**2017-18**

**IMBODEN AREA CHARTER SCHOOL**

**LEA #38-40-700**

# LICENSED PERSONEL POLICIES

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**3.1— LICENSED PERSONNEL SALARY SCHEDULE**

Years Experience BA Degree Salary MA Degree Salary

 0 $31,400 $36,050

 1 $31,850 $36,550

 2 $32,300 $37,050

 3 $32,750 $37,550

 4 $33,200 $38,050

 5 $33,650 $38,550

 6 $34,100 $39,050

 7 $34,550 $39,550

 8 $35,000 $40,050

 9 $35,450 $40,550

 10 $35,900 $41,050

 11 $36,350 $41,550

 12 $36,800 $42,050

 13 $37,250 $42,550

 14 $37,700 $43,050

 15 $38,150 $43,550

For the purposes of the salary schedule a teacher will have worked a “year” if he/she works at least 160 days.2 Only whole years of teaching experience (160 days) will be accepted for determining placement on the salary schedule.

For the purposes of this policy, a master’s degree or higher is considered “relevant to the employee’s position” if it is related to education, guidance counseling, or the teacher’s content area and has been awarded for successful completion of a program at the master’s level or higher by an institution of higher education accredited under Arkansas statutory requirements applicable at the time the degree was awarded.

Teachers who have earned additional, relevant degrees or sufficient college hours to warrant a salary change are responsible for reporting and supplying a transcript to ­­­the Director**3**. The appropriate salary increase will be reflected in the next paycheck provided it is at least two (2) weeksfrom the time the notice and documentation is delivered.**4** All salary changes will be on a “go forward” basis, and no back pay will be awarded.

Licensed personnel may bring in up to 15 years experience from any school district in the state of Arkansas for initial placement on the salary schedule. For each additional year after 15, 1% of the base salary will be added to the last placement on the salary schedule.

Assistant Director will be paid $5000.00 annually to assume 1/4th of the duties of the Director.

After school tutoring teachers will be payed an hourly rate based upon 1.5 times the hourly rate for step 1, category 1 of the salary schedule.

Contracts will be issued on a semester basis, and licensed personnel will be paid in 12 monthly checks according to salaries determined by the salary schedule.

Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Program

Each employee newly hired by the school to teach under the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Program shall initially be placed on the salary schedule in the category of a bachelor’s degree with no experience, unless the APPEL program employee has previous teaching experience which requires a different placement on the schedule. Upon receiving his/her initial or standard teaching license, the employee shall be moved to the position on the salary schedule that corresponds to the level of education degree earned by the employee which is relevant to the employee’s position. Employee’s degrees which are not relevant to the APPEL program’s position shall not apply when determining his/her placement on the salary schedule. A teacher with a non-traditional provisional license shall be eligible for step increases with each successive year of employment, just as would a teacher possessing a traditional teaching license.

Licensed employee, seeking additional area or areas of licensure

Licensed employees who are working on an alternative licensure plan (ALP) to gain licensure in an additional area are entitled to placement on the salary schedule commensurate with their current license, level of education degree and years of experience. Degrees which are not relevant to the employee’s position shall not apply when determining his/her placement on the salary schedule.

Notes: A.C.A. § 6-11-129 requires employee contract information to be available on the district’s website and also identifies the contract items that must be redacted.

A.C.A. § 6-13-635 requires the Board to adopt a resolution that it has reviewed and adopted all salary increases of 5% or more, but most of the Act's listing of reasons are statutorily required raises and are paid by the state and not district funds. The Act's language requires the resolution even for an employee who moves from one position to another higher paying position such as going from teaching to administration. None-the -less, the resolution is required. Policy 1.9 directs the Board to review the salaries when adopting changes to this policy.

We recommend the following language for the Board’s resolution:

*Whereas, the superintendent has identified  all changes from last school-year's published salary schedule, and has identified and presented the Board of Directors with each employee's salary increase of 5% or more as required under A.C.A. § 6-13-635 and created a spreadsheet explaining each;
 Therefore, the Imboden Area Charter School District Board of Directors approves and resolves that the spread sheet including those explanations are a factual representation of the raises given for the* ***2015-16*** *school-year.*

**1** Your district's salary schedule should be inserted in place of this paragraph. The remainder of the policy should remain in the policy. It's important to note that any changes to the salary schedule must go through the PPC and the Board adopt the policy with the actual salary schedule included in the adopted policy. The ADE Rules governing salary schedules includes the following definition which you can use to ensure you have included the data they will be looking for when you are reviewed. “**Licensed Salary Schedule** is a set of matrices that are updated and published each school year that contains the minimum salary licensed employees earn based on number of years of experience, education degrees, computations for extended contracts, and salary supplements for additional duties or responsibilities. The salary schedule is required to reflect the actual pay practices of the district.”

**2** Select the number of days your district chooses to use to qualify teachers to be eligible for a step increase. 160 days is merely a suggestion, but it aligns with the Teacher Retirement’s requirement to earn credit toward retirement benefits.

**3** Insert the title of the appropriate person.

**4**This sentence is optional, but you do need to establish a date when a pay increase triggered by additional schooling will take effect. Include a period of advance notice that works for your district. In selecting the length of time, consider your employee’s time to verify the transcript and execute the contract addendum.

Cross Reference: Policy 1.9—POLICY FORMULATION

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-201, 202, 2403

 A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(f)(4)

ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel

Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: June 6, 2017

3.2—LICENSED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS

**Definitions**

“Novice teacher” is a teacher who has less than three (3) years of public school classroom experience.

"Teacher" has the same definition as A.C.A. § 6-17-2803(16).

**Teachers**

Teachers will be evaluated under the provisions and timelines of the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS).

The Director shall develop procedures to govern the evaluation process and timelines for the evaluations.

Teachers will be evaluated under the schedule and provisions required by TESS. All teachers, other than novice teachers, will have a summative evaluation over all domains and components at least once every four (4) years. To establish the initial four (4) ~~-~~year rotation schedule for teachers, other than novice teachers, to be summatively evaluated, at least one-quarter (1/4) of each school's teachers, other than novice teachers, will be selected for evaluation by the Director.**~~4~~2** Novice teachers will receive a summative evaluation in the year following the completion of their novice period and will be added to the four (4) year summative evaluation rotation for following years.

All teachers shall develop a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) annually that identifies professional growth outcomes to advance the teacher's professional skills and clearly links personalized, competency-based professional learning opportunities to the professional growth outcomes. The teacher’s PGP must be approved by the teacher's evaluator. If there is disagreement between a teacher and the teacher’s evaluator concerning the PGP, the decision of the evaluator shall be final.

Following a summative evaluation, the teacher shall receive an overall performance rating that is derived from:**3**

A written evaluation of the teacher’s performance on all evaluation domains as a whole;

1. The evaluation framework and evaluation rubric appropriate to the teacher’s role;
2. Multiple sources of evidence of the teacher’s professional practice including, but not limited to:
3. Direct observation;
4. Indirect observation;
5. Artifacts; and
6. Data; and
7. Presentations of evidence chosen by the teacher, the evaluator, or both.

The Summative evaluation shall provide an opportunity for the evaluator and the teacher to discuss the review of the evidence used in the evaluation and provide feedback that the teacher can use to improve his/her teaching skills and student learning.

While teachers are only required to be summatively evaluated once every four (4) years, the teacher's evaluator may conduct a summative evaluation in any year.

A teacher shall continue to demonstrate a commitment to student learning in formative years by furthering the teacher’s professional growth and development as guided by the teacher’s PGP. The Director shall support the teacher on an ongoing basis throughout the formative years by:

* Providing teachers with immediate feedback about teaching practices;
* Engaging teachers in a collaborative, supportive learning process; and
* Helping teachers use assessment methods supported by evidence-based research that inform the teacher of student progress and provide a basis for adapting teaching practices.

An overall performance rating is not required in a formative year.

Notes:The language in this policy is intentionally very broad. We strongly advise that you don't try to insert a lot of process/procedure language in the policy and leave that to a separate "Procedures" document that lays out the specificity of how you are going to fully implement the TESS/LEADS requirements. For example, don't include such things as how many artifacts you will require; how many informal evaluations will be conducted; or the dates for when the summative evaluations will take place.

Districts with a waiver to employ unlicensed individuals as teachers or administrators should add the following sentence to Policy 8.2—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS:

*Individuals employed under the District’s waiver as unlicensed teachers and administrators shall be evaluated under Policy 3.2—LICENSED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS.*

**1** Include positions below the superintendent in this sentence only if you have such positions. Districts have the option of including those positions in the LEADS evaluation requirements as if they were a building level or district level leader. If you have such positions and choose to evaluate them under the LEADS Rules, delete them from the sentence and add them to the list of those who are included in the definition of building level or district level leaders.

**~~4~~2** Enter the method by which you will determine who will be selected. Possible ways you could select would be from volunteers, RIF points (either highest to lowest or vice versa), alphabetically, or drawing names out of a hat. Since employees' continued employment will potentially ride on the evaluations, it is vital that your selection method be non-biased. Also, since all teachers and building level or district level leaders have to have a summative evaluation at least once every four (4) years, be sure to select at least a quarter (1/4) of your candidate pool.

**3** In addition to the items listed in the policy, you may include peer observations and/or student feedback in the list of items to be looked at during the summative evaluation.

You have the option to allow a teacher’s work for National Board certification or renewal certification to be substituted for portions of the summative evaluation; If you choose to do so, add the following language:

*A teacher's work completed for the certification or renewal of a certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards may be substituted for the whole or any part of the summative evaluation.*

Cross Reference: 8.2—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-2801 et seq.

ADE Rules Governing the Teacher Excellence and Support System

ADE Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System (LEADS)

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: June 6, 2017

**3.3—EVALUATION OF LICENSED PERSONNEL BY RELATIVES**

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

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised:

**3.4—LICENSED PERSONNEL REDUCTION IN FORCE**

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

In effecting a reduction in force, the primary goals of the school shall be: what is in the best interests of the students; to maintain accreditation in compliance with the Standards of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and the needs of the school. A reduction in force will be implemented when the Director determines it is advisable to do so and shall be effected through non-renewal, termination, or both.  Any reduction in force will be conducted by evaluating the needs and long- and short-term goals of the school, and by examining the staffing of the school in each licensure area and/or, if applicable, specific grade levels.

If a reduction in force becomes necessary in a licensure area or specific grade level(s), the RIF shall be conducted for each licensure area and/or specific grade level on the basis of each employee’s points as determined by the schedule contained in this policy. The teacher with the fewest points will be non-renewed or terminated first.  In the event of a tie between two or more employees, the teacher(s) shall be retained whose name(s) appear first in the board’s minutes of the date of hire. There is no right or implied right for any teacher to “bump” or displace any other teacher. Being employed fewer than 160 days in a school year shall not constitute a year. It is each teacher’s individual responsibility to ensure his/her point totals are current in school files.

###### Points

Volunteers who wish to terminate their positions will be accepted first. If there are no volunteers, the employee with the fewest points will be laid off first.

* Years of service in the school—1 point per year

All licensed position years in the school count including non-continuous years. Service in any position not requiring teacher licensure does not count toward years of service. Being employed fewer than 160 days in a school year shall not constitute a year.

* Graduate degree in any area of licensure in which the teacher will be ranked (only the highest level of points apply)

1 point – Master’s degree

2 points – Master’s degree plus thirty additional hours

3 points – Educational specialist degree

4 points – Doctoral degree

* National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification – 3 points
* Additional academic content areas of endorsement as identified by the State Board—1 point per area
* Licensure for teaching in a State Board identified shortage area—2 points
* Multiple areas and/or grade levels of licensure as identified by the State Board—1 point per additional area or grade level as applicable. For example, a P-4 license or a 5-8 social studies license is each worth one point.

When the school is conducting a RIF, all potentially affected teachers shall receive a listing of licensed personnel with corresponding point totals. Upon receipt of the list, each teacher has ten (10) working days within which to appeal his or her assignment of points to the Director whose decision shall be final. Except for changes made pursuant to the appeals process, no changes will be made to the list that would affect a teacher’s point total after the list is released.

A teacher with full licensure in a position shall prevail over a teacher with greater points but who is lacking full licensure in that subject area. “Full licensure” means an initial, or standard, non-contingent license to teach in a subject area or grade level, in contrast with a license that is provisional, temporary, or conditional on the fulfillment of additional course work or passing exams or any other requirement of the Arkansas Department of Education, other than the attainment of annual professional development training.

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

##### RECALL

There shall be no right of recall for any teachers.

Notes: **2** The list may be changed to reflect the beliefs of your district regarding what criteria are the most beneficial to students and the district. You may choose to add or delete additional criteria and/or change the value of the points given to each criterion. For example, you could choose to lessen or increase any of the point values for a criterion, or you could add or delete point categories.

**3** For example: It may be discovered that a teacher is receiving a stipend for duties that he/she has not performed for several years.  As part of the reduction in force, the teacher would be sent notification by the superintendent that he/she intended to partially non-renew the teacher excluding the obsolete stipend.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2407

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: March 26, 2013

**3.5— LICENSED PERSONNEL CONTRACT — RETURN**

An employee shall have thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of his/her contract for the following school year in which to return the contract, signed, to the office of the Director. The date of receipt of the contract shall be presumed to be the date of a cover memo1 that will be attached to the contract.

Failure of an employee to return the signed contract to the office of the Director within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the contract shall operate as a resignation by the employee. No further action on the part of the employee, the Director, or the School Board shall be required in order to make the employee’s resignation final.2

Note: **1** The following language is offered as suggestive for the cover memo.

 Attached please find your contract of employment for the (date/date) school year. Pursuant to Arkansas law, you have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this memo to sign and return your contract of employment to the office of the Superintendent. According to personnel policy 3.5, the failure of an employee to sign and return his or her contract by the thirtieth (30th) day shall operate as a resignation, and steps will immediately begin to fill that vacated position for the next school-year.

**2** The paragraph is optional and works well for districts that get their contract renewals out well before school is out. However, for districts that issue contracts late, the paragraph serves as an additional opportunity (see 6-17-1506) for employees to get out of their contracts by simply declining to return them signed and thus activate the provisions of the second paragraph of the policy.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1506 (c) (1)

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised:

**3.6—LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

For the purposes of this policy, professional development (PD) means a set of coordinated, planned learning activities for school employees who are required to hold a current llicense issued by the State Board of Education as a condition of employment1 that:

* Is required by statute or the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE); or
* Meets the following criteria:
	+ Improves the knowledge, skills, and effectiveness of teachers;
	+ Improves the knowledge and skills of administrators and paraprofessionals concerning effective instructional strategies and methods;
	+ Leads to improved student academic achievement; and
	+ Is researched-based and standards-based.

All employees shall attend all local (PD) training sessions as directed by the Director.

The school shall develop and implement a professional development plan (PDP) for its licensed employees. The school’s PDP shall, in part, align school resources to address the PD activities identified in the school’s Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) and incorporate the licensed employee’s Professional Growth Plan (PGP). The PGP shall describe how the school’s categorical funds will be used to address deficiencies in student performance and any identified academic achievement gaps between groups of students. At the end of each school year, the school shall evaluate the PD activities’ effectiveness in improving student performance and closing achievement gaps.

Each licensed employee shall receive a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours of PD annually to be fulfilled between July 1 and June 30.**2** A licensed employee may be required to receive more PD than the minimum when necessary to complete the licensed employee’s PDP.**2** All licensed employees are required to obtain thirty six (36) hours of approved PD each year over a five-year period as part of their licensure renewal requirements. PD hours earned in excess of each licensed employee's required number of hours in the designated year cannot be carried over to the next year.

Licensed employees who are prevented from obtaining the required PD hours due to their illness or the illness of an immediate family member as defined in A.C.A. § 6-17-1202 have until the end of the following school year to make up the deficient hours. Missed hours of PD shall be made up with PD that is substantially similar to that which was missed and can be obtained by any method, online or otherwise, approved by ADE. This time extension does not absolve the employee from also obtaining the following year’s required hours of PD. Failure to obtain required PD or to make up missed PD could lead to disciplinary consequences, up to termination or nonrenewal of the contract of employment.

The goal of all PD activities shall be improved teaching and learning knowledge and skills that result in individual, team, and school-wide improvement designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on the state’s academic standards. The PDP shall be research-based and standards-based and in alignment with applicable ADE Rules and/or Arkansas code.

Teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals shall be involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the plan for their own PD offerings. The results of the evaluation made by the participants in each program shall be used to continuously improve PD offerings and to revise the school improvement plan.

Flexible PD hours (flex hours) are those hours that an employee is allowed to substitute PD activities, different than those offered by the School, but is still aligned to the employee’s PGP, or the school’s ACSIP. The School shall determine on an annual basis how many, if any, flex hours of PD it will allow to be substituted for School-scheduled PD offerings. The determination may be made at an individual building, a grade, or by subject basis. The Director has the authority to require attendance at specific PD activities. Employees must receive advance approval from the Director for activities they wish to have qualify for flex PD hours. To the fullest extent possible, PD activities are to be scheduled and attended such that teachers do not miss their regular teaching assignments. Six (6) approved flex hours credited toward fulfilling the licensed employee's required hours shall equal one (1) contract day. Hours of PD earned by an employee that are in excess of the employee’s required hours, but are either not at the request of the School or not pre-approved by the Director, shall not be credited toward fulfilling the required number of contract days for that employee.**4** Hours earned that count toward the licensed employee's required hours also count toward the required number of contract days for that employee. Employees shall be paid their daily rate of pay for PD hours earned at the request of the School that necessitate the employee work more than the number of days required by their contract.**5**

Teachers who, for any reason, miss part or all of any scheduled PD activity they were required to attend, must make up the required hours in comparable activities which are to be pre-approved by the Director.

To receive credit for his/her PD activity each employee is responsible for obtaining and submitting documents of attendance, or completion for each PD activity he/she attends. Documentation is to be submitted to the Director. The School shall maintain all documents submitted by its employees that reflect completion of PD programs, whether such programs were provided by the School or an outside organization.

To the extent required by ADE Rules, employees will receive up to six (6) hours of educational technology PD that is integrated within other PD offerings including taking or teaching an online or blended course.

The following PD shall count toward a licensed employee's required PD hours to the extent the school's PDP includes such training, is approved for flex hours, or is part of the employee's PGP and it provides him/her with knowledge and skills for teaching:

* Students with intellectual disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder;
* Students with specific learning disorders, including dyslexia;
* Culturally and linguistically diverse students;
* Gifted students.

Beginning in the 2013-14 school-year and every fourth year thereafter, all mandated reporters and licensed personnel shall receive two (2) hours of PD related to child maltreatment required under A.C.A. § 6-61-133. For the purposes of this training, "mandated reporters" includes school social workers, psychologists, and nurses.

Beginning in school-year 2014-15 and every fourth year thereafter, teachers shall receive two (2) hours of PD designed to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

Beginning in school-year 2014-15 and every fourth year thereafter, administrators shall receive two (2) hours of PD designed to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategiesand the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

Beginning in the 2015-16 school-year and every fourth year thereafter, all licensed personnel shall receive two (2) hours of PD in teen suicide awareness and prevention, which may be obtained by self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials approved by ADE.

Beginning in the 2016-17 school-year and every fourth year thereafter, teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas history shall receive at least two (2) hours of PD in Arkansas history as part of the teacher's annual PD requirement.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the School shall provide professional development for one (1) of the prescribed pathways to obtaining a proficiency credential in knowledge and practices in scientific reading instruction for teachers licensed at the elementary level or in special education and professional development for one (1) of the prescribed pathways to obtaining an awareness credential in knowledge and practices in scientific reading instruction for teachers licensed in an area other than the elementary level or in special education. The professional development will be designed so that, by the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, all teachers employed in a teaching position that requires an elementary education license or special education license shall demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction and all other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in knowledge and practices of the scientific reading instruction.

Anticipated rescuers shall receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators as required by ADE Rule. Such training shall count toward the required annual hours of PD.

All licensed personnel shall receive training related to compliance with the School’s antibullying policies.

For the Director, the thirty six (36) hour PD requirement shall include training in data disaggregation, instructional leadership, and fiscal management. This training may include the Initial, Tier 1, and Tier 2 training required for Superintendents and other designees by ADE’s Rules Governing the Arkansas Financial Accounting and Reporting System and Annual Training Requirements.

The Director shall complete the credentialing assessment for the teacher evaluation PD program prior to conducting any summative teacher evaluations.**5**

Teachers' PD shall meet the requirements prescribed under the Teacher Evaluation Support System (TESS).**6**

By the end of the 2014-15 school-year, teachers shall have received professional awareness on the characteristics of dyslexia and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia. **7**

Licensed personnel may earn up to twelve (12) hours of PD for time they are required to spend in their instructional classroom, office or media center prior to the first day of student/teacher interaction **provided** the time is spent in accordance with state law and current ADE rules that deal with PD. Licensed personnel who meet the requirements of this paragraph, the associated statute, and ADE Rules shall be entitled to one (1) hour of PD for each hour of approved preparation.

Licensed personnel shall receive five (5) PD hours for each credit hour of an undergraduate or graduate level college course that meets the criteria identified in law and applicable ADE rules. A maximum of fifteen (15) such hours may be applied toward the thirty six (36) hours of PD required annually for license renewal.**8**

The School shall make available annually to licensed personnel at least thirty (30) minutes of professional development on recognizing the warning signs that a child is a victim of human trafficking and reporting a suspicion that a child is a victim of human trafficking.

The Director as well as licensed personnel selected by the Director shall receive training on the appropriate use of restraint and seclusion in accordance with ADE’s Advisory Guidelines for the Use of Student Restraints in Public School or Educational Settings.

Employees who do not receive or furnish documentation of the required annual PD jeopardize the accreditation of their school and academic achievement of their students. Failure of an employee to receive his/her required annual hours of PD in any given year, unless due to illness as permitted by law, ADE Rule, and this policy, shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Approved PD activities may include:

* Conferences/workshops/institutes;
* Mentoring/peer coaching;
* Study groups/learning teams;
* National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification;
* Distance and online learning (including ArkansasIDEAS;
* Micro-credentialing approved by ADE
* Internships;
* State,/district /school programs;
* Approved college/university course work;
* Action research; and
* Individually guided (to be noted in the employee's PGP).

Approved PD activities that occur during the instructional day or outside the licensed employee's annual contract days may apply toward the annual minimum PD requirement.

PD activities shall relate to the following areas:

* Content (K-12);
* Instructional strategies;
* Assessment/data-driven decision making;
* Advocacy/leadership/fiscal management;
* Systemic change process;
* Standards, frameworks, and curriculum alignment;
* Supervision; mentoring/peer coaching;
* Next generation learning/integrated technology;
* Principles of learning/developmental stages/diverse learners;
* Cognitive research;
* Parent involvement/academic planning and scholarship;
* Building a collaborative learning community;
* Student health and wellness; and
* The Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.

Additional activities eligible for PD credit, as included in the school PDP, and licensed employee's PGP, include:

* School Fire Marshall program (A.C.A. § 6-10-110);
* Tornado safety drills (A.C.A. § 6-10-121);
* Statewide student assessments (A.C.A. § 6-15-2912);
* Test security and confidentiality (A.C.A. § 6-15-2907);
* Emergency plans and the Panic Button Alert System (A.C.A. § 6-15-1302);
* TESS (A.C.A. § 6-17-2806);
* Student discipline training (A.C.A. § 6-18-502);
* Student Services Program (A.C.A. § 6-18-1004);
* Training required by ADE under The Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act and fiscal and facilities distress statutes and rules; and
* Annual active shooter drills (6-15-1303).**9**

Notes: There are special rules that apply to part time employees who teach adults or are high school equivelancy Test examiners. Since such employees apply to very few districts, they are not included in this policy. PD for such employees is covered under 7.04 of the rules and A.C.A. § 6-17-706.

**1** If you have individuals employed as unlicensed teachers or administrators under a waiver, add “or are an unlicensed employee teaching under a waiver of licensure”.

**2** The new rules make July 1 through June 30 the default. Districts using those dates no longer need documentation of its choice. Districts can still choose June 1 through May 30, but that choice would have to be documented. The documentation may be noted by the selection chosen for this policy and also in PDP required by A.C.A. § 6-17-704(c)(1).

**3** A.C.A. § 6-17-2402(1) defines a "basic contract" as a teacher employment contract for 190 days that includes no less than six (6) days of PD. Based on that, the new rules establish separate requirements for 190 day contract employees and all other licensed employees. Under the rules, ONLY 190 day contract employees on a "basic teacher contract" are required to receive 60 hours of PD annually. ~~.~~ When calculated with the one hundred seventy-eight (178) mandatory student contact days and the two (2) parent-teacher conference days, this means there are four (4) days unassigned in the basic contract. Districts may use these days as additional student contact days, parent-teacher conferences, for classroom setup, or PD. The use for the days may vary from school to school or even from licensed employee to licensed employee, though days used for additional student contact days should be uniform throughout the district and staff. The use of the four (4) days may be assigned on the school calendar or otherwise accounted for in policy. If districts require employees to use those four (4) days for something other than PD but require the licensed employee to receive more than thirty-six (36) hours of PD, then the district must pay the employee for the additional hours of district mandated PD as set forth in footnote 5.

**4** The number of contract days may vary between employees, but the concern here is with the number of contract days specified in each individual employee’s contract.

**5** There is confusion surrounding districts requiring more than the required PD and employees who get more than their required hours, but do so of their own choosing. A.C.A. § 6-17-807(a) requires districts to pay a teacher their daily rate of pay for days worked in excess of the number in their contract. Each 6 hours of PD equal one day worked. Teachers who are required/requested to attend 6 more hours than would total the number of days in the employee’s contract have worked an extra day of their contract. This can be addressed by giving the employees a flex PD day off or paying them their daily rate of pay for the extra day worked. Teachers who are so dedicated that, on their own, they get more than their required PD hours do not get credit for a day worked for each 6 hours of excess PD.

**6** This requirement tracks the language in model policy 3.50—ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION and is based on the proposed revised TESS Rules. A corollary point to this policy's sentence is to make the hiring of any new administrator who will be responsible for conducting TESS summative evaluations contingent upon the new hire's successful credentialing for TESS evaluations. We suggest calling the ASBA  staff attorney for language, including required completion dates and employment consequences,  for both the hiring motion, and to include on the contract, where it should remain until TESS credentials are successfully obtained.

**7** This is required by A.C.A. § 6-41-608. There is no statutory clarification regarding required hours of training, but teachers will need to be credited toward the required hours of PD for time spent fulfilling the requirement. A.C.A. § 6-41-609 and 1.02.2.2 of the emergency PD Rules delegate future dyslexia training to Higher Education.

**8** We suggest reading A.C.A. § 6-15-1004(c) and Section 4 of the PD Rules. Both permit the district to require additional hours; however, if you choose to do so and the employee's required PD would total more hours than the number of contract days provided for in the employee’s contract, then, the employee is due his/her daily rate of pay for the excess hours. See footnote #5.

**9** Districts are required to annually provide active shooter drill and school safety assessment training for all of its employees and, to the extent practicable, students, in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel. Since this is statutorily required training (PD), employees get to count it toward their annual required hours.

Cross-References: Policy 3.50—ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION

Policy 4.37—EMERGENCY DRILLS

Legal References: Arkansas State Board of Education: Standards of Accreditation 15.04

ADE Rules Governing Professional Development

ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Financial Accounting and Reporting System and Annual Training Requirements

ADE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding

ADE Advisory Guidelines for the Use of Student Restraints in Public School or Educational Settings

A.C.A. § 6-10-121

A.C.A. § 6-10-122

A.C.A. § 6-10-123

A.C.A. § 6-15-1004(c)

A.C.A. § 6-15-1302

A.C.A. § 6-15-1303

A.C.A. § 6-15-1703

A.C.A. § 6-15-2907

A.C.A. § 6-15-2911

A.C.A. § 6-15-2912

A.C.A. § 6-15-2913

A.C.A. § 6-15-2914

A.C.A. § 6-15-2916

A.C.A. § 6-16-1203

A.C.A. § 6-17-429

A.C.A. § 6-17-703

A.C.A. § 6-17-704

A.C.A. § 6-17-708

A.C.A. § 6-17-709

A.C.A. § 6-17-710

A.C.A. § 6-17-2806

A.C.A. § 6-17-2808

A.C.A. § 6-18-502(f)

A.C.A. § 6-18-514(f)

A.C.A. § 6-18-708

A.C.A. § 6-20-2204

A.C.A. § 6-20-2303 (15)

A.C.A. § 6-41-608

A.C.A. § 6-61-133

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: June 6, 2017

**3.7— LICENSED PERSONNEL BUS DRIVER DRUG TESTING**

**Scope of Policy**

Each person hired for a position that allows or requires the employee operate a school bus shall meet the following requirements:

1. The employee shall possess a current commercial vehicle drivers license for driving a school bus;
2. Have undergone a physical examination, which shall include a drug test,**1** by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse within the past two years; and
3. A current valid certificate of school bus driver in service training.**2**

Each person’s initial employment for a job entailing a safety sensitive function is conditioned upon the school receiving a negative drug test result for that employee.**3** The offer of employment is also conditioned upon the employee’s signing an authorization for the request for information by the school from the Commercial Driver Alcohol and Drug Testing Database.**4**

**Methods of Testing**

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

**Definitions**

“Safety sensitive function” includes:

1. All time spent inspecting, servicing, and/or preparing the vehicle;
2. All time spent driving the vehicle;
3. All time spent loading or unloading the vehicle or supervising the loading or unloading of the vehicle; and
4. All time spent repairing, obtaining assistance, or remaining in attendance upon a disabled vehicle.

“School Bus” is a motorized vehicle that meets the following requirements:

1. Is designed to carry more than ten (10) passengers;
2. Is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the School; and
3. Is operated for the transportation of students from home to school, from school to home, or to and from school events.**5**

**Requirements**

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

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

## Prohibitions

* 1. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater;
	2. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions;
	3. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol;
	4. No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test under #2 below shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident or until he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first;
	5. No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or drug test in conjunction with # 1, 2, and/or 4 above;
	6. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when using any controlled substance, except when used pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner who, with knowledge of the driver’s job responsibilities, has advised the driver that the substance will not adversely affect the driver’s ability to safely operate his/her vehicle. It is the employee’s responsibility to inform the Director of the employee’s use of such medication;
	7. No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.

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

**Testing for Cause**

Drivers involved in an accident in which there is a loss of another person’s life shall be tested for alcohol and controlled substances as soon as practicable following the accident. Drivers shall also be tested for alcohol within eight (8) hours and for controlled substances within thirty two (32) hours following an accident for which they receive a citation for a moving traffic violation if the accident involved:

1. bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident,
2. one or more motor vehicles incur disabling damage as a result of the accident requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle. 6

**Refusal to Submit**

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

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

School bus drivers should be aware that refusal to submit to a drug test when the test is requested based on a reasonable suspicion can constitute grounds for criminal prosecution.

**Consequences for Violations**

Drivers who engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy, who refuse to take a required drug or alcohol test, refuse to sign the request for information required by law, or who exceed the acceptable limits for the respective tests shall no longer be allowed to perform safety-sensitive functions. Actions regarding their continued employment shall be taken in relation to their inability to perform these functions and could include termination or non-renewal of their contract of employment.7

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

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

**Notes:** You are required to give drivers a copy of the procedures that will be used in the testing for drugs and alcohol. If you are following your own policy in this regard, give your drivers a copy of that policy; if you’re using a drug testing company to administer the tests, give your drivers a copy of the test administration procedures.

You are required to provide your drivers the name of the person you have designated to answer your drivers questions about the materials you give them regarding drug and alcohol testing.

You are also required to give your employees “information pertaining to the effects of alcohol and controlled substance use on an individual’s health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or a controlled substances problem (the driver’s or a co-worker’s); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or a controlled substances problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to any employee assistance program and/or referral to management.”

 Give a copy of this policy to your drivers.

Have your drivers sign an acknowledgement that they have received all of the information contained in this policy and these footnotes.

**1** You have the option of also requiring an alcohol test, but you may not selectively require it, i.e. if you require it for one prospective employee you must require it for all prospective employees.

**2** A.C.A. § 6-19-108(f) requires extracurricular trips be made only by certified bus drivers who have a valid in service training certificate.

**3** While A.C.A. § 6-19-108(e) permits a district to hire a non-certified bus driver in an emergency situation, 49CFR382.301 forbids a first time driver (employee) from performing any safety sensitive functions prior to the district receiving a negative drug test for the employee. Therefore, ASBA advises not hiring a bus driver under A.C.A. § 6-19-108(e) until he/she has had a negative drug/alcohol test.

**4** While the provisions for fines contained in A.C.A. § 27-23-209 do not apply to school districts, school districts are still required to comply with this law. It is for this reason, along with simple prudence in not hiring a person who receives a positive drug/alcohol test, that this language is included. The request for information required by the state is in addition to the federal requirement (49CFR40.25(a)(b)) that you request drug and alcohol test results from any U.S. Department of Transportation regulated employers who have employed the employee during any period during the two years prior to the date of the employee’s application.

**5** Students are not required to be transported on a school bus as long as the transporting vehicle is not scheduled for a regularly occurring route or takes a route that contains frequent stops to pick up or drop off students.

**6** Employers are required to report to the Office of Driver Services of the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration within three (3) business days the results of an alcohol test if it was performed due to cause or as part of random testing and the results were positive or the employee refused to provide a specimen for testing.

**7** The drivers covered under this policy are those who are required to have a teaching license as a prerequisite for their job. Federal law requires you to remove them from safety-sensitive functions when a drug or alcohol related problem exists, but does not enter into the realm of dismissing them from their teaching duties. Bus drivers who are not also teaching licensed personnel are covered under the Classified Policy 8.4 and may be dealt with given the specific provisions of their employment.

ASBA recommends that licensed employees who are hired for driving a bus in addition to their teaching responsibilities be hired under separate contracts for each position.

This policy is similar to Policy 8.4. If you change this policy, review 8.4 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-19-108

 A.C.A. § 6-19-119

 A.C.A. § 27-51-1504

 A.C.A. § 27-23-201 et seq.

49 C.F.R. § 382.101 – 605

 49 C.F.R. § part 40

 49 C.F.R. § 390.5

Arkansas Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Maintenance and Operations of Arkansas Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: February 3, 2015

**3.8—LICENSED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE**

**Definitions**

1. “Employee” is a full-time employee of the School.
2. “Sick Leave” is absence from work due to illness, whether by the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family, or due to a death in the family. The Director shall determine whether sick leave will be approved on the basis of a death outside the immediate family of the employee.
3. “Excessive Sick Leave” is absence from work , whether paid or unpaid, that exceeds twelve (12) days in a contract year for an employee and that is not excused pursuant to: School policy; a reasonable accommodation of disability under the American’s With Disabilities Act; or due to a compensable Workers’ Compensation claim.
4. “Grossly Excessive Sick Leave” is absence from work, whether paid or unpaid, that exceeds 10% of the employee’s contract length and that is not excused pursuant to: District policy; a reasonable accommodation of disability under the American’s With Disabilities Act; or due to a compensable Workers’ Compensation claim.
5. “Current Sick Leave” means those days of sick leave for the current contract year, which leave is granted at the rate of one day of sick leave per contracted month or major part thereof.
6. “Accumulated Sick Leave” is the total of unused sick leave, up to a maximum of ninety (90) days accrued from previous contract, but not used. Accumulated sick leave also includes the sick leave transferred from an employee’s previous public school employment.**1**
7. “Immediate family” means an employee’s spouse, child, parent, or any other relative provided the other relative lives in the same household as the employee.

**Sick Leave**

The Director has the discretion to approve sick leave for an employee to attend the funeral of a person who is not related to the employee, under circumstances deemed appropriate by the Director.

Employees who are adopting or seeking to adopt a minor child or minor children may use up to fifteen (15) sick leave days in any school year for absences relating to the adoption, including time needed for travel, time needed for home visits, time needed for document translation, submission or preparation, time spent with legal or adoption agency representatives, time spent in court, and bonding time. Except for bonding time, documentation shall be provided by the employee upon request.**2**

Pay for sick leave shall be at the employee’s daily rate of pay, which is that employee’s total contracted salary, divided by the number of days employed as reflected in the contract. Absences for illness in excess of the employee’s accumulated and current sick leave shall result in a deduction from the employee’s pay at the daily rate as defined above. The leave may be taken in increments of no less than one-fourth (1/4) hour.

At the discretion of the Director, the school may require a written statement from the employee’s physician documenting the employee’s illness. Failure to provide such documentation of illness may result in sick leave not being paid, or in discipline up to and including termination.

An employee shall be credited with one (1) day of sick leave in the event the employee used one (1) day of sick leave on a mandatory professional development (PD) day so long as the employee makes up the missed mandatory PD day on a noncontract day. Costs and expenses associated with the make-up PD shall be the responsibility of the employee unless agreed to in writing by the Director for the expenses to be covered by the school.

Should a teacher be absent frequently during a school year, and if such a pattern of absences continues, or is reasonably expected to continue, the Director may relieve the teacher of his/her assignment (with Board approval) and assign the teacher substitute duty at the teacher’s daily rate of pay. Should the teacher fail, or otherwise be unable, to report for substitute duty when called, the teacher will be charged a day of sick leave, if available or if unavailable, the teacher will lose a day’s wages at his/her daily rate of pay.

If the employee’s absences are excessive or grossly excessive as defined by this policy, disciplinary action may be taken against the employee, which could include termination or nonrenewal of the contract of employment. The Director shall have the authority when making his/her determination to consider the totality of circumstances surrounding the absences and their impact on school operations or student services.

Employees, upon termination of their employment contract with IACS and accepting employment in another school district in this state, education service cooperative, state education agency or two-year college, may transfer any unused sick leave accumulated by the employee, but not to exceed 90 days.

Payment for unused sick leave shall be made from the salary fund of the school at the rate of one-half (1/2) of the calculated daily rate of the employee.

**Sick Leave and Outside Employment**

Sick leave related absence from work (e.g. sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, and Workers Comp) inherently means the employee is also incapable of working at any source of outside employment. Except as provided in policy 3.44, if an employee who works a non-school job while taking School sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, or Workers Comp shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.5B. If you change this policy, review 8.5B at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** A.C.A. § 6-17-1206(b)(2) requires that leave transferred from prior public school employment be used first. In addition, 1206(b)(3) requires that the leave, if any remains be included in the total count of accumulated sick leave if the district pays out unused sick leave upon retirement.

 **2** This paragraph is optional. Leave for adoption is protected by FMLA, but FMLA leave is unpaid unless otherwise provided for in policy. By including this paragraph, you would allow the employee to receive sick leave pay for the days missed during the adoption process. If you choose to include it,

select the number of days of sick leave an employee may use annually for the adoption/bonding process (15 is not a required number of days).

**3**As used in this policy, “applicable” is a very important word. Some leave taken under FMLA also applies to sick leave and therefore, the employee will get paid for the leave to the extent the employee has accumulated sick leave. Other leave taken under FMLA is not eligible for sick leave and therefore the FMLA leave is unpaid except to the extent vacation and/or personal leave is available to the employee. For instance, “applicable leave” in terms of time taken under FMLA due to the birth of a child will vary depending on the language in your district’s policy on sick leave.  For instance, if sick leave may be taken “for reason of personal illness or illness in the immediate family” (based on the statutory definition in 6-17-1202), and an employee gives birth to a child, she may take sick leave for the amount of time that her personal physician deems it necessary for her to physically recover from childbirth.  Once the medically necessary time has passed, sick leave is no longer appropriate and cannot be used.  While under the FMLA, the employee could take additional time off work, she would need to take unpaid FMLA leave for this purpose, unless she had personal days or vacation days available.  However, if your District has a much more liberal definition of sick leave in District policy, the results could be entirely different. For example, if your district has included an extremely liberal position of “paid time off” in this policy with no reference to personal or family illness required, then bonding time could be compensated. Another example would be the potential for overlap between pregnancy complications that arise to the level of a “serious health condition.” For instance, pregnancy complications that rose to the level of a “serious health condition” would qualify for both, while missing work for a dentist’s appointment would qualify for sick leave, but would not qualify for FMLA leave. Consult policy 3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE when making the determination of what sick leave qualifies under both policies. It may also be helpful to consult 29 CFR 825.113, 114, and 115 which are available by calling the ASBA office.

Cross Reference: 3.18—LICENSED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

 3.32— LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE 3.44—LICENSED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-1201 et seq.

 29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.

29 CFR part 825

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: June 6, 2017

**3.9--LICENSED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE BANK**

A sick leave bank is established for the purpose of permitting employees, upon approval, to obtain sick leave in excess of accumulated and current sick leave, when the employee has exhausted all such leave. Only those employees who contribute to the sick leave bank during a given contract year shall be eligible to withdraw from the sick leave bank.

The Director shall appoint a Sick Leave Bank Committee. That committee shall consist of three (3) members: two (2) teachers and the Director.

The terms of the committee shall be for three years with one member being replaced each year.

The Committee shall meet as necessary for the purpose of reviewing requests for withdrawal from the bank. The determination of the committee shall be final.

**Withdrawals**

The Committee may grant sick leave up to 10 days per contract year, if available in the sick leave bank, for personal or family illness, disabilities or accidents (not including accidents for which the employee is receiving Workers’ Compensation), which cause the employee to be absent from work and when the employee has exhausted all accumulated and current sick leave.1

Requests for withdrawal from the sick leave bank must state the reason(s) for the request and the number of days requested and must be accompanied by a detailed statement from an attending physician of the nature of the malady and the expected duration thereof.

If the information provided to the Committee is deemed by a majority of the Committee to be insufficient, the Committee may require additional information or deny the employee’s request, at its discretion.

The Committee shall have the authority to grant, reduce or deny any request. However, the Committee may grant no request, or any granted time may be withdrawn, when the employee accepts retirement; is eligible for Social Security Disability or other disability insurance; or the employee returns to work.

**Spousal Donations**

School employees who are a legally married couple are eligible to utilize each other’s sick leave. Written permission must be received for each day of donated sick leave. If the employees are paid at different rates of pay, the lesser rate of pay shall be used for the purpose of the donated sick leave days.1

**Notes:** This policy is similar to Policy 8.6. If you change this policy, please review policy 8.6 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

This policy is TOTALLY optional. The law clearly permits, but does not require, the formation of a sick leave pool or bank. Before you adopt this policy, consider the following:

* Can you afford it? Where are the sick leave days going to come from? Some districts give a sick leave committee the freedom to simply manufacture unearned sick leave days to distribute to applicants. Others take the more conservative route of requiring employees to donate earned days for redistribution. The most conservative route of all is to only allow donors to the bank to apply for a sick leave award, to strictly limit the number of days and/or the number of times any individual can request an award, or only permitting direct donation (individual to individual).
* Our policy does not mix licensed and classified sick leave days, due to the value discrepancy. A $75 classified day could end up costing the district a $300 daily salary rate as well as the cost of the substitute, (transferring from a lower paying classified employee to a higher-paid teacher) and the difference would be absorbed by the school district. If you chose to merge sick leave banks, and have only one for all employees, please be mindful of this financial consideration. See footnote #2.
* What will the effect be on instruction, and on your substitute costs? *Any* liberalization of sick leave results in more sick leave being used; the more liberal the policy or the more generous the sick leave pool or bank, the greater the demand for supplementary sick leave and the more days will be missed from work. A sick leave pool or bank takes a sick leave day away from someone who is highly unlikely to use it and transfers it to someone who is 100% likely to use it. Every teacher absence is a day of low or no student instruction.
* Sick leave, and a sick leave pool or bank was never intended to be a substitute for disability insurance in the event of a serious or long term illness. It simply cannot supply the long term income needs of persons who have become disabled and are unable to continue to work. Employees should be encouraged to consider purchasing supplemental disability insurance rather than rely on the pool or bank for such purposes. Districts may wish to consider adding this as a fringe benefit if the district’s financial condition permits.
* Some districts use a sick leave pool or bank like the appointed committee suggests in the model policy; others simply use the existing Personnel Policies Committee rather than have to create an additional committee. Other districts have reported that committee members themselves dislike and are uncomfortable with the committee structure, and have asked for policy changes, giving the responsibility for administering sick leave bank requests to the superintendent or to another central office administrator. The decision-maker issue is something to consider carefully.

**2** You may choose to include, or not include, this optional sentence. It is also allowable to have a stand-alone policy for this sentence if your district otherwise chooses not to have a sick leave bank. The rate of pay would be determined by the employee receiving the lower wage. For example, one spouse might be licensed and the other classified. If the licensed employee received a day of sick leave from his/her spouse who is a classified employee making a lower wage, the sick leave would be valued at the lower wage. Example:  Teacher, whose daily rate is $150 a day, has a sick leave day transferred to her by her husband, who works as a custodian and whose daily rate is $75.  She would be credited $75 for the day instead of $150, due to her husband’s donation (or ½ the teacher’s rate for sick leave).

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1208

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 26, 2016

**3.11—LICENSED PERSONNEL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE**

Personal Leave

For the school to function efficiently and have the necessary personnel present to effect a high achieving learning environment, employee absences need to be kept to a minimum. The school acknowledges that there are times during the school year when employees have personal business that needs to be addressed during the school day. Each full-time employee shall receive two (2)1days of personal leave per contract year.

Employees shall take personal leave or leave without pay for those absences which are not due to attendance at school functions which are related to their job duties and do not qualify for other types of leave (for sick leave see Policy 3.8, for professional leave see below).

School functions, for the purposes of this policy, means:

1. Athletic or academic events related to the school; and
2. Meetings and conferences related to education.

For employees other than the Director, the determination of what activities meet the definition of a school function shall be made by the Director. For the Director, the school board of directors shall determine what activities meet the definition of a school function. In no instance shall paid leave in excess of allotted vacation days and/or personal days be granted to an employee who is absent from work while receiving remuneration from another source as compensation for the reason for their absence.

Any employee desiring to take personal leave may do so by making a written request to the Director at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the requested leave. The twenty-four hour requirement may be waived by the Director when the Director deems it appropriate. Depending upon the availability of substitutes and the number of people absent on that particular day, the request for personal leave may be denied.

Employees who fail to report to work when their request for a personal day has been denied or who have exhausted their allotted personal days, shall lose their daily rate of pay for the day(s) missed (leave without pay). While there are instances where personal circumstances necessitate an employee’s absence beyond the allotted days of sick and/or personal leave, any employee who requires leave without pay must receive advance permission (except in medical emergencies) from the Director. Failure to report to work without having received permission to be absent is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination.

Personal leave that is not used at the end of a contract year may be transferred to sick leave at the employee’s request.3

Personal leave may not be taken the day before or the day after a holiday.4

**Professional Leave**

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

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

If the employee does not receive or does not accept remuneration for his/her participation in the professional leave activity and a substitute is needed for the employee, the school shall pay the full cost of the substitute. If the employee receives and accepts remuneration for his/her participation in the professional leave activity (e.g. scholastic audits or praxis assessments), the employee shall forfeit his/her daily rate of pay from the school for the time the employee misses. The cost of a substitute, if one is needed, shall be paid by the school.5

**Note:** While you are not required to provide employees with personal days, you are required to have a policy that requires employees who are absent from the District to take either personal days or leave without pay.

Please note that the provisions of A.C.A. § 21-4-216, which gives state employees eight (8) hours of paid leave to attend their children’s school educational activities, do **NOT** apply to public school employees.

**1** If your district gives personal days, insert the number of days given.

**2** Choose the number of hours or portion of a work day that is the minimum that may be taken at any one time.

**3** This sentence is optional.

**4** This sentence is optional.

**5**Choose whether the employee or the District will pay the cost of the substitute employee.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-211

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 26, 2016

3.12— LICENSED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEALING WITH SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS

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

While Levels 1 and 2 place no restrictions prohibiting the individual’s presence on a school campus, Levels 3 and 4 have specific prohibitions. These are specified in Policy 6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN’S LAW) and it is the responsibility of school staff to know and understand the policy and, to the extent requested, aid the Director in enforcing the restrictions placed on campus access to Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders.

It is the intention of the board of directors that school staff not stigmatize students whose parents or guardians are sex offenders while taking necessary steps to safeguard the school community and comply with state law. Each school’s administration should establish procedures so attention is not drawn to the accommodations necessary for registered sex offender parents or guardians.**1**

Cross Reference: **6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN’S LAW)**

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.8. If you change this policy, review 8.8 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** For example, if a sex offender parent will arrive for conferences at the same time as other parents, staff should escort additional parents to their student’s classroom, not just the sex offender parent. All principals, designees, and school employees who will or may have contact with the sex offender parents shall be required to keep confidential both the sex offender status and sex offender accommodations made for a parent.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 12-12-913 (g) (2)

Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for “Megan’s Law”

 A.C.A. § 5-14-132

Date Adopted: May 15, 2007

Last Revised: May 20, 2008

**3.13—LICENSED PERSONNEL - PUBLIC OFFICE**

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

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

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

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

Note: This policy is similar to Policy 8.9. If you change this policy, review 8.9 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-115

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 26, 2016

**3.14— LICENSED PERSONNEL - JURY DUTY**

Employees are not subject to discharge, loss of sick leave, loss of vacation time or any other penalty due to absence from work for jury duty, upon giving reasonable notice to the school through the Director.

The employee must present the original (not a copy) summons to jury duty to the Director in order to confirm the reason for the requested absence.

Employees shall receive their regular pay from the school while serving jury duty, and shall reimburse the school from the stipend they receive for jury duty, up to, but not to exceed, the cost of the substitute hired to replace the employee in his/her absence.1

**Note:** **1** This sentence is totally optional. Please note that public employees are exempt by law from jury duty recovery fees. Since school employees are not state employees, the law does not apply, but you may be asked about it by an employee.

This policy is similar to Policy 8.10. If you change this policy, review 8.10 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 16-31-106

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 20, 2004

**3.15— LICENSED PERSONNEL LEAVE - INJURY FROM ASSAULT**

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

A leave of absence granted under this policy shall not be charged to the teacher’s sick leave.

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1209

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 20, 2004

**3.16—LICENSED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES**

Pre-kindergarten through sixth grade teachers shall be allotted the amount required by law to be used by the teacher in his/her classroom or for class activities. The amount shall be credited to an account from which the teacher shall be reimbursed for his/her covered purchases to the extent funds are available in the account. For the purposes of this policy, pre-kindergarten through sixth grade teachers shall be allotted the greater of:

1. Twenty dollars ($20) per student enrolled in the teacher’s class for more than fifty percent (50%) of the school day at the end of the first three (3) months of the school year; or
2. Five hundred dollars ($500).

Teachers may purchase supplies and supplementary materials from the school at the school’s cost to take advantage of the school’s bulk buying power. To do so, teachers shall complete and have approved by the Director a purchase order for supplies that will then be purchased on the teacher’s behalf by the school and subtracted from the teacher’s total supply and material allocation. Teachers may also purchase materials and supplies using their own funds and apply for reimbursement by submitting itemized receipts. Supplies and materials purchased with school funds, or for which the teacher is reimbursed with school funds, are school property, and should remain on school property except to the extent they are used up or consumed or the purchased supplies and/or materials are intended/designed for use away from the school campus.

Reimbursement requests must be submitted during the school year they were purchased.

Unused allotments shall not be carried over from one fiscal year to the next.

Notes: Each district is required to annually provide a statement to the State Board of Education attesting to compliance with the statute covered by this policy.

**1** Insert the title or position of the person responsible for approving supply purchase orders.

**2** and **3** Fill in the amount your district will use to trigger reimbursement. You could also add a provision that the amount would be paid at least every X number of days, weeks, or months regardless of the amount due the teacher.

**4** This is optional and could be omitted or used in conjunction with **2** and **3** above.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-21-303(b)(1)

Date Adopted: June 17, 2003

Last Revised: February 3, 2015

**3.17—INSULT OR ABUSE OF LICENSED PERSONNEL**

Employees are protected from abusive language and conduct by state law. An employee may report to the police any language that is calculated to:

1. Cause a breach of the peace;

2. Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; and/or

3. Arouse the person to whom the language is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-106

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised:

**3.18— LICENSED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT**

An employee of the school may not be employed in any other capacity during regular working hours.

An employee may not accept employment outside of his/her school employment that will interfere, or otherwise be incompatible with the school employment, including normal duties outside the regular work day; nor shall an employee accept other employment that is inappropriate for an employee of a public school.

The Director shall be responsible for determining whether outside employment is incompatible, conflicting, or inappropriate.

When a licensed employee is additionally employed by the School in either a classified capacity or by a contract to perform supplementary duties for a stipend or multiplier, the duties, expectations, and obligations of the primary licensed position employment contract shall prevail over all other employment duties unless the needs of the School dictate otherwise.**1** If there is a conflict between the expectations of the primary licensed position and any other contracted position, the licensed employee shall notify the Director as far in advance as is practicable. The Director shall verify the existence of the conflict. The Director shall determine the needs of the School on a case-by-case basis and rule accordingly. The Director's decision is final with no appeal to the School Board. Frequent conflicts or scheduling problems could lead to the non-renewal or termination of the classified contract of employment or the contract to perform the supplementary duties.

**Sick Leave and Outside Employment**

Sick leave related absence from work (e.g. sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp) inherently means the employee is also incapable of working at any source of outside employment. Except as provided in policy 3.44, if an employee who works a non-School job while taking School sick leave for personal or family illness or accident or Workers Comp shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Notes This policy is similar to Policy 8.12. If you change this policy, review 8.12 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** If, for example, the conflict is between a teacher's supplemental contract as a bus driver and a licensed personnel staff meeting, if the district cannot find a substitute bus driver on that particular day, the bus route may need to trump attendance at the staff meeting.

Cross References: 3.8—LICENSED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE

3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

3.44—LICENSED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

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

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: March 18, 2014

**3.19—LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT**

All prospective employees must fill out an application form provided by the school, in addition to any resume provided, all of the information providedis to be placed in the personnel file of those employed.

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

It is grounds for termination of contract of employment if an employee fails a criminal background check or receives a true report on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry check.1

All teachers who begin employment in the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter shall demonstrate proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices in scientific reading instruction as is applicable to their teaching position by completing the prescribed proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices of the scientific reading instruction credential either as a condition of licensure or within one (1) year for teachers who are already licensed or employed as a teacher under a waiver from licensure.

An individual with a currently suspended license or whose license has been revoked by the State Board of Education is not eligible to be employed by the School; this prohibition includes employment as a substitute teacher, whether directly employed by the School or providing substitute teaching services under contract with an outside entity.

The School is an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or genetic information.2

Inquiries on non discrimination may be directed to the Director**3**, who may be reached at Imboden Area Charter School, PO Box 297, Imboden, AR 72434, (870) 869-3015.**4**

For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

In accordance with Arkansas law**5**, the School provides a veteran preference to applicants who qualify for one of the following categories:

1. a veteran without a service-connected disability;
2. a veteran with a service-connected disability;
3. a deceased veteran’s spouse who is unmarried throughout the hiring process.

For purposes of this policy, “veteran” is defined as:

1. A person honorably discharged from a tour of active duty, other than active duty for training only, with the armed forces of the United States; or
2. Any person who has served honorably in the National Guard or reserve forces of the United States for a period of at least six (6) years, whether or not the person has retired or been discharged.

In order for an applicant to receive the veterans preference, the applicant must be a citizen and resident of Arkansas, be substantially equally qualified as other applicants and do all of the following:

1. Indicate on the employment application the category the applicant qualifies for;
2. Attach the following documentation, **as applicable**, to the employment application:
* Form DD-214 indicating honorable discharge;
* A letter dated within the last six months from the applicant’s command indicating years of service in the National Guard or Reserve Forces as well as the applicant’s current status;
* Marriage license;
* Death certificate;
* Disability letter from the Veteran’s Administration (in the case of an applicant with a service-related disability).

Failure of the applicant to comply with the above requirements shall result in the applicant not receiving the veteran preference; in addition, meeting the qualifications of a veteran or spousal category does not guarantee either an interview or being hired.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.13. If you change this policy, review 8.13 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** A.C.A. § 6-17-411 allows an individual who fails the criminal background check or has a true finding on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry to be employed by a district if the State Board grants a waiver. A.C.A. § 6-17-410 provides that the State Board must receive a written request for a hearing for a waiver within thirty (30) days from when notice of the individual’s denial, nonrenewal, or revocation is received. Either the school board or the individual seeking employment may request the hearing for a waiver.

A waiver from the State Board for an individual to get a license counts as a waiver for the same offense when hiring.

**2** A copy of the non discrimination statement should be included in all district publications unless the publication is intended only for students and parents. Publications intended only for students and parents should include the nondiscrimination clause in Policy 4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

**3** Insert the position(s) designated to be contacted on discrimination inquiries. If you have different positions designated to answer questions on disability discrimination (504 coordinator) and sex discrimination (Title IX coordinator), then you will need to include the position responsible for each area. Do not include the name(s) of the person(s) to be contacted in the policy; changing the name of the person (due to a staffing change) would necessitate amending the policy, which would require it to go through the entire adoption process.

**4** Insert the address and phone number to be used to contact the designated position. If you have more than one position designated as set forth in footnote 3, you will need to include a contact number and address for each position. The contact number and address may be the school/district address and phone number.

**5** A.C.A. § 21-3-301 et seq., includes public schools in the list of employers required to provide a preference to applicants who qualify for a veteran or a deceased veteran's spouse category when selecting interview candidates, during the interview process, and in selecting a new employee.

A.C.A. § 21-3-302 covers the requirements for giving a veteran preference during the application, interview, and hiring processes. The statute does not require districts to use a particular scoring method to demonstrate giving a preference and districts can continue using the system they have previously been using. However, A.C.A. § 21-3-302 and A.C.A. § 21-3-303 require districts be able to demonstrate that any qualifying applicant was given a preference during the entire application, interview, and hiring, processes.

If a veteran who is not hired requests, the district must provide the veteran with his/her base score, adjusted score, and the successful candidate's score. While there is no statutorily required method, ASBA suggests districts use a numerical scoring rubric for the entire hiring process. The use of such a rubric makes it easy to demonstrate a preference was given as you can point to where qualifying applicants received additional points. Districts that don't use a numerical scoring method are required, upon a veteran's request, to provide all documentation allowed to be released under FOIA to the veteran to demonstrate how the preference was used to develop the list of qualified candidates to be interviewed and to select the person actually hired.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-410

A.C.A. § 6-17-411

A.C.A. § 6-17-429

A.C.A. § 21-3-302

A.C.A. § 21-3-303

28 C.F.R. § 35.106

29 C.F.R. part 1635

34 C.F.R. § 100.6

34 C.F.R. § 104.8

34 C.F.R. § 106.9

34 C.F.R. § 108.9

34 C.F.R. § 110.25

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: June 6, 2017

**3.20—LICENSED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Employees shall be reimbursed for personal and/or travel expenses incurred while performing duties or attending workshops or other employment-related functions, provided that prior written approval for the activity for which the employee seeks reimbursement has been received from the Director and that the teacher’s attendance/travel was at the request of the school.

Reimbursement claims must be made on forms provided by the school and must be supported by appropriate, original receipts. Copies of receipts or other documentation are not acceptable, except in extraordinary circumstances.

The provisions of policy 7.12—EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT are incorporated by reference into this policy.

Note: This policy is similar to 8.14. If you change this policy, review 8.14 at the same time to ensure consistency between the two.

Cross Reference: Policy #7.12 – EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 26, 2012

**3.21— LICENSED PERSONNEL TOBACCO USE**

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by the school, including school buses owned or leased by the school, or other school vehicles is prohibited.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy’s prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

Violation of this policy by employees shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal.

Notes: This policy is similar to policy 8.15—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TOBACCO USE. If you change this policy, review Policy 8.15 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

The statute requires posting the statute "…in a conspicuous location at every entrance to each building owned or leased by a public school district and every school bus used to transport students"

This model policy tracks the state law referenced below. It is not required to be in District policies, but it could be useful in informing employees of the statutory prohibition on all tobacco use.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-21-609

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: July 1, 2013

**3.22—DRESS OF LICENSED PERSONNEL**

Employees shall ensure that their dress and appearance are professional and appropriate to their positions. No jeans or shorts are allowed with the exception of certain activities and field trips, when arrangements are made with the Director. Appropriateness of dress will be determined by the Director.

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised:

**3.23— LICENSED PERSONNEL POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

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

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

1. Using students for preparation or dissemination of campaign materials;
2. Distributing political materials;
3. Distributing or otherwise seeking signatures on petitions of any kind;
4. Posting political materials; and
5. Discussing political matters with students, in or out of the classroom, in other than circumstances appropriate to the Frameworks and/or curricular goals and objectives of the class.

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: May 23, 2006

**3.24— LICENSED PERSONNEL DEBTS**

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

All employees are expected to meet their financial obligations. If an employee writes “hot” checks or has his/her income garnished by a judgement creditor, dismissal may result.

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

At the discretion of the Director, he or his designee may meet with an employee who has received a second garnishment for the purpose of warning the employee that a third garnishment will result in a recommendation of dismissal to the School Board.

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

**Note:** This policy is similar to Policy 8.18. If you change this policy, review 8.18 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: March 26, 2013

**3.25— LICENSED PERSONNEL GRIEVANCES**

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

**Definitions**

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

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

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

Employee: any person employed under a written contract by this school.

Working day: Any weekday other than a holiday whether or not the employee under provisions of their contract is scheduled to work or whether they are currently under contract.

**Process**

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

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

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

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

The school board will address the grievance at the next regular meeting of the school board, unless the employee agrees in writing to an alternate date for the hearing. After reviewing the Level Two Grievance Form and the Director’s reply, the board will decide if the grievance, on its face, is grievable under school policy. If the grievance is presented as a “group grievance,” the Board shall first determine if the composition of the group meets the definition of a “group grievance.” If the Board determines that it is a group grievance, the Board shall then determine whether the matter raised is a grievance. If the Board rules the composition of the group does not meet the definition of a group grievance, or the grievance, whether group or individual, is not grievable, the matter shall be considered closed. (Individuals within the disallowed group may choose to subsequently refile their grievance as an individual grievance beginning with Level One of the process.)If the Board rules the grievance to be grievable, they shall immediately commence a hearing on the grievance. All parties have the right to representation by a person of their own choosing who is not a member of the employee’s immediate family at the appeal hearing before the Board of Directors. The employee shall have no less than 90 minutes to present his/her grievance, unless a shorter period is agreed to by the employee, and both parties shall have the opportunity to present and question witnesses. The hearing shall be open to the public unless the employee requests a private hearing. If the hearing is open, the parent or guardian of any student under the age of eighteen years who gives testimony may elect to have the student’s testimony given in closed session. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the hearing was closed, the Board of Directors may excuse all parties except board members and deliberate, by themselves, on the hearing. At the conclusion of an open hearing, board deliberations shall also be in open session unless the board is deliberating the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of the employee. A decision on the grievance shall be announced no later than the next regular board meeting.

**Records**

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

**Reprisals**

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

**Note: \***It is important to understand the implications of the language contained in this paragraph. Only matters specified in the first sentence of the paragraph are, in fact, grievable, but that cannot prohibit an employee from filing a grievance which the administration does not deem to be grievable and nonetheless advancing it through the grievance process. Ultimately, it is the board that determines whether or not the matter is actually grievable by comparing the written grievance to the definition of grievance in the grievance policy, and continuing on with the hearing only if the grievance is determined to be within the definition. This is addressed in the “Appeal to the Board of Directors” paragraph.

**~~1~~2** It is suggested that you date stamp the request for a board hearing upon receipt.

Legal Reference: ACA § 6-17-208, 210

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: May 23, 2006

**3.25F - LICENSED PERSONNEL LEVEL TWO GRIEVANCE FORM**

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

Date submitted to Assistant Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Policy grievance is based upon: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grievance (be specific): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What would resolve your grievance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Director’s Response

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Date submitted to Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: June 17, 2003

**3.26— LICENSED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

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

Believing that prevention is the best policy, the school will periodically inform students and employees about the nature of sexual harassment, the procedures for registering a complaint, and the possible redress that is available. The information will stress that the school does not tolerate sexual harassment and that students and employees can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employees who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting the Director who will assist them in the complaint process. Under no circumstances shall an employee be required to first report allegations of sexual harassment to a school contact person if that person is the individual who is accused of the harassment. To the extent possible, complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation.

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

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

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

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681, et seq.

 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000-e, et seq.

 ACA 6-15-1005 (b) (1)

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: March 15, 2011

**3.27— LICENSED PERSONNEL SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

All school personnel are expected to conscientiously execute their responsibilities to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the school’s students under their care. The Director shall establish regulations ensuring faculty supervision of students throughout the school day and at extracurricular activities.

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised:

**3.28— LICENSED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY**

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

Passwords or security procedures are to be used as assigned, and confidentiality of student records is to be maintained at all times. Employees must not disable or bypass security procedures, compromise, attempt to compromise, or defeat the school’s technology network security, alter data without authorization, disclose passwords to other staff members or students, or grant students access to any computer not designated for student use. It is the policy of this school to equip each computer with Internet filtering software designed to prevent users from accessing material that is harmful to minors. The Director may authorize the disabling of the filter to enable access by an adult for a bona fide research or other lawful purpose.No software may be loaded onto school computers without prior approval of the Director.

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

**Note:** This policy is similar to Policy 8.22. If you change this policy, review 8.22 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Legal References: Children’s Internet Protection Act; PL 106-554

 20 USC 6777

 47 USC 254(h)

 A.C.A. § 6-21-107

 A.C.A. § 6-21-111

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: January 31, 2017

**3.28F— LICENSED PERSONNEL INTERNET USE AGREEMENT**

Name (Please Print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Imboden Area Charter School agrees to allow the employee identified above (“Employee”) to use the school’s technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions:

1. Conditional Privilege: The Employee’s use of the school’s access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Employee’s abiding by this agreement.

2. Acceptable Use: The Employee agrees that in using the school’s Internet access he/she will obey all federal and state laws and regulations. Internet access is provided as an aid to employees to enable them to better perform their job responsibilities. Under no circumstances shall an Employee’s use of the school’s Internet access interfere with, or detract from, the performance of his/her job-related duties.

3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Employee violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Employee shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

4. “Misuse of the School’s access to the Internet” includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. using the Internet for any activities deemed lewd, obscene, vulgar, or pornographic as defined by prevailing community standards
2. using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others

c. posting anonymous messages on the system

d. using encryption software other than when required by the employee’s job

duties

e. wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper

f. causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files other than when required by the employee’s job duties

g. vandalizing data of another user

h. obtaining or sending information that could be used to make destructive devices such as guns,

 weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks

i. gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files

j. identifying oneself with another person’s name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization

k. using the network for financial or commercial gain without school permission

l. theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property

m. invading the privacy of individuals other than when required by the

employee’s job duties

n. using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations

o. introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system

p. degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance

q. creating a web page or associating a web page with the school without proper authorization

r. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files of students not under their jurisdiction.

s. providing access to the school’s Internet Access to unauthorized individuals;

t. taking part in any activity related to Internet use that creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

u. making unauthorized copies of computer software

v. personal use of computers during instructional time

w. installing software on school computers without prior approval of the Director

5. Liability for debts: Staff shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through their use of the school’s computers or the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.

6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Employee signing below agrees that in using the Internet through the school’s access, he/she waives any right to privacy the Employee may have for such use. The Employee agrees that the school may monitor the Employee’s use of the school’s Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Employee participates in, including but not limited to e-mail, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system.

7. Signature: The Employee, who has signed below, has read this agreement and agrees to be bound by its terms and conditions.

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

Employee’s Signature

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

Date

Note: This policy is similar to Policy 8.22F. If you change this policy, review 8.22F at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: January 31, 2017

**3.29— LICENSED PERSONNEL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The Director shall present to the Board of Directors a school calendar which shall be approved by the board. The Director, in developing the calendar, shall accept and consider recommendations from any staff member or group wishing to make calendar proposals.

The School shall not establish a school calendar that interferes with any scheduled statewide assessment that might jeopardize or limit the valid assessment and comparison of student learning gains.

The Imboden Area Charter School shall operate by the following calendar:

# July 31 Teacher Inservice Begins

# August 14 School Begins

# September 4 Labor Day – No School

October 13 End of First Quarter

October 18 Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 22-24 Thanksgiving Break – No School

December 20 End of Second Quarter

December 21 – January 2 Christmas Break – No School

January 3 School Resumes

January 10 Report Cards

January 15 MLK Day – No School

February 19 President’s Day – No School

March 9 End of Third Quarter

March 15 Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 19-23 Spring Break

May 17 Awards/Graduation

May 18 Last Day of School/Family Picnic

Bad weather days in calendar: Jan 15

 Feb 19

 May 21

 May 22

 May 23

Note: A.C.A. § 6-17-201 which was amended by Act 1120 of 2003 requires that personnel policies include the annual calendar, holidays and non-instructional days, and designation of workdays. While we feel that this phrasing is redundant, to be in compliance with the Act be sure that the calendar spells out which days are holidays, non-instructional days, and work days.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-15-2907(f)

A.C.A. § 6-17-201

ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act

Date Adopted: June 17, 2003

Last Revised: June 9, 2017

**3.30—PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

The school recognizes the importance of communication between teachers and parents/legal guardians. To help promote positive communication, parent/teacher conferences shall be held once each semester. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents or guardians when they feel they need to discuss their child’s progress with his/her teacher.

Teachers are required to communicate during the school year with the parent(s), legal guardian(s), or care-giving adult or adults in a student’s home to discuss the student’s academic progress unless the student has been placed in the custody of the Department of Human Services and the school has received a court order prohibiting parent or legal guardian participation in parent/teacher conferences**1**. More frequent communication is required with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of students who are performing below grade level.

All parent/teacher conferences shall be scheduled at a time and place to best accommodate those participating in the conference. Each teacher shall document the participation or non-participation of parent(s)/legal guardian(s) for each scheduled conference.

If a student is to be retained at any grade level or denied course credit**2**, notice of, and the reasons for retention shall be communicated promptly in a personal conference.

Note: **1** A.C.A. § 9-28-113(b)(6) provides that when the court transfers custody of a child to the Department of Human Services, the court shall issue an order stating whether the parent or legal guardian may participate in parent/teacher conferences.

**2** Course credit has been added to align with language in policy 4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION.

Legal Reference: State Board of Education Standards of Accreditation 12.04.1, 12.04.2, and 12.04.3

A.C.A. § 6-15- 1702(b)(3)(B)(ii)

Date Adopted: February 22, 2005

Last Revised: February 3, 2015

**3.31—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE – LICENSED PERSONNEL**

The conduct of school staff plays a vital role in the social and behavioral development of our students. It is equally important that the staff have a safe, healthful, and professional environment in which to work. To help promote both interests, the school shall have a drug free workplace. It is, therefore, the school’s policy that school employees are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances, illegal drugs, inhalants, alcohol, as well as inappropriate or illegal use of prescription drugs. Such actions are prohibited both while at work or in the performance of official duties while off school property; violations of this policy will subject the employee to discipline, up to and including termination.

To help promote a drug free workplace, the school shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the school policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance abuse programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

Drug Abuse Helplines for Employees

**The following organizations and resources provide free, confidential assistance to individuals who have, or know someone who has, a problem with alcohol or other drugs.**

**Substance Abuse Treatment Locator**

www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov

Phone: 1-800-662-HELP

This Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Web site and toll-free phone line help individuals locate drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs in their communities.

**AlcoholScreening.org**

www.alcoholscreening.org

This free, confidential Web site lets individuals privately assess their own drinking habits and receive personalized feedback to help them determine if they need help to change those habits. Individuals can also find out about facilities in their communities that offer drug and alcohol abuse treatment and consultations with qualified health professionals regarding alcohol problems.

**Al-Anon/Alateen**

Phone: (888) 4AL-ANON

www.al-anon.alateen.org

Al-Anon provides information on the effects of alcohol abuse and refers friends and families of alcohol abusers to nearby support groups. Al-Anon’s purpose is to help families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with the problem drinking of a relative or friend. Alateen is the organization’s program for young people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**

Phone: (212) 870-3400

www.aa.org

AA offers a way to stop drinking to individuals who feel they have a problem with alcohol. AA groups are located in most cities and rural communities throughout the country. Look up “Alcoholics Anonymous” in a local telephone directory for a contact in your area.

**American Council on Alcoholism**

Phone: (800) 527-5344

www.aca-usa.org

This service provides referrals to alcoholism treatment programs nationwide and distributes written materials on alcohol abuse problems.

**Cocaine Anonymous**

Phone: (800) 347-8998

www.ca.org

Cocaine Anonymous provides support for people dependent on cocaine and other mind-altering substances. Callers are referred to local helplines.

**Nar-Anon**

Phone: (800) 477-6291

www.nar-anon.org

This worldwide program provides support for friends and families of individuals with substance abuse problems.

**National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Hopeline**

Phone: (800) NCA-CALL

www.ncadd.org

This organization, a planning and oversight agency for public substance abuse treatment programs, provides written information on alcohol and drug abuse and referrals to treatment and counseling services nationwide.

Should any employee be found to have been under the influence of, or in illegal possession of, any illegal drug, or controlled substance, whether or not engaged in any school or school-related activity, and the behavior of the employee, if under the influence, is such that it is inappropriate for a school employee in the opinion of the Director, the employee may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. This policy also applies to those employees who are under the influence of alcohol while on campus or at school-sponsored functions, including athletic events.

Possession, use or distribution of drug paraphernalia by any employee, whether or not engaged in school or school-related activities, may subject the employee to discipline, up to and including termination. Possession in one’s vehicle or in an area subject to the employee’s control will be considered to be possession as though the substance were on the employee’s person.

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

Should an employee desire to provide the school with the results of a blood, breath or urine analysis, such results will be taken into account by the school only if the sample is provided within a time range that could provide meaningful results and only by a testing agency chosen or approved by the school. The school shall not request that the employee be tested, and the expense for such voluntary testing shall be borne by the employee.

Any incident at work resulting in injury to the employee requiring medical attention shall require the employee to submit to a drug test, which shall be paid at the school’s worker’s compensation carrier’s expense.

Failure for the employee to submit to the drug test or a confirmed positive drug test indicating the use of illegal substances or the misuse of prescription medications shall be grounds for the denial of worker’s compensation benefits in accordance with policy 3.44—LICENSED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION.**2**

Any employee who is charged with a violation of any state or federal law relating to the possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, other controlled substances or alcohol, or of drug paraphernalia, must notify the Director within five (5) week days (i.e., Monday through Friday, inclusive, excluding holidays) of being so charged.

Any employee so charged is subject to discipline, up to and including termination. However, the failure of an employee to notify the Director of having been so charged shall result in that employee being recommended for termination by the Director.

Any employee convicted of any criminal drug statute violation for an offense that occurred while at work or in the performance of official duties while off school property shall report the conviction within 5 calendar days to the Director. Within 10 days of receiving such notification, whether from the employee or any other source, the school shall notify federal granting agencies from which it receives funds of the conviction. Compliance with these requirements and prohibitions is mandatory and is a condition of employment.

Any employee convicted of any state or federal law relating to the possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs, other controlled substances, or of drug paraphernalia, shall be recommended for termination.

Any employee who must take prescription medication at the direction of the employee’s physician, and who is impaired by the prescription medication such that he cannot properly perform his duties shall not report for duty. Any employee who reports for duty and is so impaired, as determined by the Director, will be sent home. The employee shall be given sick leave, if owed any. The school or employee will provide transportation for the employee, and the employee may not leave campus while operating any vehicle. It is the responsibility of the employee to contact his physician in order to adjust the medication, if possible, so that the employee may return to his job unimpaired. Should the employee attempt to return to work while impaired by prescription medications, for which the employee has a prescription, he will, again, be sent home and given sick leave, if owed any. Should the employee attempt to return to work while impaired by prescription medication a third time the employee may be subject to discipline, up to and including a recommendation of termination.

Any employee who possesses, uses, distributes or is under the influence of a prescription medication obtained by a means other than his own current prescription shall be treated as though he was in possession, possession with intent to deliver, or under the influence, etc. of an illegal substance. An illegal drug or other substance is one which is (a) not legally obtainable; or (b) one which is legally obtainable, but which has been obtained illegally. The school may require an employee to provide proof from his physician and/or pharmacist that the employee is lawfully able to receive such medication. Failure to provide such proof, to the satisfaction of the Director, may result in discipline, up to and including a recommendation of termination.

A report to the appropriate licensing agency shall be filed within seven (7) days of:

1. A final disciplinary action taken against an employee resulting from the diversion, misuse, or abuse of illicit drugs or controlled substances; or
2. The voluntary resignation of an employee who is facing a pending disciplinary action resulting from the diversion, misuse, or abuse of illicit drugs or controlled substances.

The report filed with the licensing authority shall include, but not be limited to:

* The name, address, and telephone number of the person who is the subject of the report; and
* A description of the facts giving rise to the issuance of the report.

When the employee is not a healthcare professional, law enforcement will be contacted regarding any final disciplinary action taken against an employee for the diversion of controlled substances to one (1) or more third parties.

**Notes:** This policy is similar to Policy 8.28. If you change this policy, review 8.28 at the same time to ensure consistency between the two.

**1** This is where you should insert the drug counseling services, rehabilitation, and employee assistance abuse programs available within your district. For example, “Such services are available from the following sources…”

This policy addresses the requirement for Safe and Drug Free Schools which is required for your district to be eligible to receive **any** federal grants. It is required that all employees receive a copy of the policy and be advised of the contents and requirements of the policy. In addition to publishing a policy statement, the statutes require employers to establish a drug-free awareness program to educate employees about the dangers of drug abuse as well as about the specifics of their policy. The statute does not specify a particular format for the awareness program, although it does state that the education effort must be ongoing and not just a one-time event. For assistance in constructing a drug awareness program the Department of Labor has the following web site: http://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/asp/drugfree/menu.htm.

**2** Requiring employees who need medical treatment for injuries at work to be drug tested is optional but is recommended. A.C.A. § 11-9-102 states that an injury resulting while the employee is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs is not a compensable injury. Requiring all employees to be drug tested for work injuries resulting in medical treatment will allow the district to abide the prohibition against paying worker's comp for a drug related injury.

Legal References: 41 U.S.C. § 8101, 8103, and 8104

 A.C.A. § 11-9-102

A.C.A. § 17-80-117

Date Adopted: February 22, 2005

Last Revised: January 31, 2017

3.31F—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CERTI FICATION

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE**

Employees are eligible for benefits under the Family Medical Leave Act when the school has fifty (50) or more employees. The Imboden Area Charter School has less than fifty (50) employees, and therefore, employees are not eligible for FMLA benefits.

Legal References: 29 USC 2601 et seq.

 29 CFR part 825

Date Adopted: September 3, 2002

Last Revised: April 26, 2012

**3.33 - ASSIGNMENT OF EXTRA DUTIES FOR LICENSED PERSONNEL**

From time to time extra duties may be assigned to certified personnel by the Director as circumstances dictate.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. 6-17-201

Date Adopted: June 17, 2003

Last Revised:

**3.34 - LICENSED PERSONNEL CELL PHONE USE**

Use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices by employees during instructional time for other than instructional purposesis strictly forbidden unless specifically approved in advance by the Director.1

School staff shall not be given cell phones or computers for any purpose other than their specific use associated with school business. School employees who use a school issued cell phone~~s~~ and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by school policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. School employees who are issued school cell phones due to the requirements of their position may use the phone for personal use on an “as needed” basis provided it is not during instructional time.**2**

All employees are forbidden from using school issued cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.**3**

No employee shall use any device for the purposes of browsing the internet; composing or reading emails and text messages; or making or answering phone calls while driving a motor vehicle which is in motion and on school property. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.**4**

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.25. If you change this policy, review 8.25 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** The goal is to eliminate the use of cell phones during instructional time for other than instructional purposes. You may change who has the authority to approve the use of cell phones if you so wish.

**2** The IRS has changed its position regarding the use of district issued cell phones for personal use for those employees who have a genuine **need** for a cell phone due to their job’s duties. Cell phones **cannot** be issued as a fringe benefit, but only as a “legitimate” need related to their job’s responsibilities. There is no longer a need to keep track of personal calls and claim their value as income. The district has the option of supplying the phone directly to the employee or of reimbursing the employee for the cost of his/her personal phone that is used for both District and personal purposes. Any such reimbursement can only be for the specific employee and not any other individuals associated with that employee’s cell phone plan. There has been no change to the use of school computers for personal purposes.

When considering the pros and cons of school issued technology, keep in mind that any correspondence made on such technology (cell phone, iPad, computer) would be subject to inspection under the Freedom of Information Act. Because it is district issued, there would be no differentiation between personal and school use.

**3** This sentence is included because insurance companies have ruled that injuries occurring while driving and talking on school issued cell phones are subject to workers comp awards.

**4** This sentence was added due to the dangers involved for both drivers and pedestrians associated with distracted driving. A.C.A. § 27-51-1609 prohibits the use of a “wireless handheld telephone” while in a school zone for any purpose when that use is not hands free. While the policy language exceeds the statutory prohibition, we believe the expanded language is important for the protection of students, employees, and the public.

Cross References: 4.47 – POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

 7.14 – USE OF SCHOOL CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS

Legal Reference: IRS Publication 15 B

A.C.A. § 27-51-1602

A.C.A. § 27-51-1609

Date Adopted: June 17, 2003

Last Revised: May 19, 2015

**3.35 - LICENSED PERSONNEL BENEFITS**

The Imboden Area Charter School provides its employees benefits consisting of the following:

1. The priceless reward of helping shape the life and future of our children.

2. Health insurance assistance.

3. Contribution to the teacher retirement system.

4. One sick leave day per contract calendar month, or greater portion thereof; and

5. Two personal days.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. 6-17-201

Date Adopted: June 17, 2003

Last Revised: March 15, 2011

**3.37 - ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHER AIDES**

The assignment of teacher aides shall be made by the Director. Changes in the assignments may be made as necessary due to changes in the student population, teacher changes, and to best meet the educational needs of the students.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. 6-17-201

Date Adopted: June 17, 2003

Last Revised:

3.38— LICENSED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BULLYING

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

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

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

The Director who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall promptly investigate the complaint or report and make a record of the investigation and any action taken as a result of the investigation.

School employees are held to a high standard of professionalism, especially when it comes to employee-student interactions. Actions by a School employee towards a student that would constitute bullying if the act had been performed by a student shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. This policy governs bullying directed towards students and is not applicable to adult on adult interactions. Therefore, this policy does not apply to interactions between employees. Employees may report workplace conflicts to the Director.1

Definitions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Sarcastic "comments" about another student’s personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
4. Nonverbal threats and/or intimidation such as “fronting” or “chesting” a person,
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student’s race, gender, ethnicity or actual or perceived attributes,
6. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
7. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
8. Delibrate physical contact or injury to person or property,
9. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
10. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others.
11. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 3.26, is also a form of bullying, and/or
12. Teasing or name-calling based on the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles (Example: “Slut”) or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual (Examples: “You are so gay.” “Fag” “Queer”).

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

This policy is similar to Policy 8.26. If you change this policy, review 8.26 at the same time to ensure consistency between the two.

**1** This paragraph is optional. We have included it because we have received multiple phone calls where district employees were attempting to use the policy against fellow employees.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-514

Date Adopted: April 20, 2004

Last Revised: April 26, 2016

**3.39— LICENSED PERSONNEL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

The Director shall determine, by individual or by position, those records a teacher is responsible to keep and those reports he/she is required to maintain. It is a requirement of employment that all required records and reports be completed, submitted, or otherwise tendered, and be accepted by the Director as complete and satisfactory, before the last month’s pay will be released to the licensed employee.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-104

Date Adopted: May 20, 2007

Last Revised:

3.40— LICENSED PERSONNEL Duty to Report Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect

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

The duty to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment is a direct and personal duty, and cannot be assigned or delegated to another person. There is no duty to investigate, confirm or substantiate statements a student may have made which form the basis of the reasonable cause to believe that the student may have been abused or subjected to maltreatment by another person; however, a person with a duty to report may find it helpful to make a limited inquiry to assist in the formation of a belief that child abuse, maltreatment or neglect has occurred, or to rule out such a belief**1**. Employees and volunteers who call the Child Abuse Hotline in good faith are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution.

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

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.34. if you change this policy, review 8.34 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** This is a delicate matter and the district would be wise to avail itself of professional development in this area available from DHS and other sources. Act 1236 of 2009, codified at A.C.A. § 6-61-133, requires professional development related to child maltreatment for licensed employees. Language to this effect has been added to policy 3.6—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE TRAINING.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 12-18-107

A.C.A. § 12-18-201 et seq.

A.C.A. § 12-18-402

Date Adopted: May 20, 2008

Last Revised: May 10, 2011

3.41— LICENSED PERSONNEL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER MONITORING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: This policy is similar to policies 4.48 and 8.29. If you change this policy, review 4.48 and 8.29 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the policies.

Date Adopted: May 20, 2008

Last Revised: March 15, 2011

**3.42—OBTAINING AND RELEASING STUDENT’S FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL ELIGIBLITY INFORMATION**

**Obtaining Eligibility Information**

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

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

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

**Releasing Eligibility Information**

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

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

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

Each staff person with access to individual eligibility information shall be notified of their personal liability for its unauthorized disclosure and shall receive appropriate training on the laws governing the restrictions of such information.**1**

Notes: This policy is similar to policy 8.35. If you change this policy, check policy 8.35 to make sure there is applicable consistency between the two.

The Children’s Nutrition Unit of the ADE website (<http://cnn.k12.ar.us>) has the referenced Commissioner’s Memos as well as helpful information to develop your policy statement packet. Additionally, Commissioner’s Memos FIN 09-041 has two attachments that will go a long way toward explaining the restrictions on the release of eligibility information and status.

**2**1The penalty for improper disclosure of eligibility information is a fine of not more than $1000 per student name if a violation is by either the school or a person in the disclosure without authorization under federal confidentiality regulations and/or imprisonment of not more than one year.

**3**The school owns the data and has the right to choose whether or not to release it to **anyone**. Therefore, the school must make the decisions concerning its release. With the ownership comes the responsibility to ensure proper security of the data.

Legal References: Commissioner’s Memos IA-05-018, FIN 09-041, and

IA 99-011, and FIN 13-018

ADE Eligibility Manual for School Meals Revised July 2012

7 CFR 210.1 – 210.31

 7 CFR 220.1 – 220.22

 7 CFR 245.5, 245.6, 245.8

 42 USC 1758(b)(6)

Date Adopted: March 30, 2009

Last Revised: March 26, 2013

**3.43—DUTY OF LICENSED EMPLOYEES TO MAINTAIN LICENSE IN GOOD STANDING**

It is the responsibility of each teacher, and not the district, to keep his/her teaching license continuously renewed with no lapses in licensure, and in good standing with the State Board of Education. Failure of a teacher to do so will be grounds for termination.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-401

Date Adopted: March 30, 2009

Last Revised: April 26, 2012

**3.44— LICENSED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**

The school provides Workers’ Compensation Insurance, as required by law. Employees who sustain **any** injury at work must immediately notify the Director.1 An injured employee must fill out Form N, and the Director will determine whether to report the claim or to file the paperwork if the injury requires neither medical treatment nor lost work time. While many injuries will require no medical treatment or time lost at work, should the need for treatment arise later, it is important that there be a record that the injury occurred. All employees have a duty to provide information and make statements as requested for the purposes of the claim assessment and investigation.

For injuries requiring medical attention, the school will exercise its right to designate the initial treating physician and an injured employee will be directed to seek medical attention, if necessary, from a specific physician or clinic. In addition, employees whose injuries require medical attention shall submit to a drug test, which shall be paid at the school’s worker’s compensation carrier’s expense. Failure for the employee to submit to the drug test or a confirmed positive drug test indicating the use of illegal substances or the misuse of prescription medications shall be grounds for the denial of worker’s compensation benefits.**2**

Employees who are absent from work in the school due to a Workers’ Compensation claim may not work at a non-school job until they have returned to full duties at their same or equivalent school job; those who violate this prohibition may be subject to discipline up to and including termination. This prohibition does NOT apply to an employee who has been cleared by his/her doctor to return to "light duty" but the School has no such position available for the employee and the employee's second job qualifies as "light duty".

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

* Will be charged for a day's sick leave for the all days missed until such time as the WC claim has been approved or denied;
* Whose WC claim is accepted by the WC insurance carrier as compensable and who is absent for eight or more days shall be charged sick leave at the rate necessary, when combined with WC benefits, to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of the employee's usual contracted daily rate of pay;
* Whose WC claim is accepted by the WC insurance carrier as compensable and is absent for 14 or more days will be credited back that portion of sick leave for the first seven (7) days of absence that is not necessary to have brought the total amount of combined income up to 100% of the employee's usual contracted gross pay.

Note: This policy is similar to policy 8.36. If you change this policy, review 8.36 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** Insert the **position** of the person to be notified.

**2**Requiring employees who need medical treatment for injuries at work to be drug tested is optional but is recommended. A.C.A. § 11-9-102 states that an injury resulting while the employee is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs is not a compensable injury. Requiring all employees to be drug tested for work injuries resulting in medical treatment will allow the district to abide the prohibition against paying worker's comp for a drug related injury.

Cross References: 3.8—LICENSED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE

3.18—LICENSED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

3.32—LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

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

A.C.A. § 11-9-102

A.C.A. § 11-9-508(d)(5)(A)

A.C.A. § 11-9-514(a)(3)(A)(i)

Date Adopted: June 22, 2009

Last Revised: April 26, 2016

3.45— LICENSED PERSONNEL SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ETHICS

**Definitions**

Social Media Account: a personal, individual, and non-work related account with an electronic medium or service where users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails or website profiles or locations, such as FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, MySpace, Instagram.

Professional/education Social Media Account: an account with an electronic medium or service where users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails or website profiles or locations, such as FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, MySpace, Instagram.

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

**Policy**

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

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

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

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

Staff members are discouraged from creating personal social media accounts to which they invite students to be friends or followers.**1** Employees taking such action do so at their own risk and are advised to monitor the site’s privacy settings regularly.

School employees may set up blogs and other professional/education social media accounts using school resources and following school guidelines**1** to promote communications with students, parents, and the community concerning school-related activities and for the purpose of supplementing classroom instruction. Accessing professional/education social media during school hours is permitted.

Staff are reminded that the same relationship, exchange, interaction, information, or behavior that would be unacceptable in a non-technological medium, is unacceptable when done through the use of technology. In fact, due to the vastly increased potential audience digital dissemination presents, extra caution must be exercised by staff to ensure they don’t cross the line of acceptability. A good rule of thumb for staff to use is, “if you wouldn’t say it in class, don’t say it online.”

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

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

Specifically, the following forms of technology based interactivity or connectivity are expressly permitted or forbidden:**2**

* Sharing personal landline or cell phone numbers with students;
* Text messaging students;
* Emailing students other than through and to school controlled and monitored accounts;
* Soliciting students as friends or contacts on social networking websites;
* Accepting the solicitation of students as friends or contacts on social networking websites;
* Creation of administratively approved and sanctioned “groups” on social networking websites that permit the broadcast of information without granting students access to staff member’s personal information;
* Sharing personal websites or other media access information with students through which the staff member would share personal information and occurrences.

**Privacy of Employee's Social Media Accounts**

In compliance with A.C.A. § 11-2-124, the School shall not require, request, suggest, or cause a current or prospective employee to:

1. Disclose the username and/or password to his/her personal social media account;
2. Add an employee, supervisor, or administrator to the list of contacts associated with his/her personal social media account;
3. Change the privacy settings associated with his/her personal social media account; or
4. Retaliate against the employee for refusing to disclose the username and/or password to his/her personal social media account.

The School may require an employee to disclose his or her username and/or password to a personal social media account if the employee’s personal social media account activity is reasonably believed to be relevant to the investigation of an allegation of an employee violating school policy, or state, federal or local laws or regulations. If such an investigation occurs, and the employee refuses, upon request, to supply the username and/or password required to make an investigation, disciplinary action may be taken against the employee, which could include termination or nonrenewal of the employee’s contract of employment with the School.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this policy, the School reserves the right to view any information about a current or prospective employee that is publicly available on the Internet.

In the event that the school inadvertently obtains access to information that would enable the school to have access to an employee’s personal social media account, the school will not use this information to gain access to the employee’s social media account. However, disciplinary action may be taken against an employee in accord with other school policy for using school equipment or network capability to access such an account. Employees have no expectation of privacy in their use of school issued computers, other electronic device, or use of the school's network. (See policy 3.28—LICENSED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY)

Notes: While only the Privacy of Employee's Social Media Accounts section of this policy is required by statute, ASBA strongly recommends adopting the policy in its entirety after consulting with staff for localizing purposes.

This policy is similar to policy 8.37. If you change this policy, review 8.37 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** The policy’s separate definitions for “social media websites” and “professional/education social media accounts” are important. Districts are encouraged to establish “professional/education social media accounts” as an acceptable means of teacher and district communication with students and parents. This can serve to discourage inappropriate staff/student interactions on “social media websites.” ASBA strongly suggests using the discussions for modifying/personalizing this policy as a means for generating the acceptable guidelines and procedures for staff creation of private “professional/education social networks”. We recommend **NOT** incorporating the guidelines into the policy, but have them available for all staff to review. Incorporating them into the policy will make it much harder to change them if the need arises.

**2** What is and is not acceptable staff/student interaction on social networking websites is an education community decision, and will vary from district to district. As a general rule, the greater the degree ofreal-life connections and interactivity between staff and students that normally occur in the community, the greater the tolerance will be for virtual connections and interactivity. Use the following list to help guide discussions with staff to determine which items should be included in the policy and with what modifications/stipulations. It is as important to include in the policy what **is** permitted as what **is not** permitted. Your discussions may elicit additional bullets to include in the policy.

* Sharing personal landline or cell phone numbers with students;
* Text messaging students;
* Emailing students other than through and to school controlled and monitored accounts;
* Soliciting students as friends or contacts on social networking websites;
* Accepting the solicitation of students as friends or contacts on social networking websites;
* Creation of administratively approved and sanctioned “groups” on social networking websites that permit the broadcast of information without granting students access to staff member’s personal information;
* Sharing personal websites or other media access information with students through which the staff member would share personal information and occurrences.

Cross reference: 3.28—LICENSED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY

Legal References: A.C.A. § 11-2-124

RULES GOVERNING THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARKANSAS EDUCATORS

Date Adopted: June 22, 2009

Last Revised: July 1, 2013

3.46— LICENSED PERSONNEL VacationS

240 day contracted employees are credited with 10 days of vacation,**1** 5 days at the beginning of June and 5 days at the beginning of July. This is based on the assumption that a full contract year will be worked. If an employee fails to finish the contract year due to resignation or termination, the employee’s final check will be reduced at the rate of .833 days per month, or major portion of a month, for any days used but not earned.

Instructional employees may not generally take vacation during instructional time. All vacation time must be approved, in advance to the extent practicable by the Director.**2** If vacation is requested, but not approved, and employee is absent from work in spite of the vacation denial, disciplinary action will be taken against the employee, which may include termination or nonrenewal.

No employee shall be entitled to more than 20 days of vacation as of the first day of each fiscal year. The permissible carry forward includes the 10 days credited upon the start of the fiscal year. Employees having accrued vacation totaling more than 20 days as of the date this policy is implemented shall not be eligible to increase the number of days carried forward during their employment with the school.**3** Earned but unused vacation will be paid upon resignation, retirement, termination, or nonrenewal at the employee’s current daily rate of pay.4

Notes: **1** Select your eligibility criteria and number of vacation days. Eligibility does not have to be 240 day employees and vacation does not have to be 10 days. If you choose a number other than 10 days, you will need to change the proration rate in the paragraph’s final sentence for used, but unearned vacation.

**2** Insert the position that will be responsible for approving vacation requests.

**3** This sentence should be included whether you are changing your previous policy or you have not had a policy but have had the **practice** of allowing and paying accrued vacation greater than 15 days. It will help limit your future fiscal liability.

**4** Unlike sick leave, vacation is not transferable from one district to another and so we have included resignation, retirement, termination, and non-renewal as instances when the district will pay the employee for unused vacation. You may replace the list for when the district will pay for unused vacation with “any severance of employment”. In any instance of such pay, the rate of pay for accrued, but unused vacation, does not have to be at the daily rate of pay. It may be at a set sum (so many dollars for each unused day) or as a percentage of the employee's daily rate of pay. If the district does not choose to place limits on the amount payable at employment severance, then the rate payable would be that employees current daily rate of pay.

Date Adopted: March 15, 2011

Last Revised: February 3, 2015

**3.47—Depositing collected funds**

From time to time, staff members may collect funds in the course of their employment. It is the responsibility of any staff member to deposit such funds they have collected daily**1** into the appropriate accounts for which they have been collected. The Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for determining the need for receipts for funds collected and other record keeping requirements and of notifying staff of the requirements.

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

Notes: This policy is similar to policy 8.39—Depositing collected funds. If you change this policy, review 8.39 at the same time to ensure consistency between the two.

**1** “Daily” is a suggested length of time that aligns with policy 7.7. You may select a different time period, but if you change it, be sure to change policy 7.7 to match. The reason for this policy and the shorter timeline is to protect both the district and the teachers from possible overnight theft which is only covered by insurance if there are receipts to prove the existence of the funds and even then, there is a deductable (often $1000). It could often be the case that the receipts and the funds would be in the same envelope and be stolen at the same time. Bottom line is that the daily timeline is to protect both the district and the teacher.

Date adopted: March 15, 2011

Last Revised: April 26, 2012

3.48—LICENSED PERSONNEL WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

**Firearms1**

Except as permitted by this policy, no employee of this school, including those who may possess a “concealed carry permit,” shall possess a firearm on any school campus or in or upon any school bus or at a designated bus stop.

Employees who meet one or more of the following conditions are permitted to bring a firearm onto school property.

* He/she is participating in a school-approved educational course or program involving the use of firearms such as ROTC programs, hunting safety or military education, or before or after-school hunting or rifle clubs;
* The firearms are securely stored and located in an employee’s on-campus personal residence and/or immediately adjacent parking area;**2**
* He/she is a registered, commissioned security guard acting in the course and scope of his/her duties.
* He/she has a valid conceal carry license and leaves his/her handgun in his/her locked vehicle in the school parking lot.

Possession of a firearm by a school employee who does not fall under any of the above categories anywhere on school property, including parking areas and in or upon a school bus, will result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee, which may include termination or nonrenewal of the employee.

**Other Weapons3**

Employees may not possess any weapon, defined herein as an item designed to harm or injure another person or animal, any personal defense item such as mace or pepper spray, or any item with a sharpened blade, except those items which have been issued by the school or are otherwise explicitly permitted (example: scissors) in their workspace.

Employees who are participating in a Civil War reenactment may bring a Civil War era weapon onto campus with prior permission of the director. If the weapon is a firearm, the firearm must be unloaded.**5**

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.40. If you change this policy, review Policy 8.40 at the same time to ensure consistency between the two.

**1** The possession of handguns and firearms is a very hot topic. In Arkansas, the laws governing their possession on school grounds are both complicated and less than clear. The two statutes most directly affecting schools are A.C.A. § 5-73-119 (herein after 119) and A.C.A. § 5-73-306 (herein after 306).

119 governs firearms (including handguns) while 306 deals strictly with concealed handguns (those guns having a barrel length of 12" or less).

119 prohibits firearms on "developed school property" while 306 prohibits concealed handgun permit holders from carrying their handguns into school buildings or events but permits the concealed carry licensee to leave a handgun in his/her locked vehicle at a publicly owned parking lot.

119 permits those who are on a "journey beyond the county in which a person lives" to carry handguns and firearms on school property. Technically, this would allow those employees who commute from outside the county in which they teach to bring their firearms to school. While we accept that concealed carry licensees may leave their handgun in their locked vehicle in the parking lot, we see this as complicated to enforce and generally problematic. Also, as we interpret the statute, parents visiting the school for an athletic or other event can bring their handgun, though it must be left in their locked vehicle, with them. We cannot control that through policy.

**2** If your district has housing for any employee and that employee chooses to have any firearms in the house, they should be kept in a very secure place. It would be wise to keep them in a locked gun safe so that no one other than the employee has access to them.

**3** Select the option that works best for your district. In making your decision, note that in Option #2, you can choose to include only the first or the second sentence or you can keep both sentences. If you keep the first sentence, the length of the blade allowed is limited by A.C.A. § 5-73-120(b)(4) to less than 3". Also, A.C.A. § 5-73-120(a) prohibits individuals from carrying a weapon "with a purpose to employ the…weapon against a person." Presumably, an employee could possess a small pocket knife with no intent to use it against another person. Inherent in making the decision on either sentence in Option #2 is the possibility of a student taking the knife or the tear gas and misusing it.

**4** You can replace "tear gas" with "pepper spray" or leave "tear gas" in the policy and add "pepper spray."

**5** While the policy language only specifically covers employees, A.C.A. § 6-5-502 permits any person who is a Civil War reenactor to bring a Civil War era weapon onto campus with the prior permission of the principal.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-73-119

 A.C.A. § 5-73-120

A.C.A. § 5-73-124(a)(2)

 A.C.A. § 5-73-301

 A.C.A. § 5-73-306

A.C.A. § 6-5-502

Date Adopted: March 26, 2013

Last Revised: April 26, 2016

3.49---TEACHERS' REMOVAL OF STUDENT FROM CLASSROOM

**Note and advisement:** This policy is adopted by the Board of Directors in order to bring the School into compliance with ADE rules concerning student discipline, and to incorporate the provisions of A.C.A. § 6-18-511. However, teachers should be aware that federal law governing a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan, or status as an individual with a disability will supercede Arkansas law. In many cases, removing a student from a classroom due to behavioral problems, will violate a student's IEP, violate a student's 504 plan, or constitute discrimination against the student due to a disability that affects the student's ability to conform his or her behavior. Teachers have been successfully sued for IEP and 504 plan violations in other jurisdictions, and teachers need to understand that violating a student's rights is outside of the scope of his or her employment, and no insurance is available or provided by the school for either legal defense or to pay a money judgment. Teachers who rely on this law and this policy to exclude a student with special needs or a disability are assuming a grave personal risk.**1**

A teacher may remove a student from class whose behavior the teacher has documented to be repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach the students in the class or whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it interferes with the ability of the student's other classmates to learn. Students who have been removed from their classroom by a teacher shall be sent to the Director’s office for appropriate discipline.

The Director may:

1. Place the student into another appropriate classroom;
2. Return the student to the class; or
3. Take other appropriate action consistent with the School’s student discipline policies and state and federal law.

If a teacher removes a student from class two (2) times during any nine-week grading period, the Director or Designee may not return the student to the teacher's class unless a conference has been held for the purpose of determining the cause of the problem and possible solutions. The conference is to be held with the following individuals present:

1. The Director;
2. The teacher;
3. The school counselor;
4. The parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis; and
5. The student, if appropriate.

However, the failure of the parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis to attend the conference does not prevent any action from being taken as a result of the conference.

Note: **1** The introductory note to the policy is intended to be included in the policy. The note contains information teachers need to be aware of if they are not to misunderstand the actual limited scope of the statute's language that triggered the policy.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-511

 Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for the Development, Review and Revision of School District Student Discipline and School Safety Policies

Date Adopted: March 26, 2013

Last Revised: February 3, 2015

**3.50—ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION**

Continuing Administrators

The Director shall determine and notify in writing by August 31 of each year those currently employed administrators who will be responsible for conducting Teacher Excellence Support System (hereinafter TESS) summative evaluations who are not currently qualified to fulfill that role. All currently employed administrators so notified shall have until December 31 of the contract year to successfully complete all training and certification requirements for evaluators as set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). It shall constitute just and reasonable cause for nonrenewal of the contract of employment for any administrator who is required to obtain and maintain TESS evaluator certification, as a term and condition of employment, to fail to do so by December 31 of any contract year. No administrator may conduct a summative evaluation unless they have successfully completed all training and certification requirements for evaluators required by the ADE.

Newly Hired or Promoted Administrators

All newly hired or newly promoted administrators, as a term and condition of their acceptance of their contract of employment for their administrative position, are required to obtain and maintain evaluator certification for TESS on or before December 31 of the initial administrative contract year, unless they are explicitly excused from such a contractual requirement by board action at the time of the hire or promotion. It shall constitute just and reasonable cause for nonrenewal of the contract of employment for any newly hired or newly promoted administrator who is required to obtain and maintain TESS evaluator certification, as a term and condition of employment, to fail to do so by December 31 of any contract year. No administrator may conduct a summative evaluation unless they have successfully completed all training and certification requirements for evaluators required by the ADE.

Legal Reference: Arkansas Department Of Education Rules Governing The Teacher Excellence And Support System 4.07.2

Date Adopted: July 1, 2013

Last Revised: March 18, 2014

**3.51—SCHOOL BUS DRIVER’S USE OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

“School Bus” is a motorized vehicle that meets the following requirements:

1. Is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the School; and
2. Is operated for the transportation of students from home to school, from school to home, or to and from school events.**1**

Any driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus while using a device to browse the internet, make or receive phone calls or compose or read emails or text messages.**2** If the school bus is safely off the road with the parking brake engaged, exceptions are allowed to call for assistance due to a mechanical problem with the bus, or to communicate with any of the following during an emergency:

* An emergency system response operator or 911 public safety communications dispatcher;
* A hospital or emergency room;
* A physician's office or health clinic;
* An ambulance or fire department rescue service;
* A fire department, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department; or
* A police department.

In addition to statutorily permitted fines, violations of this policy shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.24. If you change this policy, review 8.24 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** Students are not required to be transported on a school bus as long as the transporting vehicle is not scheduled for a regularly occurring route or takes a route that contains frequent stops to pick up or drop off students.

**2** The statute only prohibits "cell phone" use, but in the 10 years since it was passed the term no longer fits today's technology. The terminology in this sentence is designed to cover all the distractions that could affect a driver's ability to safely drive the bus. While we recommend our language, the statute limits the restrictions to "cell phones that requires the operator to dial numbers manually" and you can substitute that for our verbiage if you prefer.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-19-120

Date Adopted: March 18, 2014

Last Revised:

**3.52—WRITTEN CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN PROCUREMENT WITH FEDERAL FUNDS**

**Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, “Family member” includes:

* An individual's spouse;
* Children of the individual or children of the individual's spouse;
* The spouse of a child of the individual or the spouse of a child of the individual's spouse;
* Parents of the individual or parents of the individual's spouse;
* Brothers and sisters of the individual or brothers and sisters of the individual's spouse;
* Anyone living or residing in the same residence or household with the individual or in the same residence or household with the individual's spouse; or
* Anyone acting or serving as an agent of the individual or as an agent of the individual's spouse.

No school employee, administrator, official, or agent shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds, including the District Child Nutrition Program funds, if a conflict of interest exists, whether the conflict is real or apparent.  Conflicts of interest arise when one or more of the following has a financial or other interest in the entity selected for the contract:

1. The employee, administrator, official, or agent;
2. Any family member of the school employee, administrator, official, or agent;
3. The employee, administrator, official, or agent’s partner; or
4. An organization that currently employs or is about to employ one of the above.

Employees, administrators, officials, or agents shall not solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to sub-agreements including, but not limited to:

1. Entertainment;
2. Hotel rooms;
3. Transportation;
4. Gifts;
5. Meals.

Violations of the Code of Conduct shall result in discipline, up to and including termination. The school reserves the right to pursue legal action for violations.

All school personnel involved in purchases with Federal funds, including child nutrition personnel, shall receive training on the Code of Conduct. Training should include guidance about how to respond when a gratuity, favor, or item with monetary value is offered.**2**

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 8.41. If you change this policy, review 8.41 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

**1** Districts may set standards covering instances where the financial interest is not substantial ~~or~~ and the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. If you do wish to set standards for these situations, delete this sentence and add a statement permitting such acceptance and the circumstances where it is acceptable.

**2** The training provided should cover instances where there is doubt concerning the appropriateness of accepting gifts, favors, etc. the employee should be instructed to consider the following questions:

* How would the public perceive this action of receiving the gift, favor, etc.?
* Will acceptance of the gift, favor, etc. possibly influence a future purchasing decision?

The training should cover the Rules Governing Ethical Guidelines And Prohibitions For Educational Administrators, Employees, Board Members And Other Parties including the contract disclosure forms checklists from Commissioner’s Memo FIN 09-036.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq.

Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Ethical Guidelines And Prohibitions For Educational Administrators, Employees, Board Members And Other Parties

 Commissioner’s Memo FIN 09-036

 Commissioner’s Memo FIN-10-048

 Commissioner’s Memo FIN 15-074

2 C.F.R. § 200.318

 7 C.F.R. § 3016.36

 7 C.F.R. § 3019.42

Date Adopted: March 18, 2014

Last Updated: April 26, 2016

3.53—LICENSED PERSONNEL BUS DRIVER END OF ROUTE REVIEW

Each bus driver shall walk inside the bus from the front to the back to make sure that all students have gotten off the bus after each trip. If a child is discovered through the bus walk, the driver will immediately notify the central office and make arrangements for transporting the child appropriately. If children are left on the bus after the bus walk through has been completed and the driver has left the bus for that trip, the driver shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination of the employee's classified contract.

Date Adopted: March 18, 2014

Last Revised: