

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 8—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLICIES

8.1—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SALARY SCHEDULE	5
8.2--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS	7
8.3--EVALUATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BY RELATIVES	7
8.4—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES DRUG TESTING	7
8.5— CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE	12
8.6---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE BANK	16
8.7---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE	17
8.8—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEALING WITH SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS	18
8.9—PUBLIC OFFICE – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL	19
8.10—JURY DUTY – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL	20
8.11—OVERTIME, COMPTIME, and COMPLYING WITH FLSA	21
8.12— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT	27
8.13—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT	29
8.13A - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE	31
8.13B -CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE	31
8.13C -CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ATTENDANCE	32
8.13D -CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SUBSTITUTES	32

8.14---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES	32
8.15— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TOBACCO USE	33
8.16—DRESS OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES	34
8.17---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLITICAL ACTIVITY	33
8.18— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL DEBTS	34
8.19— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL GRIEVANCES	35
8.19F---LEVEL TWO GREIVANCE FORM - CLASSIFIED	39
8.20— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT	40
8.21— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS	42
8.22— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY	42
8.22F---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL INTERNET USE AGREEMENT	44
8.23— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE	49
8.24---SCHOOL BUS DRIVER'S USE OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES	72
8.25—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL CELL PHONE USE	73
8.26—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BULLYING	74
8.27---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL LEAVE - INJURY FROM ASSAULT	77
8.28— DRUG FREE WORKPLACE - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL	78
8.28F—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	82
8.29---CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE	83
8.30—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REDUCTION IN FORCE	84
8.31—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL	87

8.32— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS	87
8.33— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SCHOOL CALENDAR	88
8.34--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WHO ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, MALTREATMENT OR NEGLECT	90
8.35--OBTAINING AND RELEASING STUDENT'S FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	91
8.36--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION	93
8.37--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ETHICS	95
8.38--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL VACATIONS	99
8.39--DEPOSITING COLLECTED FUNDS	100
8.40--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WEAPONS ON CAMPUS	101
8.41--THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR FUTURE POLICY	104
8.41F--THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR FUTURE POLICY	106
8.42--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BUS DRIVER END OF ROUTE REVIEW	106
8.43--CLASSIFIED WELLNESS POLICY	106
8.44--CLASSIFIED PANDEMIC ACTION PLAN	111
8.45--CLASSIFIED FLOWER FUND	114
8.46--CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE DUTIES	115
8.47--HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDICATION DISPOSAL POLICY	116

**HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEA: 3809
2016-2017
CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLICY**



Hillcrest School Board President

6-27-16

Date



Hillcrest School Superintendent

6-27-16

Date

Hillcrest School District web site: <http://hillcrest.k12.ar.us>

8.1—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SALARY SCHEDULE

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 2016/17 CLASSIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE

Adopted April 23, 2016 - \$1,000.00 to each bus driver step and .50 per hr to all other steps
And \$5 per trip for sub bus pay

POSITION	0YRS	1YRS	2YRS	3YRS	4YRS	5YRS	6YRS	7YRS	8YRS	9YRS
Bus Driver	9128	9331	9534	9738	9941	10,145	10,348	10,551	10,755	10,958
Cooks/Aides										
Janitors	9.29	9.37	9.47	9.58	9.69	9.80	9.90	10.01	10.11	10.22
Secretary	9.64	9.75	9.86	9.96	10.07	10.17	10.29	10.39	10.50	10.60
Maintenance	9.99	10.20	10.42	10.63	10.82	11.06	11.27	11.49	11.70	11.91

Long bus route drivers will be compensated an additional \$2000 annually to above rates.

Cooks will be contracted for 185 days per year.

Teacher's aides will be contracted for 8 hours per day, 180 days per year

Elementary secretary will be contracted for 240 days per year at a rate of \$0.75 extra per hour.

Legal Secretaries will be contracted for 240 days per year at a rate of \$0.75 extra per hour.

Superintendent's secretary will be contracted for 240 days per yr and at a rate of \$0.75 extra per hr and shall be paid the top wages on the secretary line of the schedule regardless of yrs experience.

Food service director will receive a yearly stipend of \$1500.

The following positions have negotiated salaries:

District Treasurer/Bookkeeper	240 days	54,540 Per Year*
Assistant Bookkeeper	240 days	27,054 Per Year
	(178 days @ 7 hrs per day & 62 days @ 8 hrs per day)	
Nurse	190 days	35,202 Per Year*
Technology Coordinator	240 days	49,283 Per Year*
Licensed Maintenance	250 days	21.75 Per Hour
Bus Mechanic	240 days	12.93 Per Hour
	(178 days @ 7 hrs per day & 62 days @ 8 hrs per day)	
Bus drivers for ball game trips		\$20.00 Per Night
Bus drivers for day trips		\$7.50 Per Hour
Bus driver substitutes	\$30.00 Per trip for regular routes and \$35.00 Per trip for long routes	
Substitute Nurse		\$15.00 Per Hour

All other classified substitutes are paid 65.00 Per Day

Ballgame timer/scorer \$12.50 per high school game - \$25.00 per night for elementary games

8 paid holidays for those whose contract period covers the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Contracts for 240 days have 8 paid holidays, contracts for 230 and 220 days have 7 paid holidays and all others have 6 paid holidays.

*These salaries include holiday pay

For the purposes of this policy, an employee must work two thirds (2/3) of the number of their regularly assigned annual work days to qualify for a step increase.

The superintendent has the authority, when recommending an applicant and his/her placement on the District's salary schedule to the Board for its approval, to consider the applicant's previous work experience with similar duties, responsibilities, and skill sets to those job duties and responsibilities the applicant would assume for the District.

Cross Reference: Policy 1.9—POLICY FORMULATION

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301
A.C.A. § 6-17-2203
ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Document Posted to District Websites

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.2— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS

Classified personnel may be periodically evaluated.

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.3—EVALUATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BY RELATIVES

No person shall be employed in, or assigned to, a position which would require that he 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: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.4—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES 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 district 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 district 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:

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

"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 District; 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

- A. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater;
- B. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions;
- C. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol;
- D. No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test under # 2 above shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident or until he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first;
- E. No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or drug test in conjunction with # 1, 2, and/or 4 above;
- F. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when using any controlled substance, except when used pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner 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 his/her supervisor of the employee's use of such medication;
- G. No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.

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

Testing for Cause

Drivers involved in an accident in which there is a loss of another person's life shall be tested for alcohol and controlled substances as soon as practicable following the accident. Drivers shall also be tested for alcohol within eight (8) hours and for controlled substances within thirty two (32) hours following an accident for which they receive a citation for a moving traffic violation if the accident involved: 1) bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident, or 2) one or more motor vehicles incurs disabling damage as a result of the accident requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.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, articulatable observations concerning the behavior, speech, or body odors of the driver. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall require the driver to submit to "reasonable suspicion" tests for alcohol and controlled substances. The direction to submit to such tests must be made just before, just after, or during the time the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions. If circumstances prohibit the testing of the driver the

Superintendent or his/her designee shall remove the driver from reporting for, or remaining on, duty for a minimum of 24 hours from the time the observation was made triggering the driver's removal from duty.

If the results for an alcohol test administered to a driver 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 no 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 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 required to have a teaching license as a prerequisite for their job are covered by Policy 3.7. 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 this policy 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 3.7. If you change this policy, review 3.7 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. § 27-23-201 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: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 19, 2015

8.5— CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE

Definitions

1. “Employee” is an employee of the District working 20 or more hours per week who is not required to have a teaching license as a condition of his employment.
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 principal shall determine whether sick leave will be approved on the basis of a death outside the immediate family of the employee.
3. “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 month worked, or major part thereof.*¹
4. “Accumulated Sick Leave” is the total of unused sick leave, up to a maximum of ninety (90) days or one (1) day per month for each contracted month for those on extended contracts, not to exceed one hundred and twenty days (120) days. Accumulated sick leave also includes the sick leave transferred from an employee’s previous public school employment.²
5. Immediate family is defined as the following: 1) spouse, 2) children, 3) stepchildren or dependents, 4) parents and siblings, 5) spouse’s parents or siblings, 6) grandparents, 7) grandchildren and any other relative or person living with the employee on a permanent basis.

Sick Leave

The principal 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 principal.

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. See also, 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE, which also applies. Except for bonding time, documentation shall be provided by the employee upon request.³

Pay for sick leave shall be at the employee’s daily rate of pay, which is that employee’s hourly rate of pay times the number of hours normally worked per day. 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.

At the discretion of the principal (or Superintendent), and, if FMLA is applicable, subject to the certification or recertification provisions contained in policy 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE the District may require a written statement from the employee's physician documenting the employee's illness. Failure to provide such documentation of illness may result in sick leave not being paid, or in discipline up to and including termination.

If the employee's absences are not subject to the FMLA or are in excess of what is protected under the FMLA, excessive absenteeism, to the extent that the employee is not carrying out his/her assigned duties to the degree that the education of students or the efficient operation of a school or the district is substantially adversely affected (at the determination of the principal or Superintendent), may result in termination.

Upon retirement, employees shall be compensated for 100% of accumulated unused sick leave acquired within the district. Compensation shall be at a substitute rate of pay upon retirement.

Sick Leave and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave

When an employee takes sick leave, the District shall determine if the employee is eligible for FMLA leave and if the leave qualifies for FMLA leave. The District may request additional information from the employee to help make the applicability⁴ determination. If the employee is eligible for FMLA leave and if the leave qualifies under the FMLA, the District will notify the employee in writing, of the decision within five (5) workdays. If the circumstances for the leave is as defined in policy 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE don't change, the District is only required to notify the employee once of the determination regarding the applicability of sick leave and/or FMLA leave within any applicable twelve (12) month period. To the extent the employee has accumulated sick leave, any sick leave taken that qualifies for FMLA leave shall be paid leave and charged against the employee's accrued leave including, once an employee exhausts his/her accumulated sick leave, vacation or personal leave. See 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

Sick Leave and Outside Employment

Sick leave related absence from work (e.g. sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, and FMLA) inherently means the employee is also incapable of working at any source of outside employment. Except as provided in policy 8.36, if an employee who works a non-district job while taking district sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, or FMLA shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Personnel entering T-Drop or retiring and continuing to work

Any employee who elects to enter the T-Drop program of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System/Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System or any employee who elects to retire under the Arkansas Retirement System and continue to work for the Hillcrest School District may choose to have any or all accumulated sick leave purchased at the end of the last year of active membership thereby having this payment apply to their last year of calculated service.

Certified teachers will be paid at the rate at which substitute teachers are paid. Classified employees will be paid the approved substitute rate.

The request shall be made in writing to the superintendent by May 31st of the active membership contract year.

The balance of sick days shall then be reduced by the requested number of days and shall then begin to accumulate again for the employee in the normal manner for the remaining years of employment within the district.

Once a participant has been paid for unused sick leave under this option, the accumulated days acquired under subsequent employment shall be paid for upon resignation or retirement at ½ of the normal substitute rate. The participant may not transfer sick leave from a spouse or petition the school board for additional sick leave.

An employee who elects to enter the T-Drop program, or retire, is not required to have accumulated sick days purchased, and may opt to keep the days accumulated which will transfer to subsequent years under the normal manner described under sick leave policies. These retained days will be paid at the normal rate upon termination of employment.

Act 1180 of 2015 requires that leave transferred from prior public school employment be used first. In addition, the leave must be included in the total count of accumulated sick leave if the district pays out unused sick leave upon retirement. While the Act only applies to licensed employees, we have included the language here for consistency.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 3.8. If you change this policy, review 3.8 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

¹For classified employees your district has the choice of crediting sick leave days up front as is done for licensed employees, or of crediting sick leave at the rate of one day per month worked. Choose your method and delete the portion of this sentence that doesn't reflect your choice.

²A.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. While the statute only applies to licensed employees, we have included the language here for consistency.

³ 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).

⁴As used in this policy, “applicable” is a very important word. Some leave taken under FMLA also applies to sick leave and therefore, the employee will get paid for the leave to the extent the employee has sick leave accrued. Other leave taken under FMLA is not applicable to sick leave and therefore the FMLA leave is unpaid unless vacation or personal leave is available. 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 6-17-1302 ,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 and all birth related leave might be applicable. 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 8.32—CLASSIFIED 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: 8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE
 8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND
 WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1301 et seq.
 29 USC 2601 et seq.
 29 CFR 825.100 et seq.

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.6-- SICK LEAVE BANK—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

Sick Leave Bank: A volunteer sick leave bank is established for all classified employees who wish to participate 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 including personal days. The bank is voluntary and only those employees who have contributed to the sick leave bank shall be eligible to withdraw from the sick leave bank. For an employee to become a member, a one-day contribution of the nine allotted sick days will be placed in the bank. Any new member must contribute one day per year for five consecutive years. No employee who has contributed for five years will be required to contribute any days unless the

balance falls below 190 days. Any new employee hired during the school year will be allowed the opportunity to contribute to the sick leave bank during the first month of employment.

The participant must submit, no later than September 20, a signed agreement to the district's bookkeeper authorizing the contributed day. Once this authorization is submitted, participation shall be continuous unless the district's bookkeeper receives a written request from the participant by September 1 requesting withdrawal from the sick bank. Days contributed to the bank prior to withdrawal cannot be returned to the participant.

Withdrawals- The PPC Committee may grant sick leave bank days only in cases of an emergency caused by serious personal or immediate family illness, disabilities or accidents (not including accidents for which the employee is receiving Worker's Compensation), which cause the employee to be absent from work and when the employee has exhausted all accumulated and current sick leave and personal days. (Immediate family is defined in the sick leave policy.)

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

Withdrawals may not exceed 30 days per contract year. Requests for withdrawal from the sick bank should be made on a REQUEST FOR DAYS form and 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 insufficient, additional information may be required or the employee's request may be denied. Requests for anticipated future absences will not be considered.

Absence from work due to pregnancy or elective surgery will not make the employee eligible to withdraw from the sick bank.

The committee shall have the authority to grant, reduce or deny any request. The determination of the committee shall be final.

Adopted by the Hillcrest School Board on November 24, 2008

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1306

8.7—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

For the district to function efficiently and have the necessary personnel present to effect a high achieving learning environment, employee absences need to be kept to a minimum. The district acknowledges that there are times during the school year when employees have personal business that needs to be addressed during the school day. Each full-time employee shall receive two (2) days of personal leave per contract year. The leave may be taken in increments of no less

than ½ days. One (1) day of **unused** personal leave may be carried over to the next year. No employee can ever accumulate more than a total of three personal days.

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 8.5, for professional leave see below).

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

1. Athletic or academic events related to a public school district; and
2. Meetings and conferences related to education.

The determination of what activities meet the definition of a school function shall be made by the employee's immediate supervisor or designee. 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 his supervisor at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the requested leave. The twenty-four hour requirement may be waived by the supervisor when the supervisor deems it appropriate.

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 and/or as permitted by policy 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE) from their immediate supervisor. Failure to report to work without having received permission to be absent is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination.

Personal leave may not be taken the day before or the day after a holiday without prior approval by the administration.

No personal days may be taken during the last two weeks of school unless an emergency situation exists.

Professional Leave

“Professional Leave” is leave granted for the purpose of enabling an employee to participate in professional activities (e.g., workshops or serving on professional committees) which can serve to improve the school district's instructional program or enhances the employee's ability to perform his duties. Professional leave will also be granted when a school District employee is subpoenaed for a matter arising out of the employee's employment with the school District. Any employee seeking professional leave must make a written request to his immediate supervisor,

setting forth the information necessary for the supervisor to make an informed decision. The supervisor's decision is subject to review and overruling by the superintendent. Budgeting concerns and the potential benefit for the District's students will be taken into consideration in reviewing a request for professional leave.

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

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

Note: 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.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-211

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.8—CLASSIFIED 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 district staff to

know and understand the policy and, to the extent requested aid school administrators in enforcing the restrictions placed on campus access to Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders.

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

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

Notes: 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: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 30, 2008

8.9—PUBLIC OFFICE – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

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

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

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

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

This policy is similar to Policy 3.13. If you change this policy, review 3.13 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Cross Reference: Policy # 8.17—CLASSIFIED Personnel Political Activity

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-115

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 22, 2012

8.10—JURY DUTY – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

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

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

Notes: 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.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 16-31-106

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.11—OVERTIME, COMPTIME, and COMPLYING WITH FLSA

The Hillcrest School District shall comply with those portions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that relate to the operation of public schools. The FLSA requires that covered employees receive compensation for each hour worked at greater than or equal to the applicable minimum wage for workweeks of less than or equal to forty (40) hours.^A It also requires that employees be compensated for workweeks of greater than forty (40) hours at one and a half (1 ½) times their regular hourly rate of pay, either monetarily^B or through compensatory time off^C.

Definitions

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

“Exempt Employees” are those employees who are not covered under the FLSA because the employee’s:^{1,D}

A. Primary job duties are considered to be exempt eligible due to being administrative or professional in nature. Examples include teachers, counselors, registered nurses, and supervisors; and

B. Salary meets or exceeds a minimum weekly/annual amount.

Any employee who is unsure of their coverage status should consult with the District's Administration.

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

"Regular Rate of Pay" includes all forms of remuneration for employment² and shall be expressed as an hourly rate.^F For those employees previously paid on a salary basis, the salary shall be converted to an hourly equivalent. Employees shall be paid for each and every hour worked.

"Straight time pay" is the amount of hourly compensation an employee receives for each hour worked during that week.

"Workweek" is the seven day consecutive period of time from 12:00AM on Sunday to midnight on the following Saturday³ Each workweek is independent of every other workweek for the purpose of determining the number of hours worked and the remuneration entitled to by the employee for that week.^G

Employment Relationships

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

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

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

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

Hours Worked

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

The District shall determine the manner to be used by employees to accurately record the hours they work. Each employee shall record the exact time they commence and cease work including

meal breaks. Employees arriving early may socialize with fellow workers who are off the clock, but shall not commence working without first recording their starting time.^J

Employees shall sign in/clock in where they start work and sign out/clock out at the site where they cease working. Employees who do not start and end their workday at the same site shall carry a time card or sheet with them to accurately record their times. They shall turn in their time sheets or cards to their immediate supervisor no later than the following Monday morning after reviewing them to be sure that they accurately reflect their hours worked for that week.⁴

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

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

Breaks and Meals

Each employee working more than twenty (20) hours per week shall be provided two (2), paid, fifteen (15) minute duty free breaks per workday.^K

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

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

Covered employees who work thirty-five (35) hours a week and receive a duty free meal period shall not be entitled to receive the two (2) paid breaks for working more than twenty (20) hours.^k

Overtime

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

The rate of overtime pay for employees who work two (2) or more jobs for the District at different rates of pay shall be determined by creating a weighted average of the different rates

(a.k.a. blended rate).^o The weighted average will be calculated by multiplying the number of hours worked during that week for each position by the position's rate of pay, combining the resulting amounts for each position (straight time pay), and dividing the straight time pay by the total number of hours the employee worked in that week. The weighted average will then be multiplied by one half (0.5), which will then be multiplied by the number of hours the employee worked that week over forty (40).⁶

Provided the employee and the District have a written agreement or understanding before the work is performed,^P compensatory time off may be awarded in lieu of overtime pay for hours worked over forty (40) in a workweek and shall be awarded on a one-and-one-half (1 1/2) time basis for each hour of overtime worked.^Q The District reserves the right to determine if it will award compensatory time in lieu of monetary pay for the overtime worked. The maximum number of compensatory hours an employee may accumulate at a time is twenty (20).⁷ The employee must be able to take the compensatory time off within a reasonable period of time that is not unduly disruptive to the District.

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

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

Overtime Authorization

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

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

Leave Requests

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

Payment for leave could be delayed or not occur if an employee fails to turn in the required leave form. Leave may be taken in a minimum of four (4) hour increments.⁸

Record Keeping^S and Postings^T

The District shall keep and maintain records as required by the FLSA for the period of time^U required by the act.⁹

The District shall display minimum wage posters where employees can readily observe them.¹⁰

Cooperation with Enforcement Officials^V

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

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

Notes:

¹ Registered nurses fall under the “Learned Professional” exemption of the FLSA; however, this exemption does not apply to LPNs.

While the DOL removed the bright line rule that a supervisor may not spend more than twenty percent (20%) of work time in a week performing non-supervisory duties, a supervisor must still commit a majority of time to supervisory duties and the higher the percentage of time each week the better.

Except for teachers and other staff whose primary job duties requires the employee to have a valid teaching license, in order for an employee to be an exempt employee under this policy, the Wage and Hour Division of the DOL requires the employee to receive a minimum amount of gross income on a weekly or annual basis. Currently, an employee must receive a minimum of four hundred fifty-five dollars (\$455) a week or \$23,666 annually to be exempt. Starting on December 1, 2016, an employee must receive nine hundred thirteen dollars (\$913) a week or \$47,476 annually to be exempt. The minimum amount is set to automatically increase every three years; the DOL will release the new minimum amount at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to it becoming effective. The next increase will become effective on January 1, 2020 and is anticipated to be approximately nine hundred eighty-four dollars (4984) a week or \$51, 168 annually.

² If you provide your employee a benefit in the form of goods or a facility the reasonable cost or the fair value of the lodging (per week) must be added to the cash wages before the regular rate is determined.

³ Select any consecutive one hundred sixty-eight (168) hours period (seven (7) days) that will work best for your district.

⁴ Devise a system that will work for your district. The point is to have an accurate and verifiable record of the hours worked by each employee. While carrying time cards around can be a hassle, you don’t want to lose excessive worktime from an employee having to walk excessively to and from their time sheet. Time clocks are obviously an

accurate and verifiable record of hours worked, but they are not without drawbacks. First, they are not cheap to initially purchase and then to configure for your district as a whole. Second, employees can unintentionally take less than thirty (30) minute meal times (by forgetting the exact time they clock out) which makes that time compensable.

⁵ A.C.A. § 6-17-2207 removed the statutory right for district employees who work more than thirty-five (35) hours to receive the two (2) fifteen (15) minute breaks; however, you can continue to provide the breaks for such employees if you wish. If you do, remove this paragraph.

⁶ Example: Employee has two (2) jobs for the district that each pay a different rate: job A pays eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour and job B pays ten dollars (\$10) per hour. One week, Employee works fifty (50) hours: twenty-six (26) hours for job A and twenty-four (24) hours for job B. 26 hours at \$8.00 = \$208 and 24 hours at \$10 = \$240. \$208 + \$240 = \$448 (straight time pay). \$448 divided by 50 = \$8.96 (weighted average). \$8.96 X 0.5 = \$4.48 X 10 hours = \$44.80. Therefore, the employee will be paid four hundred ninety-two dollars and eighty cents (\$492.80) for the week.

The reason why it appears that a person who works two differently paid jobs receives such a small amount per hour for overtime pay is because the payment formula takes into account that you have already paid the person their standard rate of pay for the additional hours worked as part of the employee's straight time pay so you are only needing to determine the additional one half (0.5) the employee is eligible to receive for each hour of overtime. For more information visit

http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/eft/e/i_employees_two_rates.html.

⁷You may choose any number ≤ 240 . In determining the number to insert remember that you must permit the employee to use the comptime within a "reasonable" period of time so long as it does not "unduly disrupt" the district's operations. Comptime does not have to be offered to all employees, nor does the agreement have to be the same for all employees.

⁸ The DOL does not recognize leave in the form of "days" for hourly employees even though that is how Arkansas law (A.C.A. § 6-17-1304) prescribes them. The DOL requires they be attributed in hourly allotments. You can choose the minimum amount of leave that may be used at one time.

⁹ 29 CFR § 516.2 –516.9 and 29 CFR § 553.50 list the records that are required to be kept.

¹⁰ The district must display minimum wage posters in "conspicuous places" (each work site). They can be downloaded from the DOL by going to <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>

- Legal References:
- A: 29 USC § 206(a), ACA § 6-17-2203
 - B: 29 USC § 207(a)(1), 29 CFR § 778.100
 - C: 29 USC § 207(o), 29 CFR § 553.50
 - D: 29 USC § 213(a), 29 CFR §§ 541 et.seq.
 - E: 29 CFR § 778.218(a)
 - F: 29 USC § 207(e), 29 CFR § 778.108
 - G: 29 CFR § 778.105

- H: 29 CFR §§ 785.9, 785.16
- I: 29 CFR § 516.2(7)
- J: 29 CFR §§ 785.1 et seq.
- K: A.C.A. § 6-17-2205 and 2207
- L: 29 CFR §§ 785.19
- M: 29 USC § 207(a), 29 CFR § 778.100, 29 USC § 207(o), 29 CFR §§ 553.20 – 553.32
- N: 29 CFR § 778.106
- O: 29 USC § 207(g)(2), 29 CFR § 778.115
- P: 29 USC § 207(o)(2)(A), 29 CFR § 553.23
- Q: 29 CFR § 553.20
- R: 29 USC § 207(o)(4), 29 CFR § 553.27
- S: 29 USC § 211(c), 29 CFR §§ 516.2, 516.3, 553.50
- T: 29 CFR § 516.4
- U: 29 CFR §§ 516.5, 516.6
- V: 29 USC § 211(a)(b)

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.12— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

When a classified employee is additionally employed by the District by a contract for a second classified position or to perform supplementary duties for a stipend or multiplier, the duties, expectations, and obligations of the primary position employment contract shall prevail over all other employment duties unless the needs of the district dictate otherwise. If there is a conflict between the expectations of the primary position and any other contracted position, the employee shall notify the employee's building principal as far in advance as is practicable. The Building principal shall verify the existence of the conflict by contacting the supervisor of the secondary contracted position. The building principal shall determine the needs of the district on a case-by-

case basis and rule accordingly. The principal's decision is final with no appeal to the Superintendent or the School Board. Frequent conflicts or scheduling problems could lead to the non-renewal or termination of the conflicting contract of employment or the contract to perform the supplementary duties.

For employees who work two or more jobs for the District, the superintendent or designee shall specify which is the employee's primary job. If circumstances change, the determination can be changed to reflect the current needs of the District. Furthermore, if on any given day, one of the employee's jobs requires more hours worked than is customary, the District reserves the right to lessen the number of hours the employee may work in his/her other job such that the employee does not exceed forty (40) hours worked in that week.¹

Sick Leave and Outside Employment

Sick leave related absence from work (e.g. sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, and FMLA) inherently means the employee is also incapable of working at any source of outside employment. Except as provided in policy 8.26, if an employee who works a non-district job while taking district sick leave for personal or family illness or accident, Workers Comp, or FMLA shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 3.18. If you change this policy, review 3.18 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

¹ The fact that a district may reduce an employee's hours for one job due to extra hours being worked in the employee's second job does NOT permit the district to require the same duties in the reduced hours job, but merely pay for it to be done in fewer hours. Please also note that districts are obligated under the Fair Labor Standards Law (FLSA) (see policy 8.11) to pay every hourly employee (other than those

few classified employees who meet FLSA's definition of "supervisor") for every minute worked. Classified employees' wages have to be based on an hourly wage even if paid as a salary; there are methods for determining the "blended" rate for employees working more than 40 hours in a week who are paid on the basis of more than one hourly wage. These requirements also apply to the calculation of stipends.

Cross References: 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE
 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE
 8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND
 WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 23, 2014

8.13—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

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 District; this prohibition includes employment as a substitute teacher, whether directly employed by the District or providing substitute teaching services under contract with an outside entity.

The Hillcrest School District 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.

Inquiries on non discrimination may be directed to the Equity Coordinator, who may be reached at 870-528-3856.

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 law¹, the District 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; or

For purposes of this policy, "veteran" is defined as:

- a. 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
- b. 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 3.19. If you change this policy, review 3.19 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

¹ Act 444 of 2013, as codified at A.C.A. § 21-3-301 et seq., added public schools to 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, 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. § 6-17-414
 A.C.A. § 21-3-302
 A.C.A. § 21-3-303
 A.C.A. § 25-19-101 et seq.
 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: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.13A - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE

Any classified employee who does not take any sick days or personal days during the school year will be paid an additional \$150.00.

Any classified employee who misses one (1) day or part of a day will be paid \$100.00.

Any classified employee who misses two (2) but less than or equal to three (3) days will be paid \$50.00

This incentive salary, if earned, will be paid to the classified employee in the June check. A copy of accumulated sick leave days will be given to each classified employee each year. It is requested that personal leave days and sick leave days be recorded on the monthly check stub.

The district will compensate any employee, at the substitute's rate of pay, for unused sick days after the employee has accumulated the maximum number of days allowed. This payment will be made at the end of the fiscal year.

8.13B - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

A maximum of five (5) bereavement leave days is allowed for employees who have a death in the immediate family, as defined in the sick leave policy. These days shall not be charged against the employee's sick days or personal days. All other relatives shall fall under the sick leave policy. If the bereavement is not for immediate family the employee will be given a choice whether to use sick days or personal days.

8.13C – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ATTENDANCE

When absent from duty due to illness, the employee shall notify the principal or superintendent as early as possible, so that a substitute may be called as a temporary replacement.

8.13D – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SUBSTITUTES

Employees shall notify the principal by the end of the school day if they know they will be absent the following day. In case of emergency or sudden illness, the principal shall, if possible, be notified by 7:00 a.m. the day the employee is to be absent. The school administration shall maintain a list of the best-qualified persons available for substitute employees. Qualified substitutes must have either completed, approved state and federal background check paperwork or at least have made application for it. Substitutes may be reimbursed for background check fees after approval and after they have substituted within the Hillcrest School District for 30 times. When a substitute is needed, the principal shall select a person from the board-approved list and make the necessary contact. The employee's preference should be considered. The amount of pay for substitute employees will be the amount approved by the board: \$75.00 per day for licensed substitutes and \$60.00 per day for non-licensed substitutes.

Substitute bus drivers will be paid \$25.00 per trip for a regular route and \$30.00 per trip for a long route.

8.14— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

If an employee is required to attend meetings/workshops above the sixty (60)-hour state requirement, the school will reimburse the employee for mileage at the rate of 28 cents a mile, if he/she furnishes his/her own vehicle, **if** a school vehicle is not available. If an employee is required to attend a professional development activity that is located somewhere other than the Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative, which is located in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, the district would reimburse mileage at the rate of 28 cents a mile. The reimbursement would not include the distance from each campus to Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.

The district will reimburse mileage at a rate of 28 cents a mile for employees who are required to travel between campuses during the instructional day. However, the district will not be responsible for mileage reimbursement for that employee's travel from his/her residence to and from either campus.

Meal Reimbursement: The district will reimburse faculty members for meal expenditures for overnight, school business trips that are approved by the superintendent. A total amount of \$30 per day will be allowed for all three meals (breakfast, lunch, and supper). Reimbursement will be made after the employee has turned in an itemized, original receipt. Adopted June 27, 2016 (#13)

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

Cross Reference: Policy #7.12—EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.15— CLASSIFIED 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 a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, 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 3.21—LICENSED PERSONNEL TOBACCO USE. If you change this policy, review policy 3.21 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

The statute requires the statute's posting "...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: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: June 24, 2013

8.16—DRESS OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

Employees shall ensure that their dress and appearance are professional and appropriate to their positions.

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.17— CLASSIFIED 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:

Using students for preparation or dissemination of campaign materials;

Distributing political materials;

Distributing or otherwise seeking signatures on petitions of any kind;

Posting political materials; and

Discussing political matters with students, in or out of the classroom, in other than circumstances appropriate to the employee's responsibilities to the students and where a legitimate pedagogical reason exists.

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.18— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL DEBTS

For the purposes of this policy, "garnishment" of a district employee is when the employee has lost a lawsuit to a judgment creditor who brought suit against a school district employee for an

unpaid debt, has been awarded money damages as a result, and these damages are recoverable by filing a garnishment action against the employee's wages. For the purposes of this policy, the word "garnishment" excludes such things as child support, student loan or IRS liens or 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 income garnished by a judgment 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 Superintendent, 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 Superintendent, a second garnishment may be used as a basis for a recommended dismissal. The Superintendent may take into consideration other factors in deciding whether to recommend dismissal based on a second garnishment. Those factors may include, but are not limited to, the amount of the debt, the time between the first and the second garnishment, and other financial problems which come to the attention of the District.

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: April 29, 2013

8.19— CLASSIFIED 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 district.

Definitions

Grievance: a claim or concern related to the interpretation, application, or claimed violation of the personnel policies, including salary schedules, federal or state laws and regulations, or terms or conditions of employment, raised by an individual employee of this school district. Other matters for which the means of resolution are provided or foreclosed by statute or administrative procedures shall not be considered grievances. Specifically, no grievance may be entertained against a supervisor for directing, instructing, reprimanding, or "writing up" an employee under his/her supervision.¹ 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)

More than one individual has interest in the matter; and

The group has a well-defined common interest in the facts and/or circumstances of the grievance; and

The group has designated an employee spokesperson to meet with administration and/or the board; and

All individuals within the group are requesting the same relief.

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

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

Working day: Any weekday other than a holiday whether or not the employee under the 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 that employee's immediate supervisor that the employee has a potential grievance and discuss the matter with the supervisor within five working days of the occurrence of the grievance. The supervisor shall offer the employee an opportunity 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 working 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 immediate supervisor, the employee can advance the grievance to Level Two. To do this, the employee must complete the top half of the Level Two Grievance Form within five working days of the discussion with the immediate supervisor, citing the manner in which the specific personnel policy was violated that has given rise to the grievance, and submit the Grievance Form to his/her immediate supervisor. The supervisor will have ten working days to respond to the grievance using the bottom half of the Level Two Grievance Form which he/she will submit to the building principal or, in the event that the employee's immediate supervisor is the building principal, the superintendent.

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

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

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

Appeal to the Board of Directors: An employee who remains unsatisfied by the written response of the superintendent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the Board of Education within five working days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's written response by submitting a written request for a board hearing to the superintendent². If the grievance is not appealed to the Board of Directors within five working days of his/her receipt of the superintendent's response, the matter will be considered resolved and the employee shall have no further right with respect to said grievance.

The school board will address the grievance at the next regular meeting of the school board, unless the employee agrees in writing to an alternate date for the hearing. After reviewing the Level Two Grievance Form and the superintendent's reply, the board will decide if the grievance, on its face, is grievable under district policy. If the grievance is presented as a "group grievance," the Board shall first determine if the composition of the group meets the definition of a "group grievance." If the Board determines that it is a group grievance, the Board shall then determine whether the matter raised is grievable. If the Board rules 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: ¹ 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.

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: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.19F—LEVEL TWO GRIEVANCE FORM - CLASSIFIED

Name: _____

Date submitted to supervisor: _____

Non-certified Personnel Policy grievance is based upon:

Grievance (be specific): _____

What would resolve your grievance?

Supervisor's Response

Date submitted to recipient: _____

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.20— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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

Believing that prevention is the best policy, the district will 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 district does not tolerate sexual harassment and that students and employees can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences.

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

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

Submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education or employment;
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
Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic or work environment.

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

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

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: unwelcome touching; crude jokes or pictures; discussions of sexual experiences; pressure for sexual activity; intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; teasing related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected 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 their immediate supervisor, administrator, or Title IX coordinator 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: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.21— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

All District personnel are expected to conscientiously execute their responsibilities to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students under their care. The Superintendent shall direct all principals to establish regulations ensuring adequate supervision of students throughout the school day and at extracurricular activities.

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.22— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY

The Hillcrest School District 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 district are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Consequently, no employee or student-related reprimands or other disciplinary communications should be made through email.

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

Employees who misuse district-owned computers in any way, including excessive personal use, using computers for personal use during work or 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 3.28. If you change this policy, review 3.28 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Legal References: 20 USC 6777
47 USC 254(h)
A.C.A. § 6-21-107
A.C.A. § 6-21-111

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 30, 2008

8.22F—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

Name (Please Print) _____

School _____ Date _____

The Hillcrest School District agrees to allow the employee identified above (“Employee”) to use the district’s technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions:

1. Conditional Privilege: The Employee’s use of the district’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 District’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 District’s Internet access interfere with, or detract from, the performance of his/her job-related duties.
3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Employee violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Employee shall be subject to disciplinary action up and including termination.
4. “Misuse of the District’s access to the Internet” includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - using the Internet for any activities deemed lewd, obscene, vulgar, or pornographic as defined by prevailing community standards;
 - using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
 - posting anonymous messages on the system;
 - using encryption software;
 - wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
 - causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
 - vandalizing data of another user;
 - obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
 - gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
 - identifying oneself with another person’s name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
 - using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
 - theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
 - invading the privacy of individuals;
 - using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
 - introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with, the system;
 - degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
 - creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;

attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files of students not under their jurisdiction;
providing access to the District's Internet Access to unauthorized individuals; or
taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools;
making unauthorized copies of computer software.
personal use of computers during instructional time.

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

6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Employee signing below agrees that in using the Internet through the District's access, he/she waives any right to privacy the Employee may have for such use. The Employee agrees that the district may monitor the Employee's use of the District's Internet Access 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.

Liability Disclaimer

The Hillcrest School District makes no guarantees that the functions of the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage the user may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The Hillcrest School District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the network. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network. When using the network, one may sense they can more easily break a rule and not be caught. This perception is not accurate. Whenever users access the network or use technology equipment, they leave "electronic footprints." Thus, the odds of getting caught in violations are really about the same as in the real world or in any other actions or situations.

Employee's Signature: _____

Date _____

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: January 23, 2012

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THE HILLCREST SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK

Computer accounts are created for all students in grades 7-12 and in grades K-6 where it has been requested by the building principal. All computers in Hillcrest Public Schools should be assumed to have Internet access, with or without a specific user account. Internet access is an integral part of the computer design and is a fundamental part of normal classroom resources.

Hillcrest Public Schools seeks to develop world-class skills in its students. A rich diversity of resources is available to students to help achieve this goal. One such resource is Internet access. Internet access is available to students and teachers at Hillcrest Public Schools. Access is being provided by the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN), the Arkansas Department of Information Services (DIS), MidNet, the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as other organizations around the world. Our goal in providing this resource is to promote and facilitate educational excellence, resource sharing, innovation, and communication between diverse individuals.

The Hillcrest School Computer Network is an electronic network connected to the Internet. The Internet is an electronic communications path that connects countless numbers of computers across the world and more than a billion individual users. Students and teachers have access to electronic communications and resources across the globe including, but not limited to, newspapers, research journals, magazines, collaborative tools, authoritative databases, full text book collections, and countless art collections.

With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Hillcrest Public Schools has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials, reduce student risks on the Internet, and prevent computer users from accessing material harmful to minors.* However, on a global network it is impossible to control all the materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information or engage in unsafe behavior. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational goals of Hillcrest Public Schools.

Hillcrest Public Schools acknowledges and abides by the protections provided to children under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). ** From time to time, however, students under the age of 13 may be asked to join web sites in the regular course of studies that have Terms and Conditions stating that the user must be at least 13 years old to join (under COPPA). As suggested by these websites, teachers or other administrators may assist a student in providing information to protect the identity of a student, but yet enjoy the educational benefits of the website.

In addition, as prescribed by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), *** Hillcrest Public Schools staff will educate students about online safety and security. At the elementary level, library media specialists will instruct students about safe and responsible Internet use and appropriate online behavior, including caution in interacting with other individuals on social networking websites, in chat rooms or in other online conversations. At the secondary level, online safety and security information will be distributed to students and reviewed annually. The Hillcrest Public School administration will ensure that the appropriate school staff members are trained to work with students on cyberbullying awareness, prevention and response.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and state and regional networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of each user, who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are

aware of the responsibilities you are about to gain. In general this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Hillcrest Public School user violates any of these provisions, his or her account with Hillcrest Public Schools may be terminated and, future access could possibly be denied. Your signature on the accompanying page is legally binding and indicates that you have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable use:** The purpose of NSFNET, which is the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Hillcrest Public Schools. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate to those networks. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or materials protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities by individuals or for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

2. **Privileges:** The use of the Hillcrest School Computer network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. The system administrators may close an account at any time. The administration, faculty, and staff of Hillcrest Public Schools may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, suspend, or restrict specific user accounts.

3. **Network Etiquette (Netiquette):** You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Be polite.
 - b. Use appropriate language.
 - c. Do not reveal your personal address or phone number or those of other students or colleagues.
 - d. Use the network in a manner that does not disrupt the use of the network by others.
 - e. Assume that all communications and information accessible via the network are private property.
 - f. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the systems have access to all mail.

4. **Warranties:** Hillcrest Public Schools makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. Hillcrest Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, unapproved access to data, hardware failure, or service interruptions caused by

negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Hillcrest Computer Network is at your own risk. Hillcrest Public Schools specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its Internet services.

5. **Security:** Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Hillcrest School Computer network, you must notify a system administrator either in person or by e-mail. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account. Attempts to log in to the system as any other user may result in cancellation of user privileges as well as other disciplinary actions. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Hillcrest School Computer network and may have further disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.****

6. **Vandalism:** Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges as well as other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data or equipment of another user, the Hillcrest School Computer network, any of the agencies listed in this document, any network or computer connected to the Hillcrest School Computer network, or the NSFNET backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

7. **Updating your user information:** Hillcrest Public Schools may occasionally require new registration and account information from you to continue the service. You must notify Hillcrest Public School network system administrators of any changes in your account information (address, etc.). Currently there are no user fees for this service.

8. **Exceptions to Terms and Conditions:** All terms and conditions stated in this document are applicable to Hillcrest Computer network, APSCN, and NSFNET. These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the United States of America.

9. **Disciplinary actions:** Disciplinary action may accompany any violations of this agreement. Disciplinary action is typically incremental in nature and will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to detention, suspension, and/or expulsion. It is the intent of Hillcrest Public Schools to make discipline involving technology follow discipline in non-technology cases wherever applicable.

*See Arkansas Code 6-21-107

** See Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, effective April 21, 2000

*** See Children's Internet Protection Act Amendments of 2008, effective July 1, 2012

8.23— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

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

SECTION ONE- FMAL LEAVE GENERALLY

Definitions:

“Eligible Employee” is an employee who has:

1. Been employed by the District for at least twelve (12) months, which are not required to be consecutive; and
2. Performed at least 1250 hours of service during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.¹

“FMLA” is the Family and Medical Leave Act

“Health Care Provider” means:

- a. A doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery (as appropriate) by the State in which the doctor practices;

- b. Podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, and chiropractors (limited to treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by X-ray to exist) authorized to practice in the State and performing within the scope of their practice as defined under state law;
- c. Nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, clinical social workers and physician assistants who are authorized to practice under State law and who are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under State law;
- d. Christian Science Practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts. Where an employee or family member is receiving treatment from a Christian Science practitioner, an employee may not object to any requirement from an employer that the employee or family member submit to examination (though not treatment) to obtain a second or third certification from a health care provider other than a Christian Science practitioner except as otherwise provided under applicable State or local law or collective bargaining agreement; or
- e. Any other person determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor to be capable of providing health care services.

“Instructional Employee” is an employee whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, preschool teachers, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include, and the special rules related to the taking of leave near the end of a semester do not apply to: teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, administrators, counselors, librarians, psychologists, and curriculum specialists.

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

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

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

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

“Son or daughter”, for numbers 1, 2, or 3 below: is a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age

eighteen (18), or age eighteen (18) or older and “incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability” at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.²

Year: the twelve (12) month period of eligibility shall begin on July first of each school-year.³

Policy

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

Leave Eligibility

The District will grant up to twelve (12) weeks of leave in a year in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), as amended, to its eligible employees for one or more of the following reasons:

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

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

A legally married couple who are both eligible employees employed by the District may not take more than a combined total of twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1, 2, or to care for a parent under number 3.

Provisions Applicable to both Sections One and Two

District Notice to Employees

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

Designation Notice to Employee

When an employee requests FMLA leave or the District determines that an employee's absence may be covered under the FMLA, the District shall provide written notice within five (5) business days (absent extenuating circumstances) to the employee of the District's determination of his/her eligibility for FMLA leave.⁵ If the employee is eligible, the District may request additional information from the employee and/or certification from a health care provider to help make the applicability⁶ determination. After receiving sufficient information as requested, the District shall provide a written notice within five (5) business days (absent extenuating circumstances) to the employee of whether the leave qualifies as FMLA leave and will be so designated.⁷

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

Employees who receive notification that the leave request does not qualify under the FMLA are expected to return to work; further absences that are not otherwise excused could lead to discipline for excessive absences, or termination for job abandonment.

Concurrent Leave Under the FMLA

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

An employee who does not have enough accrued leave to cover the number of days of FMLA leave taken shall not have his/her number of contract days altered because some of the FMLA leave taken was unpaid.

Working at another Job while Taking FMLA for Personal or Family Serious Medical Condition

No employee on FMLA leave for their own serious medical condition may perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave. Except as provided in policy 8.36, employees who do perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave for their own serious medical condition will be subject to discipline, which could include termination or nonrenewal of their contract of employment.

No employee on FMLA leave for the serious medical condition of a family member may perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave. Employees who do perform work at another, non-district job while on FMLA leave for the serious medical condition of a family member will be subject to discipline, which could include termination or nonrenewal of their contract of employment.

Health Insurance Coverage

The District shall maintain coverage under any group health plan for the duration of FMLA leave the employee takes at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued in active employment with the District. Additionally, if the District makes a change to its health insurance benefits or plans that apply to other employees, the employee on FMLA leave must be afforded the opportunity to access additional benefits and/or the same responsibility for changes to premiums. Any changes made to a group health plan that apply to other District employees, must also apply to the employee on FMLA leave. The District will notify the employee on FMLA leave of any opportunities to change plans or benefits. The employee remains responsible for any portion of premium payments customarily paid by the employee. When on unpaid FMLA leave, it is the employee's responsibility to submit his/her portion of the cost of the group health plan coverage to the district's business office on or before it would be made by payroll deduction.⁸

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reporting Requirements During Leave

Unless circumstances exist beyond the employee's control, the employee shall inform the district every two (2) weeks¹⁰ during FMLA leave of his/her current status and intent to return to work.

Return to Previous Position

An employee returning from FMLA leave is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. An equivalent position must involve the same or substantially similar duties and responsibilities, which must entail substantially equivalent skill, effort, and authority.

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

Provisions Applicable to Section One

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave

When the need for leave is foreseeable for reasons 1 through 4 listed above, the employee shall provide the District with at least thirty (30) days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave for the specified reason. An eligible employee who has no reasonable excuse for his/her failure to provide the District with timely advance notice of the need for FMLA leave have his/her FMLA coverage of such leave delayed until thirty (30) days after the date the employee provides notice.

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

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

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

Unforeseeable Leave

When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee shall provide the District notice of the need for leave as soon as practicable given the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Ordinarily, the employee shall notify the District within two (2) working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is

not feasible. Notice may be provided in person, by telephone, fax, email, or other electronic means. If the eligible employee fails to notify the District as required, unless the failure to comply is justified by unusual circumstances, the FMLA leave may be delayed or denied.

Medical Certification

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

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

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

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

No second or third opinion on a recertification may be required.

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

Substitution of Paid Leave

When an employee's leave has been designated as FMLA leave for reasons 1 (as applicable), 2, 3, or 4 above, the District requires employees to substitute accrued sick, vacation, or personal leave for the period of FMLA leave.¹⁰

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

Workers Compensation: FMLA leave may run concurrently with a workers' compensation absence when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee at the rate necessary to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted daily rate of pay. If the health care

provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a “light duty job,” but is unable to return to the employee’s same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the District’s offer of a “light duty job.” As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers’ compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee’s FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

Return to Work¹²

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

If the District’s written designation determination that the eligible employee’s leave qualified as FMLA leave under reason 4 above stated that the employee would have to provide a “fitness-for-duty” certification from a health care provider for the employee to resume work **and** the designation determination listed the employee’s essential job functions, the employee must provide certification that the employee is able to perform those functions prior to returning to work. The employee’s failure to do so or his/her inability to perform his/her job’s essential functions voids the District’s obligation to reinstate the employee under the FMLA and the employee shall be terminated.

Failure to Return to Work

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

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

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

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

Eligible employees may take intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave due to reasons 3 or 4 listed above when the medical need is best accommodated by such a schedule. The eligible

employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider.

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

Special Provisions relating to Instructional Employees as Defined in This Policy

The FMLA definition of "instructional employees" covers a small number of classified employees. Any classified employee covered under the FMLA definition of an "instructional employee" and whose FMLA leave falls under the FMLA's special leave provisions relating to "instructional employees" shall be governed by the applicable portions of policy 3.32—
LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

SECTION TWO-FMLA LEAVE CONNECTED TO MILITARY SERVICE

Leave Eligibility

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

Qualifying Exigency

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

Definitions

“Covered active duty” means:

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

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

Certification¹⁴

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

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave

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

Unforeseeable Leave

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

Substitution of Paid Leave

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

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

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

Special Provisions relating to Instructional Employees as Defined in This Policy

The FMLA definition of "instructional employees" covers a small number of classified employees. Any classified employee covered under the FMLA definition of an "instructional employee" and who's FMLA leave falls under the FMLA's special leave provisions relating to "instructional employees" shall be governed by the applicable portions of policy 3.32—
LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

Serious Illness

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

Definitions

“Covered Service Member” is:

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

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

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

“Parent of a covered service member” is a covered service member’s biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the covered service member. This term does not include parents “in law.”

“Serious Injury or Illness” :

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

“Son or daughter of a covered service member” means a covered service member's biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the covered service member stood in loco parentis, and who is of any age.²

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

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a **covered service member** shall be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) weeks of leave during one twelve (12) - month period to care for the service member who has a serious injury or illness as defined in this policy. An eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member continues to be limited for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency to a total of twelve (12) weeks of leave during a year as defined in this policy. For example, an eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member for sixteen (16) weeks during a twelve (12) month period could only take a total of ten (10) weeks for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency. An eligible employee may not take more than twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency regardless of how little leave the eligible employee may take to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury.

If a legally married couple are both eligible employees employed by the District, the legally married couple are entitled to a combined total of twenty-six (26) weeks of leave during one twelve (12) month period to care for their spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious injury or illness, as defined in this policy. The leave taken by a legally married couple who care for such a covered service member continues to be limited to a total of twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for reasons 1 through 4 in Section One and for any qualifying exigency during a year, as defined in this policy, regardless of whether or not the legally married couple uses less than a combined total of fourteen (14) weeks to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness; moreover, the legally married couple’s twelve (12) weeks are combined when taken for reasons 1,2, or to care for a parent under reason 3 in Section One.

For example, a legally married couple who are both eligible employees and who care for such a covered service member for sixteen (16) weeks during a twelve (12) month period could:

1. Each take up to ten (10) weeks for reason 4 in section 1 or a qualifying exigency;
2. Take a combined total of ten (10) weeks for reasons 1,2, or to care for a parent under reason 3 in Section One; or
3. Take a combination of numbers 1 and 2 that totals ten (10) weeks of leave.

Medical Certification¹⁵

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

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable Leave

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

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

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

Unforeseeable Leave

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

Substitution of Paid Leave

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

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

To the extent practicable, employees requesting intermittent or reduced schedule leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury shall provide the District with at least thirty (30) days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave.

Eligible employees may take intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury when the medical need is best accommodated by such a schedule. The eligible employee shall

make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider.

When granting leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule to care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered service member with a serious illness or injury that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the District may temporarily transfer eligible employees for the period of scheduled intermittent or reduced leave to an alternative position that the employee is qualified for and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position. The alternative position shall have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. When the employee is able to return to full-time work, the employee shall be placed in the same or equivalent job as he/she had when the leave began.

Special Provisions relating to Instructional Employees (as defined in this policy)

The FMLA definition of "instructional employees" covers a small number of classified employees. Any classified employee covered under the FMLA definition of an "instructional employee" and whose FMLA leave falls under FMLA's special leave provisions relating to "instructional employees" shall be governed by the applicable portions of policy 3.32—
LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE.

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 3.32. If you change this policy, review 3.32 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

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

District must fulfill its responsibility for the posting of employee FMLA notice requirements to make those requirements enforceable. This is done through posting the notices available at the link in footnote #4 **AND** by the employee's receipt of this policy in the employee handbook.

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

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

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

³ Districts can choose one of four (4) possible "twelve (12)-month periods." Each one has possible advantages and disadvantages. The four (4) options are:

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

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

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information. "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

⁵ We suggest you use the Department of Labor's *Notice of Eligibility and Rights and Responsibilities* form (otherwise known as WH-381) to help you fulfill the requirements of this section. It's available at the link in footnote #3 or by calling the ASBA office.

When making the determination, we suggest initially erring on the side of granting it. Retroactively designating leave as FMLA has more potential liability for the district if the employee can demonstrate the initial failure to grant the leave under FMLA caused him/her harm or injury. If due to receipt of the medical certification, it turns out that the leave does not qualify, you will need to readjust the available FMLA leave accordingly.

⁶ As used in this policy, “applicable” is a very important word. Some leave taken under FMLA also applies to sick leave and therefore, the employee will get paid for the leave to the extent the employee has sick leave accrued. Other leave taken under FMLA is not applicable to sick leave and therefore the FMLA leave is unpaid. For instance, “applicable leave” in terms of time taken under FMLA due to the birth of a child will vary depending on the language in your District’s policy on sick leave. For instance, if sick leave may be taken “for reason of personal illness or illness in the immediate family” (based on the statutory definition in 6-17-1202, and an employee gives birth to a child, she may take sick leave for the amount of time that her personal physician deems it necessary for her to physically recover from childbirth. Once the medically necessary time has passed, sick leave is no longer appropriate and cannot be used. While under the FMLA, the employee could take additional time off work, she would need to take unpaid FMLA leave for this purpose, unless she had personal days or vacation days available. However, if your district has a much more liberal definition of sick leave in District policy, the results could be entirely different. Another example would be the potential for overlap between pregnancy complications that arise to the level of a “serious health condition.” For instance, pregnancy complications that rose to the level of a “serious health condition” would qualify for both, while missing work for a dentist’s appointment would qualify for sick leave, but would not qualify for FMLA leave. Consult policy 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE when making the determination of what sick leave qualifies under both policies.

⁷ There are several issues that must be addressed in the written notice. *The Designation Notice* (WH-382) available from the Wage and Hour Division of the US Department of Labor is a good way to both give your employee written notice and help ensure you have included the necessary information in the notice. *The Designation Notice* is available at the link contained in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

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

⁹ Due to the district’s liability for meeting the requirement of this paragraph and similar obligations for life insurance premiums or other benefits, the District needs to consider picking up the costs of such premiums during an employee’s **unpaid** FMLA leave **if** the employee fails to pay his/her share of the costs. If the District elects to maintain such benefits during the leave, at the conclusion of leave the District is entitled

to recover only the costs incurred for paying the employee's share of any premiums whether or not the employee returns to work. To help you decide if you should choose to pay premium costs in such a situation, the following except from 29 CFR 825.212(c):

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

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

¹¹ ASBA model policy 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE includes language entitling employees with up to fifteen (15) days of sick leave in a school-year for issue relating to the adoption of child. If you have not adopted this provision, delete #2 from this sentence. Include reason #1 if you have a liberal sick leave policy that would permit leave to be taken for bonding with a new born son or daughter.

¹² The Department of Labor's *Designation Notice* has entries that address this section's requirements. It's very helpful. For this section you will need both the *Designation Notice* (WH-382) and the appropriate *Medical Certification form* (WH-380-E or WH-380-F); the *Designation Notice* to fulfill your notice requirements and the medical certification form to enable you to determine if the employee's leave is actually covered under the FMLA. They are available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

¹³ The types and amounts of leave available for a particular type of qualifying exigency are covered in 29 C.F.R. § 825.126. Call the ASBA office for a copy

¹⁴ You can use WH-384, *Certification of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Leave* to obtain the certification. It's available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

¹⁵ You can use WH-385, *Covered Service Member Serious Injury* form to obtain the certification. It's available at the link in footnote #4 or by calling the ASBA office.

Cross Reference: 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE
8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Legal References: 29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.
29 CFR part 825

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

* All school districts are covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act and are required to keep certain payroll and employee identification records and post pertinent notices regarding FMLA for its employees. Employees, however, are only eligible for FMLA benefits if the district has fifty (50) or more employees within a seventy-five (75)-mile radius of the district's offices. Your district may choose to offer FMLA benefits to your employees even though they are not technically eligible. If your district has less than fifty (50) employees and chooses not to offer FMLA benefits, the following policy serves to inform your employees of why FMLA benefits do not apply to them and could help to avoid possible confusion resulting from the posting of FMLA notices.

29 CFR 825.114 – What is a “serious health condition” entitling an employee to FMLA leave?

For purposes of FMLA, “serious health condition” entitling an employee to FMLA leave means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

Inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity (for purposes of this section, defined to mean inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment thereof, or recovery therefrom), or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or

Continuing treatment by a health care provider. A serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes any one or more of the following:

A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment thereof, or recovery therefrom) of more than three consecutive calendar days, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:

Treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under order of, or on referral by, a health care provider; or

Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the health care provider.

Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care.

Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:

Requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;

Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and

May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).

A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease.

Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recover therefrom) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).

Treatment for purposes of paragraph (a) of this section includes (but is not limited to) examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluations of the condition.

Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations, or dental examinations. Under paragraph (a)(2)(i)(B), a regimen of continuing treatment includes, for example, a course of prescription medication (e.g., an antibiotic) or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g., oxygen). A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed-rest, drinking fluids, exercise, and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.

Conditions for which cosmetic treatment are administered (such as most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required or unless complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomach, minor ulcers, headaches other than migraine, routine dental or orthodontia problems, periodontal disease, etc., are examples of conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify for FMLA leave. Restorative dental or plastic surgery after an injury or removal of cancerous growths are serious health conditions provided all the other conditions of this regulation are met. Mental illness resulting from stress or allergies may be serious health conditions, but only if all the conditions of this section are met. Substance abuse may be a serious health condition if the conditions of this section are met.

However, FMLA leave may only be taken for treatment for substance abuse by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services on referral by a health care provider. On the other hand absence because of the employee's use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify for FMLA leave.

Absences attributable to incapacity under paragraphs (a)(2)(ii) or (iii) qualify for FMLA leave even though the employee or the immediate family member does not receive treatment from a health care provider during the absence, and even if the absence does not last more than three days. For example, an employee with asthma may be unable to report for work due to the onset

of an asthma attack or because the employee's health care provider has advised the employee to stay home when the pollen count exceeds a certain level. An employee who is pregnant may be unable to report to work because of severe morning sickness.

[Code of Federal Regulations]

[Title 29, Volume 3]

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TITLE 29--LABOR

CHAPTER V--WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PART 825 _THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993--Table of Contents

Subpart A _Coverage Under the Family and Medical Leave Act

Sec. 825.126 Leave because of a qualifying exigency.

(a) Eligible employees may take FMLA leave while the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent (the "covered military member") is on active duty or call to active duty status as defined in Sec.

825.126(b)(2) for one or more of the following qualifying exigencies:

(1) Short-notice deployment. (i) To address any issue that arises from the fact that a covered military member is notified of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation seven or less calendar days prior to the date of deployment;

(ii) Leave taken for this purpose can be used for a period of seven calendar days beginning on the date a covered military member is notified of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation;

(2) Military events and related activities. (i) To attend any official ceremony, program, or event sponsored by the military that is related to the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member; and

(ii) To attend family support or assistance programs and informational briefings sponsored or promoted by the military, military service organizations, or the American Red Cross that are related to the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member;

(3) Childcare and school activities. (i) To arrange for alternative childcare when the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member necessitates a change in the existing childcare arrangement for a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal

ward of a covered military member, or a child for whom a covered military member stands in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence;

(ii) To provide childcare on an urgent, immediate need basis (but not on a routine, regular, or everyday basis) when the need to provide such care arises from the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member for a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward of a covered military member, or a child for whom a covered military member stands in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence;

(iii) To enroll in or transfer to a new school or day care facility a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward of the covered military member, or a child for whom the covered military member stands in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence, when enrollment or transfer is necessitated by the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member; and

(iv) To attend meetings with staff at a school or a daycare facility, such as meetings with school officials regarding disciplinary measures, parent-teacher conferences, or meetings with school counselors, for a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward of the covered military member, or a child for whom the covered military member stands in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence, when such meetings are necessary due to circumstances arising from the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member;

(4) Financial and legal arrangements. (i) To make or update financial or legal arrangements to address the covered military member's absence while on active duty or call to active duty status, such as preparing and executing financial and healthcare powers of attorney, transferring bank account signature authority, enrolling in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), obtaining military identification cards, or preparing or updating a will or living trust; and

(ii) To act as the covered military member's representative before a federal, state, or local agency for purposes of obtaining, arranging, or appealing military service benefits while the covered military member is on active duty or call to active duty status, and for a period of 90 days following the termination of the covered military member's active duty status;

(5) Counseling. To attend counseling provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, for the covered military member, or for the biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward of the covered military member, or a child for whom the covered military member stands in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence, provided that the need for counseling arises from the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member;

(6) Rest and recuperation. (i) To spend time with a covered military member who is on short-term, temporary, rest and recuperation leave during the period of deployment;

(ii) Eligible employees may take up to five days of leave for each instance of rest and recuperation;

(7) Post-deployment activities. (i) To attend arrival ceremonies, reintegration briefings and events, and any other official ceremony or program sponsored by the military for a period of 90 days following the termination of the covered military member's active duty status; and

(ii) To address issues that arise from the death of a covered military member while on active duty status, such as meeting and recovering the body of the covered military member and making funeral arrangements;

(8) Additional activities. To address other events which arise out of the covered military member's active duty or call to active duty status provided that the employer and employee agree that such leave shall qualify as an exigency, and agree to both the timing and duration of such leave.

(b) A "covered military member" means the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent on active duty or call to active duty status.

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

(2) "Active duty or call to active duty status" means duty under a call or order to active duty (or notification of an impending call or order to active duty) in support of a contingency operation pursuant to: Section 688 of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes ordering to active duty retired members of the Regular Armed Forces and members of the retired Reserve who retired after completing at least 20 years of active service; Section 12301(a) of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes ordering all reserve component members to active duty in the case of war or national emergency; Section 12302 of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes ordering any unit or unassigned member of the Ready Reserve to active duty; Section 12304 of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes ordering any unit or unassigned member of the Selected Reserve and certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve to active duty; Section 12305 of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes the suspension of promotion, retirement or separation rules for certain Reserve components; Section 12406 of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes calling the National Guard into federal service in certain circumstances; chapter 15 of Title 10 of the United States Code, which authorizes calling the National Guard and state military into federal service in the case of insurrections and national emergencies; or any other provision of law during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress so long as it is in support of a contingency operation.

(i) Employees are eligible to take FMLA leave because of a qualifying exigency when the covered military member is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation pursuant to one of the provisions of law identified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section as either a member of the reserve components (Army National Guard of the United States, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard of the United States, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve), or a retired member of the Regular Armed

Forces or Reserve. An employee whose family member is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the Regular Armed Forces is not eligible to take leave because of a qualifying exigency.

(ii) A call to active duty for purposes of leave taken because of a qualifying exigency refers to a Federal call to active duty. State calls to active duty are not covered unless under order of the President of the United States pursuant to one of the provisions of law identified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section in support of a contingency operation.

(3) The active duty orders of a covered military member will generally specify if the service member is serving in support of a contingency operation by citation to the relevant section of Title 10 of the United States Code and/or by reference to the specific name of the contingency operation. A military operation qualifies as a contingency operation if it:

(i) is designated by the Secretary of Defense as an operation in which members of the armed forces are or may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing military force; or

(ii) results in the call or order to, or retention on, active duty of members of the uniformed services under section 688, 12301(a), 12302, 12304, 12305, or 12406 of Title 10 of the United States Code, chapter 15 of Title 10 of the United States Code, or any other provision of law during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress. 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13).

8.24—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 District; 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 3.51. If you change this policy, review 3.51 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 A.C.A. § 6-19-120 only prohibits "cell phone" use; A.C.A. § 27-51-1504 prohibits the use of a “handheld wireless telephone” for browsing the internet, sending or receiving emails, and sending or receiving text messages at any time; and A.C.A. § 27-51-1609 prohibits the use of a “handheld wireless communication device” for any purpose while in a school zone. The terminology in this sentence is designed to combine these statutes and to cover all the distractions that could affect a driver's ability to safely drive the bus.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6 –19-120
 A.C.A. § 27-51-1504
 A.C.A. § 27-51-1609

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 19, 2015

8.25—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL CELL PHONE USE

Use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices by employees during their designated work time for other than District approved purposes is strictly forbidden unless specifically approved in advance by the superintendent, building principal, or their designees.¹

District staff shall not be given cell phones or computers for any purpose other than their specific use associated with school business. School employees who use school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by District policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. School employees who are issued District cell phones due to the requirements of their position may use the phone for personal use on an “as needed” basis provided it is not during designated work 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 3.34. If you change this policy, review 3.34 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

¹ The goal is to eliminate the use of cell phones during designated work time. You may change who has the authority to approve the use of cell phones if you wish to.

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.

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 language, we believe the expanded language is important for the protection of students and employees alike.

Cross References: 4.47— POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES
7.14—USE OF DISTRICT CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS

Legal References: IRS Publication 15 B
A.C.A. § 27-51-1602
A.C.A. § 27-51-1609

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 19, 2015

8.26—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BULLYING

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

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

District staff are required to help enforce implementation of the district’s anti-bullying policy and shall receive the training necessary to comply with this policy. The district’s definition of bullying is included below. Students who bully another person are to be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school 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 building principal. The report may be made anonymously.

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

District employees are held to a high standard of professionalism, especially when it comes to employee-student interactions. Actions by a District 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 their supervisor.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 "compliments" about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
4. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student's race, gender, ethnicity or actual or perceived attributes,
6. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
7. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
8. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
9. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
10. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
11. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 8.20, 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 district's policy shall be immune from any tort liability which may arise from the failure to remedy the reported incident.

Act 907 of 2011 requires all personnel to receive training related to compliance with the district's antibullying policies.

This policy is similar to Policy 3.38. If you change this policy, review 3.38 at the same time to ensure applicable 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: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.27—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL LEAVE — INJURY FROM ASSAULT

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

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

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1308

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.28— DRUG FREE WORKPLACE - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

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

To help promote a drug free workplace, the district shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the district's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance abuse programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations. (Insert substance abuse resources here.)¹

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 superintendent, 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.

An employee living on campus or on school owned property is permitted to possess alcohol in his/her residence. The employee is bound by the restrictions stated in this policy while at work or performing his/her official duties.

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 District with the results of a blood, breath or urine analysis, such results will be taken into account by the District 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 District. The District 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 District'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 8.36—CLASSIFIED 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 his/her immediate supervisor within five (5) week days (i.e., Monday through Friday, inclusive, excluding holidays) of being so charged. The supervisor who is notified of such a charge shall notify the Superintendent immediately.

If the supervisor is not available to the employee, the employee shall notify the Superintendent within the five (5) day period.

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

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 district property shall report the conviction within 5 calendar days to the superintendent. Within 10 days of receiving such notification, whether from the employee or any other source, the district 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/she cannot properly perform his/her duties shall not report for duty. Any employee who reports for duty and is so impaired, as determined by his/her supervisor, will be sent home. The employee shall be given sick leave, if owed any. The District 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/her physician in order to adjust the medication, if possible, so that the employee may return to his/her job unimpaired. Should the employee attempt to return to

work while impaired by prescription medications, for which the employee has a prescription, he/she 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/her 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 District may require an employee to provide proof from his/her physician and/or pharmacist that the employee is lawfully able to receive such medication. Failure to provide such proof, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent, 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 3.31. If you change this policy, review 3.31 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 website: <http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/materials/materials.asp>.

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: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.28F—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CERTIFICATION

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

Signature _____

Date _____

8.29—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: This policy is similar to policies 4.48 and 3.41. If you change this policy, review 4.48 and 3.41 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the policies.

Date Adopted: June 30, 2008

Last Revised: June 30, 2008

8.30—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL REDUCTION IN FORCE

SECTION ONE

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

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

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

When the District is conducting a RIF, all potentially affected classified employees shall receive a listing of the personnel within their category with corresponding totals of years of service. Upon receipt of the list, each employee has ten (10) working days within which to appeal his or her total years of service to the superintendent 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 an employee's total after the list is released.

Total years of service to the district shall include non-continuous years of service; in other words, an employee who left the district and returned later will have the total years of service counted, from all periods of employment. Working fewer than 160 days in a school year shall not constitute a year. Length of service in a licensed position shall not count for the purpose of length of service for a classified position. There is no right or implied right for any employee to "bump" or displace any other employee. This specifically does not allow a licensed employee who might wish to assume a classified position to displace a classified employee.

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

contract or job assignments change.¹ A Partial RIF may also be conducted in conjunction with any job reassignment whether or not it is conducted in relation to an annexation or consolidation.

Recall: Option 1²

There shall be no right of recall for any classified employee.

SECTION TWO

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

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

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

This subsection of the reduction-in-force policy shall not be interpreted to provide that the superintendent must wait ninety (90) days from the effective date of the annexation or consolidation in order to issue notification of his intention to recommend dismissal through reduction-in-force, but merely that the superintendent has that period of time in which to issue notification so as to be able to invoke the provisions of this section.

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

Notes: ¹ For example, if the district's salary schedule provided for a range of salaries for maintenance employees ranging from \$8.50 an hour to \$12.50 an hour, and one maintenance employee is making \$14.00 an hour, the superintendent, as part of the RIF,

would send a letter of partial nonrenewal to the maintenance employee to bring the salary into compliance with the salary schedule.

²For either Options 1 and 2 or Options A and B, select the option that will work best for your district. If you choose Option B, the ninety (90) day time period may be lengthened or shortened (within reason) to suit your preference.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2407

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004

Last Revised: April 29, 2013

8.31—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

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

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

Legal reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.32—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

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

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: May 24, 2007

8.33—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

The District shall not establish a school calendar that interferes with any ACTAAP scheduled testing that might jeopardize or limit the valid testing and comparison of student learning gains. The Hillcrest School District shall operate by the following calendar.

Hillcrest School District 2016-2017 School Calendar

August 1-12	Teacher Inservice
August 15	Begin 1 st 9 weeks
September 5	Labor Day (no school)
September 15	Parent-Teacher Conference
October 14	End 1 st 9 weeks (44 days)
November 14	Deer Day
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break
December 20	End of 2 nd 9 weeks (43 days)
Dec. 21- Jan. 2	Christmas Break
March 10	End 3 rd 9 weeks (49 days)
March 16	Parent-Teacher Conference
March 20-24	Spring Break
April 14	Good Friday (No School or Snow Day #1)
May 17	End of 9 weeks (42 days)
May 18,19	Snow days #2,3

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-2301
 Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Plan
 Rules

Date Adopted: July 1, 2004
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.34—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WHO ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, MALTREATMENT OR NEGLECT

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

The duty to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment is a direct and personal duty for statutory mandatory reports, 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.² Employees and volunteers who call the Child Abuse Hotline in good faith are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution.

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

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

² 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 and includes school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists in the list of “licensed employees” who must receive the required PD.

This policy is similar to Policy 3.40. If you change this policy, review 3.40 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 12-18-107

A.C.A. § 12-18-201 et seq.

A.C.A. § 12-18-402

Date Adopted: June 30, 2008

Last Revised: June 20, 2011

8.35—OBTAINING AND RELEASING STUDENT’S FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Obtaining Eligibility Information

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

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

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

Releasing Eligibility Information

As part of the district’s participation in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, the district collects eligibility data from its students. The data’s confidentiality is very important and is governed by federal law. The district has made the determination to release student eligibility status or information¹ as permitted by law. Federal law governs how eligibility data may be released and to whom. The district will take the following steps to ensure its confidentiality:

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

data will be used and how the recipient(s) shall protect the data from further, unauthorized disclosures.

The superintendent shall designate the staff member(s) responsible for making eligibility determinations. Release of eligibility information to other district staff shall be limited to as few individuals as possible who shall have a specific need to know such information to perform their job responsibilities. Principals, counselors, teachers, and administrators shall not have routine access to eligibility information 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 3.42. If you change this policy, check policy 3.42 to make sure there is applicable consistency between the two.

The Child Nutrition unit of the ADE website (<http://cnn.k12.ar.us>) has the referenced Commission'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.

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 district or a person in the disclosure without authorization under federal confidentiality regulations and/or imprisonment of not more than one year.

² The district owns the data and has the right to choose whether or not to release it to **anyone**. Therefore, the district 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, 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
 7CFR 245.5, 245.6, 245.8
 42 USC 1758(b)(6)

Date Adopted: June 11, 2009
Last Revised: April 29, 2013

8.36—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The district provides Workers’ Compensation Insurance, as required by law. Employees who sustain **any** injury at work must immediately notify their immediate supervisor, or in the absence of their immediate supervisor notify the superintendent or his designee. An injured employee must fill out a Form N and the employee’s supervisor will determine whether to report the claim or to file the paperwork if the injury requires neither medical treatment or 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 district will exercise its right to designate the initial treating physician and an injured employee will be directed to seek medical attention, if necessary, from a specific physician or clinic. In addition, employees whose injuries require medical attention shall submit to a drug test, which shall be paid at the District’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

A Workers’ Compensation absence may run concurrently with FMLA leave (policy 8.23) when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee at the rate necessary to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted daily rate of pay. If the health care provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a “light duty job,” but is unable to return to the employee’s same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the District’s offer of a “light duty job.” As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers’ compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee’s FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

Employees who are absent from work in the school district due to a Workers’ Compensation claim may not work at a non-district job until they have returned to full duties at their same or equivalent district 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 District 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.

Notes: This policy is similar to policy 3.44. If you change this policy, review 3.44 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: 8.5—CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SICK LEAVE
 8.12—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
 8.23—CLASSIFIED 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 11, 2009
Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.37—CLASSIFIED 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, approved by the principal or his/her designee, are encouraged and can provide a place for staff to inform students and parents on school related activities. Social blogs are discouraged to the extent they involve staff and students in a non-education oriented format.

Policy

District staff are encouraged to use educational technology, the Internet, and professional/education social networks to help raise student achievement and to improve communication with parents and students. However, 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 District's relationship with the community and jeopardize the employee's employment with the district.

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.

District employees may set up blogs and other professional/education social media accounts using District resources and following District guidelines¹ 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 face-to-face in a group, 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 interact with students, thus undermining the employee'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 district equipment at any time, including during breaks or preparation periods, except in an emergency situation or with the express prior permission of school administration. All school district employees who participate in social media websites shall not post any school district data, documents, photographs taken at school or of students, logos, or other district owned or created information on any website. Further, the posting of any private or confidential school district material on such websites is strictly prohibited.

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

Privacy of Employee's Social Media Accounts

In compliance with A.C.A. § 11-2-124, the District 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 District 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 reasonable believed to be relevant to the investigation of an allegation of an employee violating district 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 District.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this policy, the District 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 district inadvertently obtains access to information that would enable the district to have access to an employee's personal social media account, the district 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 District policy for using district equipment or network capability to access such an account. Employees have no expectation of privacy in their use of District issued computers, other electronic device, or use of the District's network. (See policy 8.22—CLASSIFIED 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 3.45. If you change this policy, review 3.45 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 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 of real-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: 8.22—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 11-2-124

Date Adopted: April 25, 2011

Last Revised: June 24, 2013

8.38— CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL VACATIONS

240 day contracted employees are credited with 10 days of vacation¹ at the beginning of each fiscal year. 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.

All vacation time must be approved by the superintendent who shall consider the staffing needs of the district in making his/her determination.²

Notes: This policy is similar to policy 3.46. If you change this policy, review policy 3.46 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

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

Date Adopted: April 25, 2011

Last Revised: May 19, 2015

8.39—DEPOSITING COLLECTED FUNDS

From time to time, staff members may collect funds in the course of their employment. It is the responsibility of any staff member to deposit such funds they have collected daily¹ into the appropriate accounts for which they have been collected. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for determining the need for receipts for funds collected and other record keeping requirements and of notifying staff of the requirements.

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 3.47—DEPOSITING COLLECTED FUNDS. If you change this policy, review 3.47 at the same time to ensure applicable 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 employees 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 deductible (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. The bottom line is that the daily timeline is to protect both the district and the employee.

Date adopted: April 25, 2011

Last Revised: May 22, 2012

8.40—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

Firearms¹

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

Possession of a firearm by a school district 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

An employee may possess a pocket knife which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a knife that can be folded into a case and has a blade or blades of less than three (3) inches or less each. An employee may carry, for the purpose of self-defense, a small container of tear gas⁴ or mace which for the purpose of this policy is defined as having a capacity of 150cc or less. Employees are expected to safeguard such items in such a way as to ensure they are not possessed by students. Such items are not to be used against students, parents or other school district employees. Possession of weapons, knives or self-defense items that do not comply with the limits contained herein, the failure of an employee to safeguard such items, or the use of such items against students, parents or other school district employees may result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee, which may include termination or nonrenewal of the employee.

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

Notes: This policy is similar to Policy 3.48. If you change this policy, review Policy 3.48 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 A.C.A. § 5-73-120(b)(4) to less than three inches (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: June 24, 2013

Date Revised: May 19, 2015

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

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 District 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 District 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:

- a) Entertainment;
- b) Hotel rooms;
- c) Transportation;
- d) Gifts;
- e) Meals; or
- f) Items of nominal value (e.g. calendar or coffee mug).¹

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

All District 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 3.52. If you change this policy, review 3.52 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 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: May 19, 2015

Last Revised: June 27, 2016

8.41F—THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR FUTURE POLICY

8.42—CLASSIFIED 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.

Date Adopted: June 23, 2014

Last Revised: June 23, 2014

8.43—CLASSIFIED WELLNESS POLICY

The Hillcrest School District is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children’s health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the Hillcrest School District that:

The school district will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professional, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing district-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.

All students in grades k-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.

Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

Qualified child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritional and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students, and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

To the maximum extent possible, all schools in our district will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the School Breakfast, the National School Lunch Program, and the Summer Food Service Program).

Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services.

The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The school district is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the school and Department of Education, but with the community and its residents, organizations and agencies. Therefore, the school district shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions which improve the health and physical activity of our students.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

SCHOOL HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The school district and/or individual schools within the district will create, develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The committee also will serve as resources to school sites for implementing those policies. (A school health committee consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and should include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, members of

the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.)

NUTRITIONAL QUALITY OF FOODS AND BEVERAGES SOLD AND SERVED ON CAMPUS

School meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will:
Always be appealing and attractive to children

Be served in clean and pleasant settings

Meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations

Will operate, to the extent possible, a Breakfast Program to ensure that all children have access to breakfast, whether at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn.

Schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma and prevent the identification of students who are eligible for Free/Reduced school meals.

Schools in which more than 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced meals will sponsor the Summer Food Service Program during the summer months, where any child between the ages of 1-18 years may eat breakfast and lunch free.

School Food Service Staff will provide continuing professional development for all nutrition professionals in schools. Staff development programs should include appropriate certification and/or training programs for child nutrition directors, school nutrition managers, and cafeteria workers, according to their levels of responsibility.

Fund raising, snacks, rewards, celebrations and school sponsored events will meet all Child Nutrition guidelines.

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTION AND FOOD MARKETING

Hillcrest School District will strive to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools will provide nutrition promotion that encourages life-long healthy eating habits.

The district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and physical activity for their children by offering healthy eating seminars and nutrition information to parents.

3 of 4

Staff Wellness, for the health and well-being of its staff members, Hillcrest School District will plan and implement activities that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The Food Service Department will promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, as well as healthy food preparation methods.

IV. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our schools will provide physical education that enforces existing physical education requirements and engages students in healthy levels of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

All classes are taught by certified physical education teachers that follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades k-12.

Elementary school will provide recess for students at least 20 minutes per day where moderate to vigorous physical activity is encouraged verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

Employees will not use physical activity or withhold physical activity as a punishment. School spaces and facilities within our district are available to students, staff, and community members before and after the school day at least two days a week.

MONITORING AND POLICY REVIEW

Hillcrest School District Superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with our policies and will report on their schools compliance to the Superintendent or designee.

School Food Services staff will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the Superintendent.

Every three school years Hillcrest School District will review our nutrition and physical activity policies: provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity, and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. We will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.

4 of 4

VI. Signature page:

Greg Crabtree, Superintendent

Date

Mickel Smith, High School Principal

Date

Shawn Rose, Elementary Principal

Date

Date Adopted: September 28, 2009

Last Revised: June 30, 2010

8.44—PANDEMIC ACTION PLAN

A global outbreak of a new strain of human influenza is an influenza pandemic; such an event is inevitable, but the timing and the severity of the pandemic cannot be predicted. This influenza Plan describes how the Hillcrest School District will prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic.

This action plan has been developed to assist the Superintendent and Principal in preventing and preparing for a health-related emergency at the school.

LEVELS OF RESPONSE TO HEALTH-RELATED INCIDENTS

Level 1—Mitigation/Prevention

Level 2—Advanced Precautions

Level 3—Surveillance and Heightened Awareness

Level 4—Prepare for possible school closure

Level 5—School Closure

Level 6—Recovery

Level One: Influenza is confirmed in animals in other countries, with limited animal to human transmission and little to no human to human transmission. Health officials are concerned about a possible pandemic.

Goals: The school is prepared for a possible pandemic. This plan fits within the school's emergency management plan. Staff, students and parents are well informed and understand their roles in preventing general influenza spread.

Getting Started:

Identify the authority for declaring a public emergency at the state and local levels.

School administration will work with personnel from the Lawrence County Health Department (LCHD). This agency will assist in providing direction from both local and state levels.

Ensure appropriate personnel attend planning meetings with the LCHD. The school nurse and at least one member of administration will attend pandemic meetings.

They will:

a) Identify requirements for reporting incidents and identifying and reporting to LCHD influenza like symptoms and increased absenteeism at the school.

b) Develop a way to track staff/students impacted by influenza.

3. Identify and purchase resources for immediate and long term use.

a) Hand sanitizer, first aid kits, masks, gloves, thermometers, Kleenex

b) Soap, toilet tissue, paper towels

Review cleaning policies, practices and supplies. Give staff development where needed. (Nurse and administration)

5. Identify policies and procedures that need to be in place or need to be revised.
 - a) Sick leave policy for staff.
 - b) Student absence policy and possible procedure for holding absences harmless.
 - c) School student exclusion policy
 - d) Keep an updated staff member phone tree
6. Develop and print hand washing posters for school use.
(Responsible person is nurse)
7. Establish a link on district web site to www.pandemicflu.gov for obtaining and sharing information.

Level Two—Take Advanced Precautions:

The world Health Organization reports cases of human to human transmission within the borders of the United States.

Goals: Heighten awareness and precautionary measures in school.

Preparedness:

Review Pandemic plan
Keep all contact information current
Provide ongoing briefings to key staff on roles and responsibilities
Identify isolation room with supplies needed to provide comfort
For those isolated
Increased disinfectant use by custodial staff

Level Three—Keep Alert:

LCHD notifies Superintendent or Principal of suspected cases of influenza within the state of Arkansas.

Goals: Initiate surveillance of staff, students, and other school visitors to assist the LCHD in close monitoring of influenza like incidents.

Preparedness:

Maintain links with other schools, doctor offices and local health department.
Review pandemic plan.
Remind staff, students and parents about:
The difference between the symptoms of common cold and Influenza

The importance of good hygiene practices.
The importance of staying home when sick.
The gravity of the pandemic through scenarios/stories of the 1918 pandemic.
4. Confirm school's role in local response plan with Lawrence County Health Department

Level Four – Prepare for possible school closure:

Lawrence County Department of Health notifies Superintendent or Principal of confirmed case(s) in the area.

Goals: Schools should try to keep their community calm and attempt to reduce panic.

Preparedness:

District strives to maintain contact with Lawrence County Health Department.

Make preparations for possible school closure; make preparations to secure school premises.
DO NOT CLOSE SCHOOL WITHOUT SPECIFIC DIRECTION FROM THE LAWRENCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND HILLCREST SUPERINTENDANT.

Keep staff and parents informed through meetings, newsletters or e-mail.

Prepare staff and student contact list for LCHD in case of school closure:

Two emergency contacts for each student, Staff home contact information and information indicating the staff willing to be a volunteer.

Administer care to staff and students showing symptoms of influenza.

Institute rigorous cleaning policies and practices to reduce the spread of a flu virus.

Level Five—School Closure:

LCHD mandates school closure

Goals: Students, staff and parents are informed, understand their role and responsibilities, and have confidence in their school's preparedness.

Preparedness:

Close school as directed by LCHD.

Secure premises

Post provided notices of closure on entry points and main buildings.

Keep staff and parents informed through meetings, newsletters or email.

Collaborate with local agencies in making school facilities available in local response efforts.

Be prepared for another wave of influenza, a few weeks after the first; initiate procedures as needed.

Level Six—Recovery:

A person may remain infectious for some days past the first display of symptoms. Watch for other symptoms of grief and trauma. Counseling and support may be required for a significant time after the pandemic has abated.

LCHD will notify the district superintendent that the pandemic has been abated in Lawrence County and the school may reopen.

Goals: School ensures continuing well being of staff and students. Education services are fully restored, recognizing possible workforce reduction impact.

Preparedness:

Determine staffing needs based on returning student population.

Clean, disinfect affected areas including school buses.

Arrange debrief of pandemic event for staff and students.

Have recovery material available for staff and students. Have a safe place for counseling available.

Continue to keep everyone involved informed by using e-mail, meetings and newsletters.

Evaluate the success of the pandemic plan and make adjustments.

Date Adopted: September 28, 2009

Last Revised: September 28, 2009

8.45-- CLASSIFIED FLOWER FUND

The Hillcrest School District shall have a flower fund for all employees. People who are eligible to receive flowers from the fund are defined as follows:

Deaths – Employee, Spouse, children/stepchildren, siblings, grandchildren, and parents of the employee

Deaths – Current Hillcrest students

Hospitalization – Employee only

The following dollar amounts are strongly recommended for the following:

Deaths - \$50

Hospitalization - \$25

Flowers will be ordered through the central office. Employees should make every effort to inform the office of hospitalization or deaths.

All employees will be asked at the first teacher meeting of the school year to donate \$10 each to the fund regardless of the flower fund balance. If the balance of the flower fund falls below \$100 at any time during the year, each employee will be asked to donate \$10 again.

Date Adopted: April 26, 2010

Date Revised: April 25, 2011

8.46—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE DUTIES

The Hillcrest School District shall have a classified personnel policy committee which consists of one of each of the following classifications:

- Maintenance, operation, and custodians
- Transportation
- Food service
- Secretary and clerk
- Aides and paraprofessionals

In addition there shall be no more than three (3) administrators, one (1) of which may be the superintendent. The committee may schedule members to attend board meetings as needed. Members of the committee shall be elected by a majority of the classified personnel voting by secret ballot. The election shall be conducted solely and exclusively by the classified personnel on the personnel policies committee, including distribution of ballots to all classified personnel.

Either the committee or the board of directors may propose new personnel policies or amendments to existing policies if the proposals by the board have been submitted to the committee at least ten (10) working days prior to presentation to the board. The chair of the committee or a committee member designated by the chair will have the opportunity to orally present the committee's proposed policies or amendments to existing policies to the board of directors. The board of directors shall have the authority to adopt, reject, or refer back to the committee for further study and revision any proposed policies or amendments to existing policies that are submitted to the board for consideration.

The election shall be conducted on the second Tuesday in October of each year. The committee shall elect a chairman and secretary and develop a calendar of meetings throughout the year to review personnel policies to determine if additional policies or amendments to existing policies are needed. Each committee member shall serve a term of two (2) years and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. If a vacancy occurs on the committee, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining committee members. The committee shall fill a vacancy with a person from the same classification of membership as the vacating member. An appointed committee member shall serve the unexpired term of the vacating member.

Arkansas Code § 6-17-2303

Date Adopted: June 30, 2008
Last Revised: April 26, 2010

8.47--Hillcrest School District MEDICATION DISPOSAL POLICY

Hillcrest School District requires all medications and/or medication supplies to be picked up by parent/guardian at the end of the school year, when the medication(s) expire, or are discontinued. After attempts to reach parent/guardian with the *Medication Notice* form, any medication, and/or medication supplies left in the school nurse's office will be disposed of in the following way:

- All narcotics or controlled drugs will be counted by the school nurse and a school employed witness. The count will be documented on the student's *Medication Administration Form* and an Arkansas Department of Health *Report of Drugs Surrendered* form will be filled out. The surrendered drugs will be sent to Arkansas Department of Health per any means that allows for tracking (e.g. registered/certified mail with return receipt requested, UPS, Fed Ex). (See forms and ADH policy #1)
- All non-narcotic drugs, including inhalers, will be counted by the school nurse and a school employed witness. The count will be documented on the student's *Medication Administration Form*. The drugs will then be taken by the school nurse, school resource officer or school administrator to the Lawrence County Sheriff's office for disposal.
- All liquids will be measured by the school nurse and a school employed witness, documented on the student's *Medication Administration Form*, then poured into a bag filled with an absorbent substance and disposed of in the trash.
- All diabetic or epi-pen supplies such as syringes, insulin and lancets will be documented on the student's *Medication Administration Form* and then placed in a red sharps container. When the sharps container is full it will be placed in a special shipping box and mailed to an accepting company.

Date adopted: June 23, 2014

Last Revised: June 23, 2014