training**

### *Policy DMA*

All district employees who regularly interact with students are required to complete an evidenced-based mental health training program that is designed to provide instruction regarding the recognition and support of children and youth who experience mental health or substance use issues that may pose a threat to school safety. Employees must provide a certificate of completion to the district that includes the name of the training course, along with supporting documentation confirming that the training meets the requirements of the commissioner rules for mental health training. Campus staff required to complete the training includes, but is not limited to, teachers, coaches, librarians, instructional coaches, administrators, administrative support personnel, school resource officers, paraprofessionals, substitutes, custodians, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, crossing guards, and district special program liaisons, and supervisors of personnel who regularly interact with students.

## **Professional Learning Expectations**

Learning is an intentional, ongoing and systemic process aligned with district, campus and individual goals that impact student learning. All employees are expected to participate in a continuous improvement cycle that includes district, campus or department, and personalized professional learning. Professional learning activities are developed to achieve performance objectives.

### **Personalized Professional Learning**

All personnel are responsible for participating in a continuous improvement cycle that includes seeking professional learning related to goals established in the appraisal process or through a needs assessment, implementing new learning and reflecting on results.

### **Campus**

Campus-based professional learning relates to achieving campus performance objectives. As needs emerge through an ongoing needs assessment process, additional campus professional learning may be developed.

### **District**

District-based professional learning relates to achieving district performance objectives and goals identified through an ongoing needs assessment process.

### **Annual Online Compliance Training**

Annual online compliance training must be completed by exempt and nonexempt employees. Additional compliance training may be required by the employee's supervisor.

Employees may visit the Professional Learning Hub [HERE](#) for more detailed requirements and information regarding professional development.

## **Compensation and Benefits**

### **Salaries, Wages, and Stipends**

*Policies DEA, DEAA, DEAB*

Employees are paid in accordance with administrative guidelines and an established pay structure. The district's pay plans are reviewed by the administration each year and adjusted as needed. All district positions are classified as exempt or nonexempt according to federal law. Professional employees and academic administrators are generally classified as exempt and are paid an annual salary. They are not entitled to overtime compensation. Other employees are generally classified as nonexempt and are paid an hourly wage or salary and receive compensatory time or overtime pay for each hour worked beyond 40 in a workweek. See section regarding *Overtime Compensation*.

All employees will receive written notice of their pay and work schedules before the start of each school year. Classroom teachers, full-time librarians, full-time nurses, and full-time counselors will be paid no less than the minimum state salary schedule. Contract employees who perform extracurricular or supplemental duties may be paid a stipend in addition to their salary according to the district's extra-duty pay schedule.

Employees hired after the first day of the regular scheduled work day calendar for their position will have their salary prorated based on their remaining scheduled work days.

Employees should contact the **Payroll Department** for more information about the district's pay schedules or their own pay.

## **Paychecks**

All professional and salaried employees are paid twice monthly. Paychecks will not be released to any person other than the district employee named on the check without the employee's written authorization. Employees are responsible for regularly reviewing the accuracy of their pay statement and should contact the **Payroll Department** if they have questions.

The schedule of pay dates for the school year can be found on the Payroll page:

<https://www.prosper-isd.net/page/payroll>

## **Automatic Payroll Deposit**

Employees can have their paychecks electronically deposited into a designated account. A notification period of ten days is necessary to activate this service. Contact the **Payroll Department** for more information about the automatic payroll deposit service.

## **Payroll Deductions**

*Policy CFEA*

The district is required to make the following automatic payroll deductions:

- Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) or Social Security employee contributions
- Federal income tax required for all full-time employees
- Medicare tax (applicable only to employees hired after March 31, 1986)
- Child support and spousal maintenance, if applicable
- Delinquent federal education loan payments, if applicable

Other payroll deductions employees may elect include deductions for the employee's share of premiums for health, dental, life, and vision insurance; annuities; and higher education savings plans or prepaid tuition programs. Employees also may request payroll deduction for payment of membership dues to professional organizations and certain charitable contributions approved by the Board. Salary deductions are automatically made for unauthorized or unpaid leave.

Employees are not entitled to any funds the district overpays. Employees who are paid more than the amount to which they are entitled must reimburse the district for the overpayment. An overpayment occurs if an employee is paid more than the amount the employee should have been paid under the assigned pay grade and applicable supplemental pay. Additionally, the District may deduct any overpayment of wages from an employee's paycheck. Please refer to the section "payroll check errors" in this document for additional information on payment recapture.

## **Overtime Compensation**

*Policies DEAB, DEC*

The district compensates overtime for nonexempt employees in accordance with federal wage and hour laws. Only nonexempt employees (hourly employees and paraprofessional employees) are entitled to overtime compensation. Nonexempt employees are not authorized to work beyond their normal work schedule without **advance approval** from their supervisor. A nonexempt employee who works overtime without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Overtime is defined by law as all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek and is not measured by the day or by the employee's regular work schedule. For the purpose of calculating overtime, a workweek begins at 12:00 AM on Sunday and ends at 11:59 PM on Saturday.

Nonexempt employees that are paid on a salary basis are paid for the hours set by the normal work schedule. Hours worked beyond the normal schedule up to 40 hours will be paid at a regular rate of pay.

Employees may be compensated for overtime (i.e., hours beyond 40 in a workweek) at time-and-a-half rate with compensatory time off (comp time) or direct pay. The following applies to all nonexempt employees:

- Employees can accumulate up to 60 hours of comp time.
- Comp time must be used in the duty year that it is earned.
- Use of comp time may be at the employee's request with supervisor approval, as workload permits, or at the supervisor's direction.
- An employee is required to use comp time before using available paid leave (e.g., sick, personal, vacation).
- Weekly time records will be maintained on all nonexempt employees for the purpose of wage and salary administration.

## **Time Clock Guidelines**

Use of the time clock system (**Skyward Time Tracking**) is required for all nonexempt employees and occasions in which supplemental assignments for exempt employees occur. The electronic timekeeping system will accurately track employee work time as entered by the employee. It also facilitates the district's ability to efficiently process time worked for payroll purposes. The following guidelines outline the expectations for using the system efficiently.

### **Official Time of Records**

The electronic timekeeping system and associated work records are the official method for recording hours worked by nonexempt employees. Any disputes regarding actual hours worked or employee attendance will be resolved by referring to the records generated from the electronic timekeeping system.

### **Daily Clock In/Out Requirements**

All non-exempt employees are required to clock in at the beginning of their workday and to clock out at the end of their workday through the Skyward Time Tracking system available in the Employee Portal or kiosk. Additionally, non-exempt employees are required to clock in and clock out for lunch breaks. Missed entries can be corrected by the employee and approved by their supervisor through the submission of a Missed Punch Form found in the Skyward Dashboard. Contacting the appropriate supervisor or designee is required when/if the employee experiences difficulty or a malfunction of the system that prevents them from entering their time according to documented guidelines. If the minimum requirements for a full time work week are not met, employees that clock in and out will be docked at their hourly rate.

### **Absences**

Skyward Qmlative is the system of record for absences. All employees will input their absence request into Skyward for approval by their supervisor. Employees requiring a substitute will be directed to Frontline Absence Management to request coverage. Employees requiring a substitute should follow district expectations as outlined in the General Procedures section of this handbook.

### **Proper Usage**

All employees designated to utilize the electronic timekeeping system are expected to follow all district expectations.

- Employees are expected to clock in at their scheduled start time. Employees should not clock in prior to their scheduled start time (unless they have the express permission of their supervisor to clock in prior to their regular time).
- Employees are expected to remain clocked in and engaged in their assigned work until their scheduled end time (unless they have the express permission of their supervisor to clock out prior to their regular time).

### **Violations**

Engaging in any of the following actions could result in immediate disciplinary action, including termination.

- Attempting to tamper with timekeeping hardware or software.
- Clocking in/out for another employee.
- Interfering with other employee's use of the electronic timekeeping system.
- Unauthorized viewing of another employee's time in the electronic timekeeping system.
- Intentional or careless working "off the clock". Non-exempt employees are required to clock in before performing any work. Additionally, non-exempt employees are not permitted to clock out and then continue working.
- Purposefully misrepresenting or incorrectly reporting time worked.
- Repeated failure to enter absences in both Skyward and Frontline, as applicable.

### **Docked Pay**

An exempt employee shall be docked days, while a nonexempt employee shall be docked at either a half-day or full day rate for hours missed, when all available comp time, local days, and

state days have been exhausted. Additionally, nonexempt employees shall be docked at an hourly rate when their weekly work schedule is not met. For questions about your weekly work schedule, please contact your direct supervisor or the Payroll Department.

### **Payroll Check Errors**

It is the district's intention to always issue correct paychecks and to only deduct the amounts that are authorized by law or by the employee's written authorization. Employees should promptly notify the district immediately of any error on the employee's paycheck. Employees who are paid more than the amount to which they are entitled must reimburse the district for the overpayment. Upon notification or identification of an error, the Payroll Department will automatically deduct the overpayment from the employee's next paycheck. This may occur as one deduction for the entire amount of the overpayment or may be divided into a series of smaller deductions from multiple paychecks as determined by the District in consultation with the affected employee. If an overpayment is discovered after employment has ended, the Payroll Department will contact the employee to make arrangements for repayment. Employees who are paid less than the amount to which they are entitled will receive additional funds to correct the shortage. Prosper ISD will make corrections due to check errors on the next paycheck following discovery of the error where possible.

## **Travel Expense Reimbursement**

### *Policy DEE*

Before any travel expenses are incurred by an employee, the employee's supervisor must give approval. For approved travel, employees will be reimbursed for mileage and other travel expenditures according to the current rate schedule established by the district. Employees must submit receipts, to the extent possible, to be reimbursed for allowable expenses other than mileage.

## **Medical Insurance**

### *Policy CRD*

Group health insurance coverage is provided through TRS-ActiveCare, the statewide public school employee health insurance program. The district's contribution to employee insurance premiums is determined annually by the board of trustees. Employees eligible for health insurance coverage include the following:

- Employees who are active, contributing TRS members
- Employees who are not contributing TRS members and who are employed for 10 or more regularly scheduled hours per week

The insurance plan year is from September 1 through August 31. Current employees can make changes in their insurance coverage during open enrollment each year or when they experience

a qualifying event (e.g., marriage, divorce, birth). Detailed descriptions of insurance coverage, employee cost, and eligibility requirements are provided to all employees in the [BenefitsHUB](#) system. Employees should contact the **Benefits Department** for more information at [benefits@prosper-isd.net](mailto:benefits@prosper-isd.net).

## **Supplemental Insurance Benefits**

### *Policy CRD*

At their own expense, employees may enroll in supplemental insurance programs. Premiums for these programs can be paid by payroll deduction. Employees should contact the Benefits Department for more information at [benefits@prosper-isd.net](mailto:benefits@prosper-isd.net).

## **Termination Coverage**

Employees who end their employment with Prosper ISD and who participate in the district benefits have the opportunity to participate in COBRA coverage at their own expense for themselves and their covered dependents. COBRA notification for health, dental and vision insurance will be issued from the insurance carriers at the time coverage ceases.

## **Flexible Spending Account Benefits (Section 125)**

Employees may be eligible to participate in a Flexible Spending Account (Section 125) and, under IRS regulations, must either accept or decline this benefit. This plan enables eligible employees to pay certain insurance premiums on a pretax basis (i.e., medical, dental, vision). A third-party administrator handles employee claims made on these accounts.

New employees must accept or decline this benefit during their first month of employment. All employees must accept or reject this benefit on an annual basis and during the specified open enrollment period.

## **Workers' Compensation Insurance**

### *Policy CRE*

Workers' compensation benefits will cover only the compensable work-related injury or illness, not other unrelated personal medical problems. For information regarding workers' compensation coverage, contact [workerscomp@prosper-isd.net](mailto:workerscomp@prosper-isd.net).

Temporary income benefits may help pay for medical treatment and make up for part of the income lost while recovering. Specific benefits are prescribed by law depending on the circumstances of each case.

All work-related accidents or injuries should be reported immediately to your supervisor and the campus nurse. Employees who are unable to work because of a work-related injury will be

notified of their rights and responsibilities under the Texas Labor Code. See **Workers' Compensation Benefits** for information on use of paid leave for such absences.

Once a claim is reported and accepted by the district's workers' compensation program as compensable (eligible), your workers' compensation benefits begin. This is the only medical benefit you may use for treatment of your specific claim/injury, including medical examinations and medications. The district's workers' compensation program pays for healthcare reasonably required using evidence-based medicine in accordance with the State of Texas Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) to treat a compensable injury.

All injuries/incidents, even minor ones, must be reported immediately to your supervisor or campus nurse. Claim benefits may be denied or disputed if reported more than 30 days after the accident occurs. Injured employees may be asked questions to enable nursing and benefits staff to complete the state-required employer's first report of injury. Employees will receive a packet with instructions and forms to complete. A copy of the injury report forms must be sent to [workerscomp@prosper-isd.net](mailto:workerscomp@prosper-isd.net) on the day the injury is reported to a supervisor and school nurse. If medical attention is required for the injury, employees should ensure that the services are obtained from a medical provider in-network (list and website provided in the packet). Workers' compensation claims should not be processed via personal health insurance.

Employees who are absent due to a work-related injury or illness are also required to complete the applicable Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or Temporary Disability Leave (TDL) forms if absences exceed 5 days. Please contact [leave@prosper-isd.net](mailto:leave@prosper-isd.net) with FMLA and TDL questions.

Questions relating to the Prosper ISD Workers' Compensation Program should be directed to [workerscomp@prosper-isd.net](mailto:workerscomp@prosper-isd.net).

## **Unemployment Compensation Insurance**

*Policy CRF*

Employees who have been laid off or terminated through no fault of their own may be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. Employees are not eligible to collect unemployment benefits during regularly scheduled breaks in the school year or the summer months if they have employment contracts or reasonable assurance of returning to service. Employees with questions about unemployment benefits should contact the **Human Resources Department**.

## **Teacher Retirement**

All personnel employed on a regular basis for at least four and one-half months are members of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). TRS provides members with an annual statement of their account showing all deposits and the total account balance for the year ending August 31, as well as an estimate of their retirement benefits.

Employees who plan to retire under TRS should notify the **Payroll Office** at [payroll@prosper-isd.net](mailto:payroll@prosper-isd.net) as soon as possible. Information on the application procedures for TRS benefits is available from TRS at Teacher Retirement System of Texas, 1000 Red River Street, Austin, TX 78701-2698, or call 800-223-8778 or 512-542-6400. TRS information is also available on the web: [www.trs.texas.gov](http://www.trs.texas.gov).

## **Leaves and Absences**

*Policies DEC, DECA, DECB*

The district offers employees paid and unpaid leaves of absence in times of personal need. This handbook describes the basic types of leave available and restrictions on leaves of absence. Employees who expect to be absent for more than five days should contact the **Benefits and Leave Department** at [leave@prosper-isd.net](mailto:leave@prosper-isd.net) for information about applicable leave benefits, payment of insurance premiums, and requirements for communicating with the district.

Paid leave must be used in half-day increments. Earned comp time must be used before any available paid state and local leave. Unless an employee requests a different order, available paid state and local leave will be used in the following order:

- Local leave
- State sick leave accumulated before the 1995-96 school year
- State personal leave

Individual supervisors may establish campus/department absence protocol for their employees to report absences or tardies. Employees must follow district and department or campus procedures to report or request any leave of absence and complete the appropriate form/steps or certification. Any unapproved absences or absences beyond accumulated or available paid leave may result in a deduction from the employee's pay.

If an employee does not report to work or request leave of absence(s) according to district procedures, the incident is considered a "no show". An employee who is absent for 3 consecutive days without notice is considered to have abandoned their job and may face disciplinary consequences up to and including termination.

A supervisor who reasonably suspects that an employee is abusing a leave policy or practice or that the employee has excessive absences may require the employee to provide a health care provider/physician statement after each absence due to illness.

**Immediate Family.** For purposes of leave other than family and medical leave, immediate family is defined as the following:

- Spouse
- Son or daughter, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, a son- or daughter-in-law, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stands in loco parentis.
- Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, or other individual who stands in loco parentis to the employee.

- Sibling, stepsibling, and sibling-in-law
- Grandparent and grandchild
- Any person residing in the employee’s household at the time of illness or death

For purposes of Family and Medical Leave, the definition of family is found in Policy DECA (LEGAL).

**Medical Certification.** Any employee who is absent more than five consecutive workdays because of a personal or immediate family illness or injury must submit a medical certification from a qualified healthcare provider confirming the specific dates of the illness, the reason for the illness, and—in the case of personal illness—the employee’s fitness to return to work.

The district may require medical certification due to an employee’s questionable pattern of absences or when deemed necessary by the supervisor or superintendent. The district will request medical certification when an employee requests leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for the employee’s serious health condition, a serious health condition of the employee’s spouse, parent, or child, or for military caregiver leave.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits covered employers from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we ask that employees and health care providers do not provide any genetic information in any medical certification. ‘Genetic information,’ as defined by GINA, includes an individual’s family medical history, the results of an individual’s or family member’s genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member, or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

### Continuation of Health Insurance

Employees on an approved leave of absence other than family and medical leave may continue their insurance benefits at their own expense. Health insurance benefits for employees on paid leave and leave designated under FMLA will be paid by the district as they were prior to the leave. Otherwise, the district does not pay any portion of insurance premiums for employees who are on unpaid leave.

Under TRS-Active Care rules, an employee is no longer eligible for insurance through the district after six months of unpaid leave other than FML. If an employee’s unpaid leave extends for more than six months, the district will provide the employee with notice of COBRA rights.

## **Personal Leave**

State law entitles all employees to five days of paid personal leave per year. Personal leave is available for use at the beginning of the year. A day of personal leave is equivalent to the number of hours per day in an employee’s usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

State personal leave accumulates without limit, is transferable to other Texas school districts, and generally transfers to education service centers. Personal leave may be used for two general purposes: non-discretionary and discretionary.

**Nondiscretionary.** Leave taken for personal or family illness, family emergency, a death in the family, or active military service is considered non-discretionary leave. Reasons for this type of leave allow very little, if any, advance planning. Nondiscretionary may be used in the same manner as state sick leave.

**Discretionary.** Leave taken at an employee’s discretion that can be scheduled in advance is considered discretionary leave. An employee wishing to take discretionary personal leave must submit a request to his or her principal or supervisor in alignment with their campus/department absence protocol and in advance of the anticipated absence. The effect of the employee’s absence on the educational program or department operations, as well as the availability of substitutes, will be considered by the principal or supervisor. **Personal leave may not be taken for more than 5 consecutive days.**

Certain days are prohibited from being used for discretionary leave. These include testing days, days before and after school holidays, and days of scheduled staff development or teacher workdays. The prohibited days for the school year are included below:

- The first week of school
- A school day before or after a school holiday,
- A school day before or after a bad weather make-up day
- Bad weather make-up days while classes are in session
- Days scheduled for end-of-semester or end-of-year exams
- Days scheduled for state mandated testing
- Professional or Staff development days
- Department or Campus-Specific Protected Days (i.e. Open House, Meet the Teacher, etc.)

*\*Days for Mandated State Testing are also protected and will vary by campus level.*

**Leave Proration.** If an employee separates from employment with the district before his or her last duty day of the year, or begins employment after the first duty day, state personal leave will be prorated based on the actual time employed. When an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee’s final paycheck will be reduced by the amount of state personal leave the employee used beyond his or her prorated entitlement for the school year.

Employees Working 100% of the Day

Days Worked	State Personal Days Awarded	Local Leave Days Awarded
180+	5.0	5.0

162-179	4.5	4.5
144-161	4.0	4.0
126-143	3.5	3.5
108-125	3.0	3.0
90-107	2.5	2.5
72-89	2.0	2.0
54-71	1.5	1.5
36-53	1.0	1.0
18-35	0.5	0.5
0-17	0	0

### **State Sick Leave (Prior to 1995)**

State sick leave accumulated before 1995 is available for use and may be transferred to other school districts in Texas. State sick leave may be used for the following reasons only:

- Employee illness
- Illness in the employee’s immediate family
- Family emergency (i.e., natural disasters or life-threatening situations)
- Death in immediate family
- Active military service

### **Local Leave**

Prosper ISD awards five days of Local Leave. Local Leave shall accumulate to a maximum of thirty leave days and it is not transferable to other school districts or education service centers. Personal leave may be used for two general purposes: non-discretionary and discretionary.

**Nondiscretionary.** Leave taken for personal or family illness, family emergency, a death in the family, or active military service is considered non-discretionary leave. Reasons for this type of leave allows very little, if any, advance planning.

**Discretionary.** Leave taken at an employee’s discretion that can be scheduled in advance is considered discretionary leave. An employee wishing to take discretionary personal leave must submit a request to his or her principal or supervisor in alignment with their campus/department absence protocol and in advance of the anticipated absence. The effect of

the employee's absence on the educational program or department operations, as well as the availability of substitutes, will be considered by the principal or supervisor. **Personal leave may not be taken for more than 5 consecutive days.**

Certain days are prohibited from being used for discretionary leave. These include testing days, days before and after school holidays, and days of scheduled staff development or teacher workdays. The prohibited days for the school year are included below:

- The first week of school
- A school day before or after a school holiday,
- A school day before or after a bad weather make-up day
- Bad weather make-up days while classes are in session
- Days scheduled for end-of-semester or end-of-year exams
- Days scheduled for state mandated testing
- Professional or Staff development days
- Department or Campus-Specific Protected Days (i.e. Open House, Meet the Teacher, etc.)

*\*Days for Mandated State Testing are also protected and will vary by campus level.*

**Leave Proration.** If an employee separates from employment with the district before his or her last duty day of the year, or begins employment after the first duty day, local personal leave will be prorated based on the actual time employed. When an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee's final paycheck will be reduced by the amount of local personal leave the employee used beyond his or her prorated entitlement for the school year.

## **Vacation**

### *Policy DED*

Employees who work in departments that remain open in the summer in the best interest of the district may take non-contract days during the contract year with prior approval of their immediate supervisor. The supervisor will consider all appropriate and relevant factors as it relates to the request to ensure adequate coverage for department/district needs.

Eligible employees in positions normally requiring 250 days of service annually shall receive paid vacation days in accordance with administrative regulations that address the following:

1. Eligibility criteria;
2. Accrual rates and availability;
3. Request and approval processes;
4. Accumulation and carryover limits; and
5. Treatment of vacation days upon separation from service.

## **Catastrophic Illness or Injury**

A catastrophic illness or injury is a severe condition or combination of conditions affecting the mental or physical health of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family that requires the services of a licensed practitioner for a prolonged period of time and that forces the employee to exhaust all leave time earned by that employee and to lose compensation from the District. Such conditions typically require immediate emergency medical attention, prolonged hospitalization or recovery and are expected to result in disability or death. Conditions relating to pregnancy or childbirth shall be considered catastrophic if they meet the criteria outlined in this definition. The loss of compensation is not a factor in the evaluation of the catastrophic medical condition.

## **Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank**

The District shall establish a catastrophic sick leave bank that employees may join through contribution of local leave. Leave contributed to the bank shall be solely for the use of participating employees. An employee who is a member of the bank may request leave from the bank if the employee experiences a catastrophic illness or injury and has exhausted all paid leave. If the employee is unable to request leave from the sick leave bank, a member of the employee's family or the employee's supervisor may submit the request.

## **Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)—General Provisions**

The following text is from the federal notice, *Your Employee Rights Under the Family and Medical Leave Act*. Specific information that the district has adopted to implement the FMLA follows this general notice.

### **What is FMLA leave?**

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is a federal law that provides eligible employees with job-protected leave for qualifying family and medical reasons.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces the FMLA for most employees. Eligible employees can take up to 12 workweeks of FMLA leave in a 12-month period for:

- The birth, adoption or foster placement of a child with you,
- Your serious mental or physical health condition that makes you unable to work,
- To care for your spouse, child or parent with a serious mental or physical health condition, and
- Certain qualifying reasons related to the foreign deployment of your spouse, child or parent who is a military servicemember.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, child, parent or next of kin of a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness may take up to 26 workweeks of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember.

You have the right to use FMLA leave in one block of time. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, you may take FMLA leave intermittently in separate blocks of time, or on a reduced schedule by working less hours each day or week. Read Fact Sheet #28M(c) for more information.

FMLA leave is not paid leave, but you may choose, or be required by your employer, to use any employer-provided paid leave if your employer's paid leave policy covers the reason for which you need FMLA leave.

### **Am I eligible to take FMLA leave?**

You are an eligible employee if all of the following apply:

- You work for a covered employer,
  - You have worked for your employer at least 12 months,
  - You have at least 1,250 hours of service for your employer during the 12 months before your leave, and
  - Your employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of your work location
- Airline flight crew employees have different "hours of service" requirements.

You work for a covered employer if one of the following applies:

- You work for a private employer that had at least 50 employees during at least 20 workweeks in the current or previous calendar year,
- You work for an elementary or public or private secondary school, or
- You work for a public agency, such as a local, state or federal government agency. Most federal employees are covered by Title II of the FMLA, administered by the Office of Personnel Management

### **How do I request FMLA leave?**

Generally, to request FMLA leave you must:

- Follow your employer's normal policies for requesting leave.
- Give notice at least 30 days before your need for FMLA leave.
- If advance notice is not possible, give notice as soon as possible.

Employees needing FMLA should log into the employee portal and locate the Laserfiche application. The required form can be completed by searching for the Family and Medical Leave Request Form. For assistance please email [leave@prosper-isd.net](mailto:leave@prosper-isd.net).

You do not have to share a medical diagnosis but must provide enough information to your employer so they can determine whether the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. You must also inform your employer if FMLA leave was previously taken or approved for the same reason when requesting additional leave.

Your employer may request certification from a health care provider to verify medical leave and may request certification of a qualifying exigency.

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

State employees may be subject to certain limitations in pursuit of direct lawsuits regarding leave for their own serious health conditions. Most federal and certain congressional employees are also covered by the law but are subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or Congress.

### **What does my employer need to do?**

If you are eligible for FMLA leave, your employer must:

- Allow you to take job-protected time off work for a qualifying reason,
- Continue your group health plan coverage while you are on leave on the same basis as if you had not taken leave, and
- Allow you to return to the same job, or a virtually identical job with the same pay, benefits and other working conditions, including shift and location, at the end of your leave.

Your employer cannot interfere with your FMLA rights or threaten or punish you for exercising your rights under the law. For example, your employer cannot retaliate against you for requesting FMLA leave or cooperating with a WHD investigation.

After becoming aware that your need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, your employer must confirm whether you are eligible or not eligible for FMLA leave. If your employer determines that you are eligible, your employer must notify you in writing:

- About your FMLA rights and responsibilities, and
- How much of your requested leave, if any, will be FMLA-protected leave.

### **Where can I find more information?**

Call 1-866-487-9243 or visit [dol.gov/fmla](https://dol.gov/fmla) to learn more.

If you believe your rights under the FMLA have been violated, you may file a complaint with WHD or file a private lawsuit against your employer in court. Scan the QR code to learn about our WHD complaint process.



## Local Procedures for Implementing Family and Medical Leave Provisions

Eligible employees can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in the 12 month period measured backward from the date an employee uses FML.

**Use of Paid Leave.** FML runs concurrently with accrued sick and personal leave, temporary disability leave, compensatory time, assault leave, and absences due to a work-related illness or injury. The district will designate the leave as FML, if applicable, and notify the employee that accumulated leave will run concurrently. All eligible employees have the option of not using paid leave during an FML absence for pregnancy or birth or adoption of a child.

**Combined Leave for Spouses.** Spouses who are employed by the district are limited to a combined total of 12 weeks of FML to care for a parent with a serious health condition; or for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child. Military caregiver leave for spouses is limited to a combined total of 26 weeks.

**Intermittent Leave.** When medically necessary or in the case of a qualifying exigency, an employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule. The district does not permit the use of intermittent or reduced-schedule leave for the care of a newborn child or for adoption or placement of a child with the employee.

**Fitness for Duty.** An employee that takes FML due to the employee's own serious health condition shall provide, before resuming work, a fitness-for-duty certification from the health care provider. When leave is taken for the employee's own serious health condition, the certification must address the employee's ability to perform essential job functions. The district shall provide a list of essential job functions (e.g., job description) to the employee with the FML designation notice to share with the health care provider. Fitness for duty is not required when an employee returns to work following leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition; to care for a child following birth, adoption, or foster care placement; or for qualifying exigency leave.

**Reinstatement.** An employee returning to work at the end of FML will be returned to the same position held when the leave began or to an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

In certain cases, instructional employees desiring to return to work at or near the conclusion of a semester may be required to continue on family and medical leave until the end of the semester. The additional time off is not counted against the employee's FML entitlement, and the district will maintain the employees group health insurance and reinstate the employee at the end of the leave according to the procedures outlined in policy (see DECA (LEGAL)).

**Failure to Return.** If, at the expiration of FML, the employee is able to return to work but chooses not to do so, the district may require the employee to reimburse the district's share of insurance premiums paid during any portion of FML when the employee was on unpaid leave. If

the employee fails to return to work for a reason beyond the employee's control, such as a continuing personal or family serious health condition or a spouse being unexpectedly transferred more than 75 miles from the district, the district may not require the employee to reimburse the district's share of premiums paid.

Employees that require FML or have questions should contact the **Benefits and Leave Department** for details on eligibility, requirements, and limitations.

## **Temporary Disability Leave**

Any full-time employee is eligible for temporary disability leave. The purpose of temporary disability leave is to provide job protection to full-time employees who cannot work for an extended period of time because of a mental or physical disability of a temporary nature. Temporary disability leave must be taken as a continuous block of time. It may not be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule. Pregnancy and conditions related to pregnancy are treated the same as any other temporary disability.

Employees must request approval for temporary disability leave. An employee's notification of need for extended absence due to the employee's own medical condition shall be accepted as a request for temporary disability leave. The request must be accompanied by a physician's statement confirming the employee's inability to work and estimating a probable date of return. If disability leave is approved, the length of leave is no longer than 180 calendar days.

If an employee is placed on temporary disability leave involuntarily, he or she has the right to request a hearing before the board of trustees. The employee may protest the action and present additional evidence of fitness to work.

When an employee is ready to return to work, the **Benefits and Leave Department** should be notified. The return-to-work notice must be accompanied by a physician's statement confirming that the employee is able to resume regular duties. Employees returning from leave will be reinstated to the school to which they were previously assigned if an appropriate position is available. If an appropriate position is not available, the employee may be assigned to another campus. If a position is not available before the end of the school year, the employee will be reinstated to a position at the original campus at the beginning of the following school year.

**Neutral Absence Control.** If an employee does not return to work after exhausting all available paid and unpaid leave, the District shall provide the employee written notice that he or she no longer has leave available for use and shall give the employee the opportunity to resign from employment. If the employee chooses not to resign, the District shall terminate the employment, regardless of the reason for the absence [see DF series].

## **Workers' Compensation Benefits**

An employee absent from duty because of a job-related illness or injury may be eligible for workers' compensation weekly income benefits if the absence exceeds seven calendar days.

An employee receiving workers' compensation wage benefits for a job-related illness or injury may choose to use accumulated sick leave or any other paid leave benefits. An employee choosing to use paid leave will not receive workers' compensation weekly income benefits until the number of paid leave days chosen is exhausted or to the extent that paid leave does not equal the pre-illness or injury wage. If the use of paid leave is not elected, then the employee will only receive workers' compensation wage benefits for any absence resulting from a work-related illness or injury, which may not equal his or her pre-illness or injury wage.

## **Assault Leave**

Assault leave provides extended job income and benefits protection to an employee who is injured as the result of a physical assault suffered during the performance of his or her job. An incident involving an assault is a work-related injury and should be immediately reported to the **Human Resources Department**.

An injury is treated as an assault if the person causing the injury could be prosecuted for assault or could not be prosecuted only because that person's age or mental capacity renders the person nonresponsible for purposes of criminal liability.

An employee who is physically assaulted at work may take all the leave time medically necessary (up to two years) to recover from the physical injuries he or she sustained. At the request of an employee, the district will immediately assign the employee to assault leave. Days of leave granted under the assault leave provision will not be deducted from accrued personal leave and must be coordinated with workers' compensation benefits. Upon investigation the district may change the assault leave status and charge leave used against the employee's accrued paid leave. The employee's pay will be deducted if accrued paid leave is not available.

## **Bereavement Leave**

*Policy DEC*

An employee shall be granted three days of bereavement leave upon the death of the employee's immediate family member or, at the Superintendent or designee's discretion, another individual. Such leave shall be taken with no loss of pay or other paid leave.

**Immediate Family.** For purposes of leave other than family and medical leave, immediate family is defined as the following:

- Spouse
- Son or daughter, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, a son- or daughter-in-law, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stands in loco parentis.

- Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, or other individual who stands in loco parentis to the employee.
- Sibling, stepsibling, and sibling-in-law
- Grandparent and grandchild
- Any person residing in the employee's household at the time of illness or death

## **Jury Duty**

*Policies DEC, DG*

The district provides paid leave to employees who are summoned to jury duty including service on a grand jury. The district will not discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any regular employee because of juror or grand juror service or for the employee's attendance or scheduled attendance in connection with the service in any court in the United States. Employees who report to the court for jury duty may keep any compensation the court provides. An employee should report a summons for jury duty to his or her supervisor as soon as it is received and will be required to provide a copy of the service letter to document the need for leave.

An employee will be required to report back to work once they are released from jury duty. A copy of the release from jury duty or documentation of time spent at the court is required.

## **Compliance with a Subpoena**

Employees will be paid while on leave to comply with a valid subpoena to appear in a civil, criminal, legislative, or administrative proceeding and will not be required to use personal leave. Employees may be required to submit documentation of their need for leave for court appearances.

## **Truancy Court Appearances**

An employee who is a parent, guardian of a child, or a court-appointed guardian ad litem of a child who is required to miss work to attend a truancy court hearing may use personal leave or compensatory time for the absence. Employees who do not have paid leave available will be docked for any absence required because of the court appearance.

## **Religious Observance**

The district will reasonably accommodate an employee's request for absence for a religious holiday or observance. Accommodations such as changes to work schedules or approving a day of absence will be made unless they pose an undue hardship to the district. The employee may use any accumulated personal leave for this purpose. Employees who have exhausted applicable paid leave may be granted an unpaid day of absence.

## **Military Leave**

**Paid Leave for Military Service.** Any employee who is a member of the Texas National Guard, Texas State Guard, reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, or a member of a state or federally authorized Urban Search and Rescue Team is entitled to 15 days of paid leave per fiscal year when engaged in authorized training or duty orders by proper authority. An additional seven days of leave per fiscal year are available if called to state active duty in response to a disaster. In addition, an employee is entitled to use available state and local personal or sick leave during a time of active military service.

**Reemployment after Military Leave.** Employees who leave the district to enter into the United States uniformed services or who are ordered to active duty as a member of the military force of any state (e.g., National or State Guard) may return to employment if they are honorably discharged. Employees who wish to return to the district will be reemployed provided they can be qualified to perform the required duties. Employees returning to work following military leave should contact the **Benefits Department**. In most cases, the length of federal military service cannot exceed five years.

**Continuation of Health Insurance.** Employees who perform service in the uniformed services may elect to continue their health plan coverage at their own cost for a period not to exceed 24 months. Employees should contact the **Benefits Department** for details on eligibility, requirements, and limitations.

## **Mental Health Leave for Peace Officers and Licensed Telecommunicators**

*Policy DEC*

**Mental Health.** A District peace officer or a full-time District telecommunicator, as defined by law, who experiences a traumatic event in the scope of employment shall be granted a maximum of five days of mental health leave per traumatic event. Such leave shall be provided in accordance with administrative regulations and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding mental health leave that address the following:

1. Circumstances or reasons under which a peace officer may use mental health leave;
2. Procedures for requesting mental health leave and maintaining the anonymity of the requester;
3. The administrator authorized to approve requests for mental health leave; and
4. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.

**Quarantine Leave.** A District peace officer shall be granted quarantine leave when ordered by the local health authority or the peace officer's supervisor to quarantine or isolate due to possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty. Such leave shall be

provided in accordance with administrative regulations and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding quarantine leave that address the following:

1. Continuation of all employment benefits and compensation for the duration of the leave;
2. Reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the quarantine; and
3. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.

## **Leave for Police Officers for Illness or Injury**

### *Policy DEC*

A full-time district employed licensed police officer who regularly serves in a law enforcement capacity in a district police department is entitled to a paid leave of absence (LOA) for an illness or injury related to the person's line of duty. If necessary, the leave shall continue for at least one year.

If unable to return to work at the end of the paid leave and any extension, a police officer may use accumulated sick, vacation, and other accrued leave before being placed on unpaid temporary leave. At the end of temporary leave, the police officer will be reinstated at the same rank and with the same seniority the person had before going on temporary leave.

## **Payment for Accumulated Leave Upon Retirement**

### *Policy DEC*

An employee who retires from the District at the end of a school year shall be eligible for payment for accumulated state and local leave under the following conditions:

1. The employee's retirement is voluntary, i.e., the employee is not being discharged or nonrenewed.
2. The employee provides advance written notice of intent to retire. Contract employees must provide written notice at least 90 days before the last day of employment. Noncontract employees must provide written notice at least two weeks before the last day of employment.
3. The employee has at least ten years of service with the District.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated state and local leave, to a maximum of 30 days, at a rate established by the Board. If the employee is reemployed with the District, days for which the employee received payment shall not be available to that employee.

The rate established by the Board shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate.

# Employee Relations and Communications

## Employee Recognition and Appreciation

Continuous efforts are made throughout the year to recognize employees who make an extra effort to contribute to the success of the district. Employees are recognized at board meetings, in the district newsletter, and through special events and activities.

## District Communications

Throughout the school year, Prosper ISD publishes newsletters, brochures, fliers, calendars, news releases, and other communication materials. These publications offer employees and the community information pertaining to school activities and achievements.

## Complaints and Grievances

*Policy DGBA*

In an effort to hear and resolve employee concerns or complaints in a timely manner and at the lowest administrative level possible, the board has adopted an orderly grievance process. The Board encourages employees to discuss their concerns with their supervisor, principal, or other appropriate administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. See: [Issue Resolution Process](#)

The formal process provides all employees with an opportunity to be heard up to the highest level of management if they are dissatisfied with an administrative response. Even after initiating the formal complaint process, employees are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. An employee whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time. For ease of reference, the district's policy concerning the process of bringing concerns and complaints is here: <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=DGBA>

## Employee Conduct and Welfare

### Standards of Conduct

*Policy DH*

All employees are expected to work together in a cooperative spirit to serve the best interests of the district and to be courteous to students, one another, and the public. Employees are expected to observe the following standards of conduct:

- Recognize and respect the rights of students, parents, other employees, and members of the community.
- Maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to students and coworkers.
- Report to work according to the assigned schedule.

- Notify their immediate supervisor in advance or as early as possible in the event that they must be absent or late. Unauthorized absences, chronic absenteeism, tardiness, and failure to follow procedures for reporting an absence may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- Know and comply with department and district policies and procedures.
- Express concerns, complaints, or criticism through appropriate channels.
- Observe all safety rules and regulations and report injuries or unsafe conditions to a supervisor immediately.
- Use district time, funds, and property for authorized district business and activities only.

All district employees should perform their duties in accordance with state and federal law, district policies and procedures, and ethical standards. Violation of policies, regulations, or guidelines, including intentionally making a false claim, offering false statements, or refusing to cooperate with a district investigation may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Alleged incidents of certain misconduct by educators, including having a criminal record, must be reported to SBEC not later than the seventh day after the superintendent knew of the incident. See *Reports to the Texas Education Agency* for additional information.

The *Educators' Code of Ethics*, adopted by the State Board for Educator Certification, which all district employees must adhere to, is reprinted below:

### ***Texas Educators' Code of Ethics***

#### **Purpose and Scope**

The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification. (19 TAC 247.1(b))

#### **Enforceable Standards**

##### **1. Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices, and Performance**

**Standard 1.1** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in deceptive practices regarding official policies of the school district, educational institution, educator preparation program, the Texas Education Agency, or the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and its certification process.

**Standard 1.2** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misappropriate, divert, or use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.

**Standard 1.3** The educator shall not submit fraudulent requests for reimbursement, expenses, or pay.

**Standard 1.4** The educator shall not use institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.

**Standard 1.5** The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or that are used to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents of students, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.

**Standard 1.6** The educator shall not falsify records, or direct or coerce others to do so.

**Standard 1.7** The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other state and federal laws.

**Standard 1.8** The educator shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications.

**Standard 1.9** The educator shall not make threats of violence against school district employees, school board members, students, or parents of students.

**Standard 1.10** The educator shall be of good moral character and be worthy to instruct or supervise the youth of this state.

**Standard 1.11** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misrepresent his or her employment history, criminal history, and/or disciplinary record when applying for subsequent employment.

**Standard 1.12** The educator shall refrain from the illegal use, abuse, or distribution of controlled substances, prescription drugs and toxic inhalants.

**Standard 1.13** The educator shall not be under the influence of alcohol or consume alcoholic beverages on school property or during school activities when students are present.

## **2. Ethical Conduct toward Professional Colleagues**

**Standard 2.1** The educator shall not reveal confidential health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

**Standard 2.2** The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system.

**Standard 2.3** The educator shall adhere to written local school board policies and state and federal laws regarding the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.

**Standard 2.4** The educator shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.

**Standard 2.5** The educator shall not discriminate against or coerce a colleague on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, family status, or sexual orientation.

**Standard 2.6** The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.

**Standard 2.7** The educator shall not retaliate against any individual who has filed a complaint with the SBEC or who provides information for a disciplinary investigation or proceeding under this chapter.

**Standard 2.8** The educator shall not intentionally or knowingly subject a colleague to sexual harassment.

### **3. Ethical Conduct toward Students**

**Standard 3.1** The educator shall not reveal confidential information concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

**Standard 3.2** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly treat a student or minor in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning, physical health, mental health, or safety of the student or minor.

**Standard 3.3** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misrepresent facts regarding a student.

**Standard 3.4** The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, family status, or sexual orientation.

**Standard 3.5** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in physical mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a student or minor.

**Standard 3.6** The educator shall not solicit or engage in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student or minor.

**Standard 3.7** The educator shall not furnish alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child or

knowingly allow any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child to consume alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs in the presence of the educator.

**Standard 3.8** The educator shall maintain appropriate professional educator-student relationships and boundaries based on a reasonably prudent educator standard.

**Standard 3.9** The educator shall refrain from inappropriate communication with a student or minor, including, but not limited to, electronic communication such as cell phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, or other social network communication. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether the communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:

- (i) the nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication;
- (ii) the subject matter of the communication;
- (iii) whether the communication was made openly or the educator attempted to conceal the communication;
- (iv) whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship;
- (v) whether the communication was sexually explicit; and
- (vi) whether the communication involved discussion(s) of the physical or sexual attractiveness or the sexual history, activities, preferences, or fantasies of either the educator or the student.

## **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation**

### *Policies DH, DIA*

Employees shall not engage in prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment, of other employees, unpaid interns, student teachers, or students. While acting in the course of their employment, employees shall not engage in prohibited harassment of other persons including board members, vendors, contractors, volunteers, or parents. A substantiated charge of harassment will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Individuals who believe they have been discriminated or retaliated against or harassed are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to the campus principal, supervisor, or appropriate district official. If the campus principal, supervisor, or district official is the subject of a complaint, the complaint should be made directly to the superintendent. A complaint against the superintendent may be made directly to the board.

Any district employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct based on sex, including sexual harassment, or believes that another employee has experienced such

prohibited conduct, should immediately report the alleged acts. The employee may report the alleged acts to his or her supervisor, the campus principal, the Title IX coordinator, or the superintendent. The district's Title IX coordinator's name and contact information is listed in the Equal Employment Opportunity section of this handbook.

The district's policy that includes definitions and procedures for reporting and investigating discrimination, harassment, and retaliation is below:

<https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=DIA>

## **Harassment of Students**

*Policies DF, DH, DHB, FFG, FFH, FFI*

Sexual and other harassment of students by employees are forms of discrimination and are prohibited by law. Romantic or inappropriate social relationships between students and district employees are prohibited.

Employees who suspect a student may have experienced prohibited harassment are obligated to report their concerns to the campus principal or other appropriate district official. Any district employee who suspects or receives direct or indirect notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced prohibited conduct based on sex, including sexual harassment, of a student shall immediately notify the district's Title IX Coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, or superintendent and take any other steps required by district policy.

All allegations of prohibited harassment of a student by an employee or adult will be reported to the student's parents and promptly investigated. An employee who knows of or has reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred child abuse must also report his or her knowledge or suspicion to the appropriate authorities, as required by law. See *Reporting Suspected Child Abuse* and *Bullying* for additional information.

Procedures for reporting and investigating harassment of students can be found below:

<https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=DHB>

<https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=FFH>

<https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=DF>

## **Reporting Suspected Child Abuse**

*Policies DG, FFG, GRA*

All employees with reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect, as defined by Texas Family Code §261.001, are required by state law to make a report to a law enforcement agency, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), or appropriate state agency (e.g., state agency operating, licensing, certifying, or registering the facility) within 24 hours after the employee first has reasonable cause to believe that the child has been abused or neglected. Law enforcement agency includes the Texas Department of Public Safety, a municipal police department, a county sheriff's office, or a county constable's office and does not include the district police.

A person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child (including a teacher) is required to report alleged abuse or neglect to DFPS even if a report is made to law enforcement.

Employees are also required to make a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child and they determine in good faith that the disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child, elderly person, or person with a disability.

Reports to DFPS can be made using the Texas Abuse Hotline (<https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx>) or (800-252-5400). State law specifies that an employee may not delegate to or rely on another person or administrator to make the report.

Under state law, a person reporting or assisting in the investigation of reported child abuse or neglect is immune from liability unless the report is made in bad faith or with malicious intent. In addition, the district is prohibited from taking an adverse employment action against a certified or licensed professional who, in good faith, reports child abuse or neglect or who participates in an investigation regarding an allegation of child abuse or neglect.

An employee's failure to make the required report may result in prosecution as a Class A misdemeanor. The offense of failure to report by a professional may be a state jail felony if it is shown the individual intended to conceal the abuse or neglect. In addition, a certified employee's failure to report may result in disciplinary procedures by SBEC for a violation of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics.

Employees who suspect that a student has been or may be abused or neglected should also report their concerns to the campus principal. This includes students with disabilities who are no longer minors. Employees are not required to report their concern to the principal before making a report to the appropriate agency.

Reporting the concern to the principal does not relieve the employee of the requirement to report it to the appropriate state agency. In addition, employees must cooperate with investigators of child abuse and neglect. Interference with a child abuse investigation by denying an interviewer's request to interview a student at school or requiring the presence of a parent or school administrator against the desires of the duly authorized investigator is prohibited.

## **Sexual Abuse and Maltreatment of Children**

The district has established a plan for addressing sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children, which may be accessed [HERE](#).

As an employee, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused or maltreated. Abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined to include any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare, including conduct that constitutes the offense of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual, indecency with a child, improper relationship between an educator and a student, sexual assault, or encouraging a child to engage in sexual conduct, as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Maltreatment is defined as abuse or neglect. Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility under state law for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect following the procedures described above in *Reporting Suspected Child Abuse*.

## **Reports to Texas Education Agency**

*Policies DF, DHB, DHC*

The conduct of an employee must be reported to TEA if there is evidence that the employee was involved in any of the following:

- Any form of sexual or physical abuse of a minor, or any other unlawful conduct with a student or a minor
- Soliciting or engaging in sexual contact or a romantic relationship with a student or minor
- Engaged in inappropriate communication with a student or minor
- Failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with a student or minor

For a certified employee the conduct below must also be reported:

- The possession, transfer, sale, or distribution of a controlled substance
- The illegal transfer, appropriation, or expenditure of district or school property or funds
- An attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit for the purpose of promotion or additional compensation
- Committing a criminal offense or any part of a criminal offense on district property or at a school-sponsored event.

The reporting requirements above are in addition to the superintendent’s ongoing duty to notify TEA when a certified employee or an applicant for certification has a reported criminal history or engaged in conduct violating the assessment security procedures established under TEC §39.0301. “Reported criminal history” means any formal criminal justice system charges and dispositions including arrests, detentions, indictments, criminal information, convictions, deferred adjudications, and probations in any state or federal jurisdiction that is obtained by a means other than the Fingerprint-based Applicant Clearinghouse of Texas (FACT).

Notice: Please be advised that Prosper ISD will follow all laws for reporting educator misconduct as required by SBEC by filing a report with TEA. When applicable, TEA may include sanctions against an employee’s certificate as a consequence.

## **Reporting Crime**

### *Policy DG*

The Texas Whistleblower Act protects district employees who make good faith reports of violations of law by the district to an appropriate law enforcement authority. The district is prohibited from suspending, terminating the employment of, or taking other adverse personnel action against, an employee who makes a report under the Act. State law also provides employees with the right to report a crime witnessed at the school to any peace officer with authority to investigate the crime.

## **Scope and Sequence**

### *Policy DG*

If a teacher determines that students need more or less time in a specific area to demonstrate proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for that subject and grade level, the district will not penalize the teacher for not following the district’s scope and sequence.

The district may take appropriate action if a teacher does not follow the district’s scope and sequence based on documented evidence of a deficiency in classroom instruction. This documentation can be obtained through observation or substantiated and documented third-party information.

## **Technology Resources**

### *Policy CQ*

The district’s technology resources, including its networks, computer systems, email accounts, devices connected to its networks, and all district-owned devices used on or off school property, are primarily for administrative and instructional purposes. Limited personal use is permitted if the use:

- Imposes no tangible cost to the district.
- Does not unduly burden the district's technology resources.
- Has no adverse effect on an employee's job performance or on a student's academic performance; and
- Does not involve conducting for-profit personal business.

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of the District's technology resources by students, employees, and members of the public shall not be considered private. Designated District staff shall be authorized to monitor the District's technology resources at any time to ensure appropriate use.

Employees are required to abide by the provisions of the district's acceptable use agreement and administrative procedures. Failure to do so can result in suspension of access or termination of privileges and may lead to disciplinary and/or legal action. Employees with questions about computer use and data management can contact the **Chief Technology Officer**.

## **Personal Use of Electronic Communications**

*Policy CQ, CY, DH*

Electronic communications include all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), web logs (blogs), wikis, electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing websites (e.g., YouTube), editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites (e.g., Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram). Electronic communications also include all forms of telecommunication such as landlines, cell phones, and web-based applications.

As role models for the district's students, employees are responsible for their public conduct even when they are not acting as district employees. Employees will be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic communications as they are for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic communications interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties or violates state or federal law or District policy, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. If an employee wishes to use a social network site or similar media for personal purposes, the employee is responsible for the content on the employee's page, including content added by the employee, the employee's friends, or members of the public who can access the employee's page, and for web links on the employee's page. The employee is also responsible for maintaining privacy settings appropriate to the content.

An employee who uses electronic communications for personal purposes shall observe the following:

- The employee may not set up or update the employee's personal social network page(s) using the district's computers, network, or equipment.

- The employee shall limit use of personal electronic communication devices to send or receive calls, text messages, pictures, and videos to breaks, meal times, and before and after scheduled work hours, unless there is an emergency or the use is authorized by a supervisor to conduct district business.
- The employee shall not use district and campus trademarks, including names, logos, mascots, and symbols or other copyrighted material of the district on social media or in texts without express written consent.
- An employee may not share or post, in any format, information, videos, or pictures obtained while on duty or on district business unless the employee first obtains written approval from the employee's immediate supervisor. Employees should be cognizant that they have access to information and images that, if transmitted to the public, could violate privacy concerns.
- The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics, even when communicating regarding personal and private matters, regardless of whether the employee is using private or public equipment, on or off campus. These restrictions include:
  - Confidentiality of student records. [See Policy FL]
  - Confidentiality of health or personnel information concerning colleagues, unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law. [See DH (EXHIBIT)]
  - Confidentiality of district records, including educator evaluations and private email addresses. [See Policy GBA]
  - Copyright law [See Policy CY]
  - Prohibition against harming others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system. [See DH (EXHIBIT)]
  - See *Electronic Communications between Employees, Students, and Parents*, below, for regulations on employee communication with students through electronic media.

## **Electronic Communications between Employees, Students, and Parents**

### *Policy DH*

A certified or licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the superintendent or a campus principal, may communicate through electronic media with students who are currently enrolled in the district only about matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities. The employee must comply with the provisions outlined below. Electronic communications between all other employees and students who are enrolled in the district are prohibited. Employees are not required to provide students with their personal phone number or email address.

An employee is not subject to the provisions regarding electronic communications with a student to the extent the employee has a social or family relationship with a student. For example, an employee may have a relationship with a niece or nephew, a student who is the child of an adult friend, a student who is a friend of the employee's child, or a member or participant in the same civic, social, recreational, or religious organization. An employee who claims an exception based on a social relationship shall provide written consent from the student's parent. The written consent shall include an acknowledgement by the parent that:

- The employee has provided the parent with a copy of this protocol;
- The employee and the student have a social relationship outside of school;
- The parent understands that the employee's communications with the student are excepted from district regulation; and
- The parent is solely responsible for monitoring electronic communications between the employee and the student.

The following definitions apply for the use of electronic media with students:

- *Electronic communications* means any communication facilitated by the use of any electronic device, including a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant, or pager. The term includes email, text messages, instant messages, and any communication made through an Internet website, including a social media website or a social networking website.
- *Communicate* means to convey information and includes a one-way communication as well as a dialogue between two or more people. A public communication by an employee that is not targeted at students (e.g., a posting on the employee's personal social network page or a blog) is not a *communication*: however, the employee may be subject to district regulations on personal electronic communications. See *Personal Use of Electronic Media*, above. Unsolicited contact from a student through electronic means is not a *communication*.
- *Certified or licensed employee* means a person employed in a position requiring SBEC certification or a professional license, and whose job duties may require the employee to communicate electronically with students. The term includes classroom teachers, counselors, principals, librarians, paraprofessionals, nurses, educational diagnosticians, licensed therapists, and athletic trainers.

An employee who communicates electronically with students shall observe the following:

- The employee is prohibited from knowingly communicating with students using any form of electronic communications, including mobile and web applications, that are not provided or accessible by the district unless a specific exception is noted below.

- Only a teacher, trainer, sponsor, or other employee who has an extracurricular duty may communicate with students who participate in the extracurricular activity over which the employee has responsibility.
- The employee shall limit communications to matters within the scope of the employee’s professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to class work, homework, and tests; for an employee with an extracurricular duty, matters relating to the extracurricular activity).
- The employee is prohibited from communicating with students through any social networking or private platform.
- All communications with students must occur during reasonable hours unless there is a time-sensitive, school-related reason requiring contact outside of reasonable hours. Employees are expected to use professional judgment and ensure communications remain appropriate, necessary, and aligned with their official duties through the approved communication channels.
- The employee does not have a right to privacy with respect to communications with students and parents.
- The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Texas Educators’ Code of Ethics including:
  - Compliance with the Public Information Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including retention and confidentiality of student records. [See Policies CPC and FL]
  - Copyright law [Policy CY]
  - Prohibitions against soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student. [See Policy DH]
- Upon request from administration, an employee will provide the phone number(s), social network site(s), or other information regarding the method(s) of electronic media the employee uses to communicate with students.
- All staff are required to use District approved methods of communication with parents.
- An employee shall notify his or her supervisor immediately if a student engages in improper communication with the employee. Steps should be taken to preserve the communication.

## **Public Information on Private Devices**

### *Policy DH*

A current or former employee should not maintain district information on privately owned devices. Any district information must be forwarded or transferred to the district to be preserved. The district will take reasonable efforts to obtain public information in compliance with the Public Information Act. Reasonable efforts may include:

- Verbal or written directive
- Remote access to district-owned devices and services

## **Criminal History Background Checks**

### *Policy DBAA*

All employees are subject to a review of their criminal history record information at any time during employment. National criminal history checks based on an individual's fingerprints, photo, and other identification will be conducted and entered into the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Clearinghouse. This database provides the district and SBEC with access to an employee's current national criminal history and updates to the employee's subsequent criminal history.

## **Employee Arrests and Convictions**

### *Policy DH, DHB, DHC*

An employee must notify his or her principal or immediate supervisor within **three calendar days** of any arrest, indictment, conviction, no contest or guilty plea, or other adjudication of any felony, and any of the other offenses listed below:

- Crimes involving school property or funds
- Crimes involving attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit that would entitle any person to hold or obtain a position as an educator
- Crimes that occur wholly or in part on school property or at a school-sponsored activity
- Crimes involving moral turpitude
  - Moral turpitude includes the following:
    - Dishonesty
    - Fraud
    - Deceit
    - Theft
    - Misrepresentation

- Deliberate violence
- Base, vile, or depraved acts that are intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of the actor
- Crimes involving any felony possession or conspiracy to possess, or any misdemeanor or felony transfer, sale, distribution, or conspiracy to transfer, sell, or distribute any controlled substance
- Felonies involving driving while intoxicated (DWI)
- Acts constituting abuse or neglect under the Texas Family Code.

If an employee is arrested or criminally charged, the superintendent is also required to report the educator’s criminal history to the Division of Investigations at TEA.

The superintendent is required to report the misconduct or criminal history of an employee to TEA. Information about misconduct or allegations of misconduct of an employee obtained by a means other than the criminal history clearinghouse will be reported to TEA. Refer to Policies DHB(LEGAL) and DHC (LEGAL) for timelines and conduct that will result in reporting.

## **Employee Dress and Grooming**

*Policy DH*

An employee's dress and grooming shall be clean, neat, in a manner appropriate for his or her assignment, and in accordance with any additional standards established by his or her supervisor and approved by the Superintendent or designee. It is essential that all employees give due consideration to the way they dress, since we are often viewed as role models by the students and community we serve.

## **Alcohol and Drug-Abuse Prevention**

*Policy DH*

Prosper ISD is committed to maintaining an alcohol and drug-free environment and will not tolerate the use of alcohol and illegal drugs in the workplace and at school-related or school-sanctioned activities on or off school property. Employees who use or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs as defined by the Texas Controlled Substances Act during working hours may be dismissed. The district’s policy regarding employee drug use is below:

<https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=DH>

## **Tobacco and Nicotine Products and E-Cigarette Use**

*Policies DH, FNCD, GKA*

State law prohibits smoking, using tobacco, or e-cigarettes on all district-owned property and at school-related or school-sanctioned activities, on or off school property. An employee is also

prohibited from possessing or using any type of nicotine product, including nicotine pouches, regardless of whether the product contains tobacco, while on District property, in a District vehicle, or while attending an off-campus school-related activity. This includes all buildings, playground areas, parking facilities, and facilities used for athletics and other activities. Drivers of district-owned vehicles are prohibited from smoking, using tobacco products, or e-cigarettes while inside the vehicle. Notices stating that smoking is prohibited by law and punishable by a fine are displayed in prominent places in all school buildings. An employee who violates these drug-free workplace provisions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

## **Fraud and Financial Impropriety**

### *Policy CAA*

All employees should act with integrity and diligence in duties involving the district's financial resources. The district prohibits fraud and financial impropriety, as defined below. Fraud and financial impropriety include the following:

- Forgery or unauthorized alteration of any document or account belonging to the district
- Forgery or unauthorized alteration of a check, bank draft, or any other financial document
- Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, or other district assets including employee time
- Impropriety in the handling of money or reporting of district financial transactions
- Profiteering as a result of insider knowledge of district information or activities
- Unauthorized disclosure of confidential or proprietary information to outside parties
- Unauthorized disclosure of investment activities engaged in or contemplated by the district
- Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors, or other persons providing services or materials to the district, except as otherwise permitted by law or district policy
- Inappropriately destroying, removing, or using records, furniture, fixtures, or equipment
- Failing to provide financial records required by federal, state, or local entities
- Failure to disclose conflicts of interest as required by law or district policy
- Any other dishonest act regarding the finances of the district
- Failure to comply with requirements imposed by law, the awarding agency, or a pass-through entity for state and federal awards

## **Conflict of Interest**

### *Policy CB, DBD*

Employees are required to disclose in writing to the district any situation that creates a potential conflict of interest with proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or creates a potential conflict of interest with the best interests of the district. This includes the following:

- A personal financial interest
- A business interest
- Any other obligation or relationship
- Non-school employment

Employees should contact their supervisor for additional information.

## **Gifts and Favors**

### *Policy DBD*

Employees may not accept gifts or favors that could influence, or be construed to influence, the employee's discharge of assigned duties. The acceptance of a gift, favor, or service by an administrator or teacher that might reasonably tend to influence the selection of textbooks, electronic textbooks, instructional materials or technological equipment may result in prosecution of a Class B misdemeanor offense. This does not include staff development, teacher training, or instructional materials such as maps or worksheets that convey information to students or contribute to the learning process.

## **Personal Belongings**

The district and the campus are not liable for any personal items left on district property. If an employee is planning to go out on leave or will be out for an extended period, they are responsible for arranging the removal of any personal belongings and valuables from the campus/office. If the employee's leave is unplanned, the employee should contact their campus administrator or department supervisor to coordinate a time for their belongings to be collected.

## **Copyrighted Materials**

### *Policy CY*

Employees are expected to comply with the provisions of federal copyright law and policy relating to the use, reproduction, distribution, performance, or display of copyrighted materials (i.e., printed material, videos, computer data and programs, etc.). Electronic media, including motion pictures and other audiovisual works, are to be used in the classroom for instructional purposes only. Duplication or backup of computer programs and data must be made within the provisions of the purchase agreement.

## **Associations and Political Activities**

### *Policy DGA*

The district will not directly or indirectly discourage employees from participating in political affairs or require any employee to join any group, club, committee, organization, or association. Employees may join or refuse to join any professional association or organization.

An individual's employment will not be affected by membership or a decision not to be a member of any employee organization that exists for the purpose of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work. Use of district resources including work time for political activities is prohibited.

The district encourages personal participation in the political process, including voting. Employees who need to be absent from work to vote during the early voting period or on election day must communicate with their immediate supervisor prior to the absence.

## **Charitable Contributions**

### *Policy DG*

The Board or any employee may not directly or indirectly require or coerce an employee to make a contribution to a charitable organization or in response to a fundraiser. Employees cannot be required to attend a meeting called for the purpose of soliciting charitable contributions. In addition, the Board or any employee may not directly or indirectly require or coerce an employee to refrain from making a contribution to a charitable organization or in response to a fundraiser or attending a meeting called for the purpose of soliciting charitable contributions.

## **Safety and Security**

### *Policy CK series*

The district has developed and promotes a comprehensive program to ensure the safety and security of its employees, students, and visitors. The safety and security program includes written guidelines and procedures for responding to emergencies and activities to help reduce the frequency of accidents and injuries. See the "Emergencies" section of the Employee Handbook for additional information.

Employees must follow established protocols and response to emergencies for each campus and department. Refer to written security procedures specific to your location and work area.

To prevent or minimize injuries to employees, coworkers, and students and to protect and conserve district equipment, employees must comply with the following requirements:

- Observe all safety rules.
- Keep work areas clean and orderly at all times.
- Immediately report all accidents to their supervisor.
- Operate only equipment or machines for which they have training authorization.

While driving on district business, employees are required to abide by all state and local traffic laws. Employees driving on district business are prohibited from texting and using other electronic devices that require both visual and manual attention while the vehicle is in motion. Employees will exercise care and sound judgment on whether to use hands-free technology while the vehicle is in motion.

Employees with questions or concerns relating to safety programs and issues can contact the **Assistant Chief of Police**.

## **Possession of Firearms and Weapons**

*Policies DH, FNCG, GKA*

Employees, visitors, and students, including those with a valid Texas license to carry a handgun, are prohibited from bringing firearms, knives, clubs, or other prohibited weapons onto school premises (i.e., building or portion of a building) or any grounds or building where a school-sponsored activity takes place. A person, including an employee, who holds a valid Texas license to carry a handgun may transport or store a handgun or other firearm or ammunition in a locked vehicle in a parking lot, garage, or other district-provided parking area, provided the handgun or firearm or ammunition is properly stored, and not in plain view. To ensure the safety of all persons, employees who observe or suspect a violation of the district's weapons policy should report it to their supervisor or call the **Chief of Police** immediately.

## **Visitors in the Workplace**

*Policy GKC*

All visitors are expected to enter any district facility through the main entrance and sign in or report to the building's main office. Authorized visitors will receive directions or be escorted to their destination. Employees who observe an unauthorized individual on the district premises should immediately direct him or her to the building office or contact the administrator in charge.

## **Asbestos Management Plan**

*Policy CKA*

The district is committed to providing a safe environment for employees. An accredited management planner has developed an asbestos management plan for each school. A copy of the district's management plan is kept in the Director of Maintenance and Operations Office and is available for inspection during normal business hours.

## **Pest Control Treatment**

*Policies CLB, DI*

Employees are prohibited from applying any pesticide or herbicide without appropriate training and prior approval of the integrated pest management (IPM) coordinator. Any application of pesticide or herbicide must be done in a manner prescribed by law and the district's integrated pest management program.

The IPM coordinator(s) shall determine when an emergency situation exists and an exception to the 48-hour notice requirement may be made.

## General Procedures

### Emergency School Closing

The district may close schools because of severe weather, epidemics, or other emergency conditions. When such conditions exist, the Superintendent will make the official decision concerning the closing of the district's facilities. When it becomes necessary to open late, to release students early, or to cancel school, district officials will post a notice on the district's website and utilize the District's phone, email, and or/text message system to contact staff and parents. Please make sure your information is up to date in the Employee Access Center (EAC). The District also notifies the following radio and television stations:

**Notification System:** *Weather-related school closings and delays will be communicated to employees via the district's emergency notification system.*

**Radio & Television Announcements:** *Official announcements during inclement weather will be made on WBAP News Talk 820 AM and on KXAS Channel 5, KDFW Fox 4 News, KTVT Channel 11 and WFAA Channel 8.*

### Emergencies

*Policies CKC, CKD*

All employees should be familiar with the safety procedures for responding to emergencies, including a medical emergency. Employees should locate evacuation diagrams posted in their work areas and be familiar with shelter in place, lockout, and lockdown procedures. Emergency drills will be conducted to familiarize employees and students with safety and evacuation procedures. Each campus is equipped with an automatic external defibrillator. Fire extinguishers are located throughout all district buildings. Employees should know the location of these devices and procedures for their use.

### Purchasing Procedures

*Policy CH*

All requests for purchases must be submitted to the Business Office on an official district purchase order (PO) form with the appropriate approval signatures. No purchases, charges, or commitments to buy goods or services for the district can be made without a PO number. The district will not reimburse employees or assume responsibility for purchases made without authorization. Employees are not permitted to purchase supplies or equipment for personal use through the district's business office. Contact the **Director of Purchasing** for additional information on purchasing procedures.

## **Name and Address Changes**

It is important that employment records be kept up to date. Employees must notify the Human Resources Office if there are any changes or corrections to their name, home address, contact telephone number, marital status, emergency contact, or beneficiary. The forms to process a change in personal information can be obtained through the Employee Access Center.

[Name Change Form](#)

[Address Change Form](#)

It is extremely important that employees also keep information in their TEA Educator Profile up to date including changes in name, address or certification.

## **Personnel Records**

*Policy DBA, GBA*

Most district records, including personnel records, are public information and must be released upon request. In most cases, an employee's personal email address is confidential and may not be released without the employee's permission.

Employees may choose to have the following personal information withheld:

- Address
- Phone number, including personal cell phone number
- Emergency contact information
- Information that reveals whether they have family members

The choice to not allow public access to this information or change an existing choice may be made at any time by submitting a written request to the Human Resources Office. New or terminated employees have 14 days after hire or termination to submit a request. Otherwise, personal information may be released to the public until a request to withhold the information is submitted or another exception for release of information under law applies. An employee is responsible for notifying the district if he or she is subject to any exception for disclosure of personal or confidential information.

## Facility Use

*Policies DGA, GKD*

Employees who wish to use district facilities after school hours must follow established procedures. The Director of Custodial and Events is responsible for scheduling the use of facilities after school hours. Contact the **Director of Custodial and Events** to request to use school facilities and to obtain information on the fees charged.

# Termination of Employment

## Resignations

*Policy DFE, DHB*

**Contract Employees.** Contract employees may resign their position without penalty at the end of any school year if written notice is received at least 45 days before the first day of instruction of the following school year. A written notice of resignation should be submitted to the Supervisor. Contract employees may resign at any other time only with the approval of the superintendent, board of trustees, or other designee. Resignation without consent may result in disciplinary action by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). Once submitted and accepted, the resignation of a contract employee may not be withdrawn without consent of the Board.

The principal is required to notify the superintendent of an educator's resignation within seven business days of the following:

- Certain misconduct, abuse, unlawful act
- Involvement or solicitation of a romantic relationship with a student or minor
- Solicitation or engaging in sexual conduct with a student or minor
- Inappropriate communications with a student or minor
- Failure to maintain appropriate boundaries with a student or minor
- Possession, transfer, sale, or distribution of a controlled substance
- Illegal transfer, appropriation, or expenditure of district or school property or funds
- An attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter any certificate or permit for the purpose of promotion or additional compensation
- Committing a criminal offense or any part of a criminal offense on district property or at a school-sponsored event.

The superintendent is required to report such conduct to SBEC.

**Noncontract Employees.** Noncontract employees may resign their position at any time. A written notice of resignation should be submitted to their Supervisor at least two weeks prior to

the effective date. Employees are encouraged to include the reason(s) for leaving in the letter of resignation.

The principal or director is required to notify the superintendent of a noncertified employee's resignation or termination within seven business days for any of the following:

- Alleged incident of misconduct of abuse or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor, or
- Was involved in or solicited a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual conduct with a student or minor
- Engaged in inappropriate communications with a student or minor
- Failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with a student or minor

The superintendent is required to report such conduct to SBEC.

## **Dismissal or Nonrenewal of Contract Employees**

*Policies DF Series, DHB, DP*

Employees on probationary or term contracts can be dismissed during the school year according to the procedures outlined in district policies. Employees on probationary or term contracts can be nonrenewed at the end of the contract term. Contract employees dismissed during the school year, suspended without pay, or subject to a reduction in force are entitled to receive notice of the recommended action, an explanation of the charges against them, and an opportunity for a hearing. The timelines and procedures to be followed when a suspension, termination, or nonrenewal occurs will be provided when a written notice is given to an employee.

The reporting requirements for termination of a contract employee are the same as those listed above in Resignations/Contract Employees.

Advance notification requirements do not apply when a contract employee is dismissed for failing to obtain or maintain appropriate certification or when the employee's certification is revoked for misconduct. Information on the timelines and procedures can be found in the DF series policies that are available online.

## **Dismissal of Noncontract Employees**

*Policies DHC, DP*

Noncontract employees are employed at will and may be dismissed without notice, a description of the reasons for dismissal, or a hearing. It is unlawful for the district to dismiss any employee for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information, any other basis protected by law, or in retaliation for the exercise of certain

protected legal rights. Noncontract employees who are dismissed have the right to grieve the termination. The dismissed employee must follow the district process outlined in this handbook when pursuing the grievance. (See *Complaints and Grievances*)

The reporting requirements for termination of a noncertified employee are the same as those listed above in Resignations/Noncontract Employees.

## **Discharge of Convicted Employees**

### *Policy DF*

The district shall discharge any employee who has been convicted of a felony under Title 5 Penal Code or convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for the following:

- An offense requiring the registration as a sex offender
- Improper relationship between an educator and a student
- Sale, distribution, or display of harmful materials to a minor
- Public indecency
- A felony offense involving school property

If the Title 5, Penal Code offense is more than 30 years before the date the person's employment began or the person satisfied all terms of the court order entered on conviction the requirement to discharge for does not apply.

## **Exit Surveys and Procedures**

Exit surveys, via electronic mail, will be sent to employees leaving the district unless extenuating circumstances exist. Separating employees are asked to provide the district with a forwarding address and phone number and complete a questionnaire that provides the district with feedback on his or her employment experience. All district keys, books, property, including intellectual property, and equipment must be returned upon separation from employment.

## **Reports Concerning Court-Ordered Withholding**

The district is required to report the termination of employees that are under court order or writ of withholding for child support or spousal maintenance. Notice of the following must be sent to the support recipient and the court or, in the case of child support, the Texas Attorney General Child Support Division:

- Termination of employment not later than the seventh day after the date of termination
- Employee's last known address
- Name and address of the employee's new employer, if known

# Student Issues

## Equal Educational Opportunities

*Policies FB, FFH*

In an effort to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Prosper ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Questions or concerns about discrimination against students based on sex, including sexual harassment should be directed to **Deputy Superintendent, Jeff Crowover**, the District Title IX Coordinator for students. Questions or concerns about discrimination on the basis of a disability should be directed to **504 Coordinator, Courtney Jennings**, the District ADA/Section 504 coordinator for students. All other questions or concerns relating to discrimination, and involving employees, based on any other reasons should be directed to the **Chief Human Resources Officer**.

## Student Records

*Policy FL*

Student records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. Employees should take precautions to maintain the confidentiality of all student records. The following people are the only people who have general access to a student's records:

- Parents: Married, separated, or divorced unless parental rights have been legally terminated and the school has been given a copy of the court order terminating parental rights.
- The student: The rights of parents transfer to a student who turns 18 or is enrolled in an institution of post-secondary education. A district is not prohibited from granting the student access to the student's records before this time.
- School officials with legitimate educational interests.

The student handbook provides parents and students with detailed information on student records. Parents or students who want to review student records should be directed to the Campus Principal for assistance.

## **Parent and Student Complaints**

### *Policy FNG*

In an effort to hear and resolve parent and student complaints in a timely manner and at the lowest administrative level possible, the board has adopted orderly processes for handling complaints on different issues. Any campus office or the superintendent's office can provide parents and students with information on filing a complaint.

Parents are encouraged to discuss problems or complaints with the teacher or the appropriate administrator at any time. Parents and students with complaints that cannot be resolved to their satisfaction should be directed to the campus principal. The formal complaint process provides parents and students with an opportunity to be heard up to the highest level of management if they are dissatisfied with a principal's response.

## **Administering Medication to Students**

### *Policy FFAC, FFAF*

Only designated employees may administer prescription medication, nonprescription medication, and herbal or dietary supplements to students. Exceptions apply to the administration of medication for anaphylaxis (e.g., EpiPen®), if the medication is administered in accordance with district policy and procedures. A student who must take medication during the school day must bring a written request from his or her parent (with accompanying physician order), and the medicine in its original, properly labeled container. Contact the principal or school nurse for information on procedures that must be followed when administering medication to students.

## **Dietary Supplements**

### *Policies DH, FFAC*

District employees are prohibited by state law from knowingly selling, marketing, or distributing a dietary supplement that contains performance-enhancing compounds to a student with whom the employee has contact as part of his or her school district duties. In addition, employees may not knowingly endorse or suggest the ingestion, intranasal application, or inhalation of a performance-enhancing dietary supplement to any student.

## **Psychotropic Drugs**

### *Policy FFAC*

A psychotropic drug is a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication. It is intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior and is commonly described as a mood- or behavior-altering substance.

District employees are prohibited by state law from doing the following:

- Recommending that a student use a psychotropic drug
- Suggesting a particular diagnosis
- Excluding from class or school-related activity a student whose parent refuses to consent to a psychiatric evaluation or to authorize the administration of a psychotropic drug to a student

## **Student Conduct and Discipline**

*Policies in the FN series and FO series*

Students are expected to follow the classroom rules, campus rules, and rules listed in the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. Teachers and administrators are responsible for taking disciplinary action based on a range of discipline management strategies that have been adopted by the district. Other employees that have concerns about a particular student's conduct should contact the classroom teacher or campus principal.

## **Student Attendance**

*Policy FEB*

Teachers and staff should be familiar with the district's policies and procedures for attendance accounting. These procedures require minor students to have parental consent before they are allowed to leave campus. When absent from school, the student upon returning to school, must provide a note signed by the parent or guardian that describes the reason for the absence. These requirements are addressed in campus training and in the student handbook. Contact the campus principal for additional information.

## **Bullying**

*Policy FFI*

Bullying is defined by §TEC 37.0832. All employees are required to report student complaints of bullying, including cyberbullying, to Administration. The district's policy includes definitions and procedures for reporting and investigating bullying of students and is reprinted here:

<https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/314?filter=FFI>

## **Hazing**

*Policy FNCC*

Students and staff must have prior approval from the principal or designee for any type of "initiation rites" of a school club or organization. While most initiation rites are permissible, engaging in or permitting "hazing" is a criminal offense. Any teacher, administrator, or employee who observes a student engaged in any form of hazing, who has reason to know or suspect that

a student intends to engage in hazing, or has engaged in hazing must report that fact or suspicion to the designated campus administrator.