

PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3000/page 1 of 1

3000	PROFESSIONAL STAFF
3112	Board-Staff Communications
3120.09	Volunteers
3122	Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment
	Opportunity
3122.01	Drug-Free Workplace
3123	Wisconsin Quality Educator Initiative
3139	Staff Discipline
3160	Physical Examination
3161	Fitness for Duty
3170.01	Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
3210	Staff Ethics
3213	Student Supervision and Welfare
3214	Staff Gifts
3215	Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff
3216	Staff Dress and Grooming
3217	Weapons
3231	Outside Activities of Staff
3310	Freedom of Speech in Noninstructional
0060	Settings
3362	Employee Anti-Harassment
3362.01	Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members
3430.01	Family & Medical Leave of Absence ("FMLA")
3531	Unauthorized Work Stoppage
0001	orrangement to orre or cobbado



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3112/page 1 of 1

#### BOARD-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

The Board of Education has a legitimate interest in maintaining order by directing that employee communications to the School Board move initially through the chain of command to the District Administrator. Employees are expected to follow the established chain of communication as described in this policy.

#### A. Staff Communications to the Board

All communications from staff members related to the performance of their job duties or responsibilities to the Board or its committees shall be submitted through the District Administrator. This procedure is not intended to deny any staff member the right to appeal to the Board on important matters through established procedures.

#### B. Board Communications to Staff

All official communications, policies, and directives of the Board of staff interest and concern to the staff will be communicated through the District Administrator, who shall also keep staff members fully informed of the Board's problems, concerns, and actions.

#### C. Social Interaction

Both staff and Board members share a keen interest in the schools and in education generally, and it is to be expected that when they meet at social affairs and other functions, they may informally discuss such matters as educational trends, issues, and innovations, and general activities of the District. However, since individual Board members have no special authority except when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board or vested with special authority by Board action, discussions between staff and Board members related to the performance of job duties or responsibilities are inappropriate violations of the chain of command.

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006) Samuelson v. LaPorte Comm. Sch. Dist., 526 F.3d 1046 (7th Cir. 2008)

© NEOLA 2009



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3120.09/page 1 of 1

### **VOLUNTEERS**

The Board of Education recognizes that certain programs and activities can be enhanced through the use of volunteers who have particular knowledge or skills that will be helpful to members of the professional staff responsible for the conduct of those programs and activities.

The District Administrator shall be responsible for recruiting community volunteers, reviewing their capabilities, and making appropriate placements. S/He shall not be obligated to make use of volunteers whose abilities are not in accord with District needs.

The District Administrator is to inform each volunteer that s/he:

- A. shall agree to abide by all Board policies and District guidelines while on duty as a volunteer;
- B. in accepting the role of a volunteer, agrees to verification that a satisfactory background check may be conducted through appropriate State agencies or other applicable means.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3122/page 1 of 1

# NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education does not discriminate in the employment of professional staff on the basis of any characteristic protected under State or Federal law including, but not limited to, race, color, age, sex, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, or declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices.

The District Administrator shall appoint and publicize the name of the compliance officer whose responsibility it will be to require that Federal and State regulations are complied with and that any inquiries or complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law. S/He shall provide proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), and the Age Act (ADEA) to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public.

111.31 et seq., 118.195, 118.20, Wis. Stats

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 12112, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX

29 C.F.R. Part 1635



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3122.01/page 1 of 1

### DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The Board of Education believes that quality education is not possible in an environment affected by drugs. It will seek, therefore, to establish and maintain an educational setting which is free from illegal drugs.

Consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the Board prohibits the manufacture, possession, use, distribution, or dispensing of any controlled substance, including alcohol, by any member of the District's professional staff at any time while on District property (including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District) or while involved in any District-related activity or event. Any staff member who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District guidelines and applicable terms of any collective bargaining agreements.

The District Administrator shall establish whatever programs and procedures are necessary to meet the Federal certification requirements and shall provide these to staff.

P.L. 101-126 Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq. 20 U.S.C. 3224A



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3123/page 1 of 1

### WISCONSIN QUALITY EDUCATOR INITIATIVE

The Board of Education is committed to having a quality teacher in every classroom and a strong leader in every building. The Board encourages the use of best educational practices to improve instruction and increase student achievement. To this end, the Board requires that the District hire the most qualified and experienced staff available and that all staff be licensed as required by law.

Attaining and maintaining proper State licensure under P.I. 34, which describes the requirements for attaining and maintaining educator's licensing for practicing in the State, is primarily the licensee's responsibility. However, the Board recognizes its responsibilities under P.I. 34 and supports efforts that promote the effectiveness of staff through career-long preparation and learning and performance-based assessment.

Under P.I. 34, the Board is required to develop a licensure support plan providing for, at a minimum, ongoing orientation, support seminars and a qualified mentor for initial educators. Accordingly, the Board directs the District Administrator to develop a licensure support plan consistent with the requirements of P.I. 34.

P.I. 34, Wis. Adm. Code



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3139/page 1 of 1

### STAFF DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education retains the right and the responsibility to manage the work force. When the discipline of a staff member becomes necessary, such action shall be consistent with any procedural and substantive due process rights of the individual, as well as the requirements of any applicable Board policy, collective bargaining agreement and State and Federal law.

#### **Investigation of Possible Criminal Activity**

The District may be required to investigate potential wrongdoings on the part of its employees. Such investigations may require that the employee answer questions relating to the activity. Employees may be required to answer such questions, consistent with any applicable collective bargaining agreement. Failure to cooperate in an investigation may result in discipline, up to and including termination of the employee. In cases where this possible wrongdoing may involve criminal activity, the District shall inform the employee that answers to questions relating to the employee's conduct may be used by the District for determining appropriate discipline, but will not be provided to law enforcement officials in the course of their independent criminal investigation, unless otherwise required by law. Employees must also be informed that refusal to answer questions may be considered in determining discipline.

Franklin v. City of Evanston, 384 F.3d 838 (7th Cir. 2004) Garrity v. New Jersey, 385 U.S. 493 (1967)



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3160/page 1 of 1

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The Board of Education requires any candidate, as a condition of employment, to submit to an examination, including a test for tuberculosis, in order to determine the physical capacity to perform assigned duties. Such examinations shall be done in accordance with 118.25 Wis. Stats., the District Administrator's guidelines, and/or the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

The Board shall also require the candidate to submit to a test for controlled substances, the results of which must indicate there is no evidence of non-prescribed drug use.

Reports of all such examinations or evaluations shall be delivered to the District Administrator, who shall protect their confidentiality. Reports will be discussed with the employee or candidate. The reports, and any documents acquired containing genetic information, will be maintained in a separate confidential personnel medical file in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). In the event of a report of a condition that could influence job performance, the District Administrator shall base a nonemployment recommendation to the Board upon a conference with the examining physician and substantiation that the condition is directly correlated to defined job responsibilities and reasonable accommodation will not allow the employee or prospective employee to adequately fulfill those responsibilities. Freedom from tuberculosis in a communicable form is a condition of employment.

The Board shall assume the fees for examinations.

118.25, Wis. Stats.
29 C.F.R., Part 1630
29 C.F.R. Part 1635
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3161/page 1 of 1

### FITNESS FOR DUTY

It is the policy of the Board of Education to protect students and employees from the effects of contagious diseases and other circumstances which render professional staff members unable to perform their duties.

The Board authorizes the District Administrator to place a professional staff member on unrequested leave of absence for physical or mental inability to perform assigned duties in conformance with the law and consistent with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

The District Administrator shall require that the professional staff member submit to an appropriate examination.

If, as a result of such examination, the professional staff member is found to be unable to perform assigned duties, the professional staff member shall be placed on leave of absence until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the District Administrator, is furnished.

Should a professional staff member refuse to submit to the examination requested by the District Administrator, such refusal shall subject the professional staff member to disciplinary action, consistent with any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

The Board may designate any period of leave under this policy as qualifying leave under State and/or Federal FMLA leave entitlement consistent with Policy 3430.01 as provided by law.

111.32, et seq., the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act
29 C.F.R., Part 1630
29 C.F.R. Part 1635
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3170.01/page 1 of 1

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

The Board of Education believes that early recognition and treatment of illegal drug use, controlled substance abuse, alcohol abuse, mental health, or social concerns is important for successful rehabilitation, return to productive work, and reduced personal, family, and social disruption.

The District encourages the earliest possible diagnosis and treatment for illegal drug use or controlled substance abuse and supports sound treatment efforts. Whenever feasible, the District will assist staff members in overcoming illegal drug use or controlled substance abuse. However, the decision to seek diagnosis and accept treatment for illegal drug use or controlled substance abuse is primarily the individual staff member's responsibility. Any costs associated with treatment in excess of those costs covered by the staff member's medical insurance plan shall be borne by the individual.

Staff members with personal drug or controlled substance abuse problems should request assistance from the Department of Human Resources. Assistance will be provided on a confidential basis, and each staff member will be referred to the appropriate treatment and counseling services.

The District will assist staff members to the extent feasible through the Employee Assistance Program. The Board cannot guarantee that the staff member's use of illegal drugs or abuse of alcohol or controlled substances will not impact adversely the staff member's employment status through disciplinary procedures.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3210/page 1 of 1

### STAFF ETHICS

An effective educational program requires the services of men and women of integrity, high ideals, and human understanding. To maintain and promote these essentials, the Board of Education expects all professional staff members to maintain high standards in their working relationships, and in the performance of their professional duties, to:

- A. respect the dignity of all individuals with whom they interact in the performance of duties;
- B. represent accurately their qualifications;
- C. exercise due care to protect the mental and physical safety of students, colleagues, and subordinates;
- D. seek and apply the knowledge and skills appropriate to assigned responsibilities;
- E. keep in confidence legally-confidential information as they may secure;
- F. ensure that their actions or those of another on their behalf are not made with specific intent of advancing private economic interests;
- G. avoid accepting anything of value offered by another for the purpose of influencing judgment;
- H. refrain from using position or public property, or permitting another person to use an employee's position or public property for partisan political or religious purposes. This will in no way limit constitutionally or legally protected rights as a citizen.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3213/page 1 of 2

### STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Professional staff members because of their proximity to students are frequently confronted with situations which, if handled incorrectly, could result in liability to the District and personal liability to the professional staff member. It is the intent of the Board of Education to direct the preparation of guidelines that would minimize that possibility.

A professional staff member, or a person who works or volunteers with children, who is found to have had sexual contact with a student shall be referred to the proper authorities and be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

This section should not be construed as affecting any obligations on the part of staff to report suspected child abuse under Wis. Stats. 48.981 and Policy 8462.

It is the responsibility of the District Administrator to prepare administrative guidelines to ensure the maintenance of the following standards:

- A. Each professional staff member shall maintain a standard of care for supervision, control, and protection of students commensurate with assigned duties and responsibilities.
- B. A professional staff member should not volunteer to assume responsibility for duties s/he cannot reasonably perform. Such assumption carries the same responsibilities as assigned duties.
- C. A professional staff member shall provide proper instruction in the safety matters presented in assigned course guides.
- D. Each professional staff member shall immediately report to the principal any accident or safety hazard s/he detects.
- Each professional staff member shall immediately report to the principals any knowledge of threats of violence or suspected abuse.
- F. A professional staff member shall not send students on any personal errands.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3213/page 2 of 2

G. A professional staff member shall not associate with students at any time in a manner which gives the appearance of impropriety, including, but not limited to, participation in any situation or activity which could be considered abusive or sexually suggestive or involve illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.

This provision should not be construed as precluding a professional staff member from associating with students in private for legitimate or proper reasons.

- H. If a student comes to a staff member to seek advice or to ask questions regarding a personal problem related to sexual behavior, substance abuse, mental or physical health, and/or family relationships, the staff member may help the student make contact with certified or licensed individuals in the District or community who specialize in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of the student's problem. Under no circumstances should a staff member attempt, unless properly licensed and authorized to do so, to counsel, assess, diagnose, or treat the student's problem or behavior.
- I. A professional staff member shall be permitted to transport students in a private vehicle with the approval of an administrator and/or parent.
- J. A student shall not be required to perform work or services that may be detrimental to his/her health.

Most information concerning a child in school is a confidential student record under Federal and State laws. Any staff member who shares confidential information with another person not authorized to receive the information may be subject to discipline or civil liability. This includes, but is not limited to, information concerning assessments, grades, behavior, family background, and alleged child abuse (see Policy 8330).

Pursuant to the laws of the State and Board Policy 8462, each professional staff member shall report to the proper legal authorities immediately, any sign of suspected child abuse or neglect.

48.981, 948, 948.095 Wis. Stats.

- © NEOLA 2010
- © NEOLA 2010



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3214/page 1 of 1

### STAFF GIFTS

It is the policy of the Board of Education that professional staff members may accept gifts of nominal value from students or parents.

Individual gifts from the professional staff member to each student are strongly discouraged. It is suggested that if a professional staff member wishes to give a gift, s/he may do so as a gift to the classroom, for example, library books or other educational resources for the class.

The District Administrator may approve acts of generosity to individual staff members in unusual situations.

Upon the recommendation of the District Administrator, the Board shall consider, as appropriate, the presentation of token gifts to retiring members of the staff who have rendered service for a period of time.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3215/page 1 of 1

#### USE OF TOBACCO BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a tobacco-free environment. The negative health effects of tobacco use for both users and non-users, particularly in connection with second hand smoke, are well-established. Further, providing a tobacco-free environment is consistent with modeling behaviors of teachers and staff to our students. The Board also recognizes, however, the right of individuals under State law to use lawful products, including tobacco, during non-working hours off District premises.

Accordingly, the Board prohibits the use of tobacco in any form including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, and chewing tobacco on District premises, in District vehicles within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by the District, and used to provide education or library services to children and at all District-sponsored events.

111.321, Wis. Stats. 120.12(20), Wis. Stats. 20 U.S.C. 6081 et seq. 20 U.S.C. 7182



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3216/page 1 of 1

### STAFF DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education believes that professional staff members set an example in dress and grooming for their students to follow. A professional staff member who understands this precept and adheres to it enlarges the importance of his/her task, presents an image of dignity, and encourages respect for authority. These factors act in a positive manner toward the maintenance of discipline.

The Board retains the authority to specify the following dress and grooming guidelines for staff that will prevent such matters from having an adverse impact on the educational process. When assigned to District duty, all professional staff members shall:

- A. be physically clean, neat, and well groomed;
- B. dress in a manner consistent with their professional responsibilities;
- C. dress in a manner that communicates to students a pride in personal appearance;
- D. be groomed in such a way that their hair style or dress does not disrupt the educational process nor cause a health or safety hazard.

Administration will have the discretion to determine what is professional attire and take necessary steps to ensure dress and grooming are appropriate.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3217/page 1 of 1

### <u>WEAPONS</u>

The Board of Education prohibits professional staff members from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, a school-sponsored event, or in a District vehicle.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms (including, but not limited to, firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)), guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

The District Administrator shall refer a staff member who violates this policy to law enforcement officials. The staff member will also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, as permitted by applicable Board policy and the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Exceptions to this policy include:

- A. weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel;
- B. starter pistols used in appropriate sporting events.

Any staff member who has reason to believe that a person has or will violate this policy shall report to the school principal or their supervisor immediately. Failure to report such information may subject the staff member to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

This policy shall be published and distributed to staff members annually. Publication is not a precondition to enforcement of this policy.

120.13(1), Wis. Stats. 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3) 20 U.S.C. 7151

- © NEOLA 2007
- © NEOLA 2007



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3231/page 1 of 3

### **OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OF STAFF**

The Board of Education directs the District Administrator to promulgate the following guidelines so that professional staff members may avoid situations in which their personal interests, activities, and associations may conflict with the interests of the District. If such situations threaten a staff member's effectiveness within the school system, the District Administrator shall evaluate the impact of such interest, activity, or association upon the professional staff member's responsibilities.

- A. Staff members should not give work time to an outside interest, activity, or association without valid reason to be excused from assigned duties.
- B. Staff members shall not use school property or school time to solicit or accept customers for private enterprises without written administrative permission.
- C. Staff members shall not engage in business transactions on behalf of private enterprises in which s/he may profit by virtue of his/her official position or authority or benefit financially from confidential information which the employee has obtained or may obtain by reason of his/her position or authority.
- D. Staff members shall not campaign on school property during duty hours on behalf of any political issue or candidate for local, State, or National office.
- E. Staff members may not accept fees for tutoring when such tutoring is conducted during the normal work day.

#### Research and Publishing

- A. Professional staff members are encouraged to contribute articles to professional publications and to engage in approved professional research.
- B. Materials which might be considered for publication and/or production, which identify the District in any manner, shall be cleared with the District Administrator prior to publication and/or production.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3231/page 2 of 3

- C. Publications and productions shall be subject to the following copyright provisions:
  - 1. Rights to copyrights or patents of books, materials, devices, etc. developed by professional staff members on their own time will be relinquished by the Board upon request of the staff member provided that:
    - a. the books, materials, devices, etc. were prepared without the use of District data, facilities, and/or equipment;
    - b. the District is granted the privilege of purchasing the materials or products free of any copyright or royalty charges;
    - c. the staff member does not become involved in any way in the selling of the product to the District.

The final decision regarding whether materials were produced independently of any work assignment, and/or without using school equipment, facilities, data, or equipment rests with the District Administrator.

Professional staff members who desire to publish or produce materials on their own time should make such action known to the District Administrator prior to the time such work is started in order that proper procedures can be established to assure that District interests and the interests of the staff member are protected.

2. All books, materials, devices, or products which result from the paid work time and/or prescribed duties of professional staff members shall remain the property of the District. The District shall retain all rights and privileges pertaining to the ownership thereof.

In the event that any of these products have commercial possibilities, the District Administrator is authorized to secure copyrights, patents, etc. which will ensure the ownership of the product by the District.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3231/page 3 of 3

The District Administrator is authorized to negotiate with appropriate agencies for the production and distribution of products with commercial appeal. Such negotiations shall ensure fair and appropriate compensation, including sharing of royalties, for the staff member(s) who developed the products.

17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3310/page 1 of 1

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN NONINSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS

The Board of Education acknowledges the right of its professional staff members, as citizens in a democratic society, to speak out on issues of public concern. When those issues are related to the District, however, including matters related to the performance of their job duties or responsibilities, the professional staff member's expression must be balanced against the interests of this District.

The following guidelines are adopted by the Board to help clarify and, therefore, avoid situations in which the professional staff member's expression could conflict with the District's interests. In such situations, s/he should:

- A. state clearly that his/her expression represents personal views and not necessarily those of the School District;
- B. not make threats or abusive or personally-defamatory comments about co-workers, administrators, or officials of the District;
- C. refrain from making public expressions which s/he knows to be false or are made without regard for truth or accuracy.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362/page 1 of 6

#### EMPLOYEE ANTI-HARASSMENT

#### **Prohibited Harassment**

The Board of Education is committed to a work environment that is free of harassment of any form. The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate action to eliminate it. Any member of the School District community who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our employees.

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means individuals subject to the control and supervision of the Board including, but not limited to, student, teachers, staff, volunteers, and Board members. "Third party" means individuals outside the School District community who participate in school activities and events authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, and vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the District.

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on a person's protected status, such as sex, color, race, ancestry, creed, religion, genetic information, national origin, age, handicap, disability, marital status, veteran status, citizenship status, sexual orientation, arrest record, conviction record, or other protected group status, which affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Harassment may occur employee-to-employee, student-to-employee, employee-to-student, male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, or female-to-female.

#### Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment deserves special mention. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct based on sex constitutes sexual harassment when:

- A. a supervisory employee engages in harassing behavior towards a subordinate employee, regardless of whether such conduct creates a hostile work environment;
- B. acquiescence in or submission to such conduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment;



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362/page 2 of 6

- C. an individual's acquiescence in, submission to, or rejection of such conduct becomes the basis for employment decisions affecting that individual;
- D. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment;
- E. consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism results in an adverse employment action for another employee or otherwise creates a hostile work environment;
- F. inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the District into a student's or staff member's personal space and personal life.

Sexual relationships between staff members, where one staff member has supervisory responsibilities over the other, are discouraged as a matter of Board policy. Such relationships have an inherent possibility of being construed as sexual harassment because the consensual aspect of the relationship may be the result of implicit or explicit duress caused by uncertainty regarding the consequences of non-compliance.

### **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disabling condition, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362/page 3 of 6

#### Reporting Procedures

The District Administrator shall prepare written administrative guidelines for employees to report alleged harassment prohibited under this policy to appropriate school administrators. The reporting procedures shall, at a minimum, provide as follows:

- A. Any employee who believes s/he has been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy will be encouraged to report the alleged harassment to appropriate school officials.
- B. Teachers, administrators, and other school officials who have or receive notice that an employee has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy shall immediately report the alleged harassment to an appropriate school official.
- C. Any other person with knowledge or belief that an employee has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited by this policy shall be encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school official.
- D. The reporting party or complainant shall be encouraged to use a report form available from the principal of each building or available from the District office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Use of formal reporting forms shall not be mandated. However, all oral complaints shall be reduced to writing. Further, nothing in the administrative guidelines shall prevent any person from reporting harassment directly to the District Administrator.
- E. To provide individuals with options for reporting harassment to an individual with whom they feel most comfortable, each building principal shall designate a Complaint Coordinator for receiving reports of harassment prohibited by this policy. The Student Assistance Program (SAP) Coordinator will be the organizer of the District's list of Complaint Coordinators.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362/page 4 of 6

### **Investigation Procedures**

The District Administrator shall prepare written administrative guidelines for investigating complaints of harassment. These procedures will, at a minimum, provide as follows:

- A. The Complaint Coordinator or another individual designated by the District Administrator (the "Investigator") shall conduct an investigation immediately upon receiving a complaint or report of harassment prohibited under this policy. The District Administrator, or his/her designee, shall oversee the investigation. The District Administrator will also take immediate action, as may be appropriate, to prevent further violations of this policy while the investigation is being conducted.
- B. The investigation shall consider all relevant facts, documents, witness accounts, and other relevant information.
- C. The investigation shall be completed as quickly as possible, but no later than thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the complaint, unless additional time is needed to conduct a thorough and objective investigation and the complainant is informed of the need for additional time. The Investigator shall make a written report to the District Administrator upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the District Administrator, the report shall be filed directly with the Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy. The Investigator may conduct the investigation regardless of the fact that a criminal investigation involving the same or similar allegations is also pending or has been concluded.

#### **School District Action**

Upon receipt of a report that a violation has occurred, the School District will take prompt, appropriate formal or informal action to address, and where appropriate, remediate the violation. Appropriate actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling, awareness training, warning, suspension, exclusion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. School District action taken for violation of this policy shall be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, State and Federal law, and School District policies for violations of a similar nature or similar degree of severity.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362/page 5 of 6

If the evidence suggests that the harassment at issue is also a crime, the Board shall also direct the District Administrator to report the results of the investigation to the appropriate social service and/or law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such crimes.

In accord with State and Federal laws regarding privacy and other rights, the District Administrator shall provide the complainant and other parties with a written answer to the complaint within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the Investigator's report.

#### **Appeal Provision**

The District Administrator may also develop written procedures for the complainant and alleged harasser to appeal his/her answer. These procedures may include a means for these individuals to appeal the answer to the District Administrator.

### Reprisal

Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment will not affect the complainant's or reporter's work status or work environment. However, the Board also recognizes that false or fraudulent claims of harassment or false or fraudulent information about such claims may be filed. The Board reserves the right to discipline any person filing a false or fraudulent claim of harassment or false or fraudulent information about such a claim.

The District will discipline or take appropriate action against any member of the School District community who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of harassment prohibited by this policy or participates in a proceeding, investigation, or hearing relating to such harassment. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

#### Miscellaneous

The District shall conspicuously post a notice including this policy against harassment in each school in a place accessible to the School District community and members of the public. This notice shall also include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the Complaint Coordinators, the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the State agency responsible for investigating allegations of discrimination in educational opportunities, and the mailing address and telephone number of the United States Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

A summary of this policy and any related administrative guidelines shall be made available upon request of employees and other interested parties.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362/page 6 of 6

The Board will ensure that methods are developed for discussing this policy with the School District community. Training on the requirements of non-discrimination and the appropriate responses to issues of harassment will be provided to the School District community on an annual basis, and at such other times as the Board in consultation with the District Administrator determines is necessary or appropriate.

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with local, State, and Federal law.

The Board will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individuals against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as practicable, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery, disclosure, or other legal obligations.

111.31, Wis. Stats.
118.195 Wis. Stats.
118.20, Wis. Stats.
20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX
29 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act 1973
29 U.S.C. 794
29 C.F.R. Part 1635
42 U.S.C. 1983
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.
42 U.S.C. 12112, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis - May 2008



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3362.01/page 1 of 1

### THREATENING BEHAVIOR TOWARD STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education believes that a staff member should be able to work in an environment free of threatening speech or actions.

Threatening behavior consisting of any words or deeds that intimidate a staff member are strictly forbidden. Any student, parent, visitor, staff member, or agent of this Board who is found to have threatened a member of the staff will be subject to discipline and reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Chapter 947, Wis. Stats.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 1 of 14

### FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE ("FMLA")

#### Introduction

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board of Education will provide family and medical leave to professional staff. The Board's Family and Medical Leave Act policy is intended to conform to and comply with, but not exceed, the requirements of the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") and the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act ("WFMLA"). To the extent that this policy is ambiguous or conflicts with the FMLA or the WFMLA, the FMLA and the WFMLA will govern.

Family and medical leave taken under this policy may be covered by Federal law, State law, or both. When leave taken by a staff member under this policy is governed by both Federal and State law, the more generous provision will control in the event of a conflict. However, when leaves are governed by State or Federal law, but not both, the applicable law will control under this policy. In this regard, you should note that certain leaves may be covered by both State and Federal law for only a portion of the leave. To the extent permitted by law, leave under the FMLA, leave under the WFMLA and leave granted under the Board's other policies will run concurrently (at the same time).

#### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for leave under the FMLA, you must have been employed by the Board for at least twelve (12) months in the past seven (7) years <u>and</u> must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of the requested leave. All full-time instructional staff members are deemed to meet the 1,250 hour requirement.

To be eligible for leave under the WFMLA, you must have been employed for more than fifty-two (52) consecutive weeks and have worked or been paid for at least 1,000 hours in the preceding fifty-two (52) weeks. The kind and amount of leave available to you under this policy, as well as your rights during leave, depend upon whether you satisfy the above requirements.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 2 of 14

#### Qualifying Reasons for Leave

The Board provides family and medical leave for eligible staff members under the following circumstances:

- A. for the birth of the eligible staff member's child and to care for a newborn child
- B. for placement with the eligible staff member of a child for adoption or foster care
- C. to care for an eligible staff member's spouse, child or parent with a "serious health condition"

The term "child" generally includes a legal ward or a biological, adopted foster or stepchild. For leaves governed exclusively by the FMLA, the term also includes a son or daughter for whom you have assumed the day-to-day obligations of a parent. A child must be either under eighteen (18) years of age or unable to care for himself/herself due to a physical or mental disability or, for leave under State law only, unable to care for himself/herself due to a serious health condition.

"Parent" includes a staff member's spouse's legal guardian only if you are requesting leave under the WFMLA.

"Spouse" includes a qualified domestic partner for leaves governed by the WFMLA. Domestic partnerships must be registered with the county of residence and proof of such registration may be requested prior to approval of leave. Unregistered domestic partners must demonstrate that they are 1) both over age eighteen (18); 2) not in a domestic partnership or marriage with another individual; 3) they share a common residence; 4) they are not related in any way that would prohibit marriage under Wisconsin law; 5) they consider each other to be immediate family members and agree to be responsible for the other's living expense.

D. because of a serious health condition that makes the eligible staff member unable to perform the essential functions of his/her position



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 3 of 14

E. because of a qualifying exigency resulting from active military service by the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent in covered active duty or call to covered active duty in the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard and Reserves

Qualifying exigencies, as defined by Federal regulations, include: 1) short-notice deployment; 2) military events and related activities; 3) childcare and school activities; 4) financial and legal arrangements; 5) counseling; 6) rest and recuperation; 7) post-deployment activities; and 8) additional activities not encompassed in the other categories, but agreed to by the employer and employee. Covered active duty means deployment with the Armed Forces to a foreign country.

F. to care for a service member who is the employee's parent, spouse, child or next of kin who, while on active military duty, sustains a serious injury or illness or aggravation of a pre-existing illness or injury while in the line of duty, while on covered active duty in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, in the line of duty which renders the service member medically unfit to perform the member's office, grade, rank, or rating

Covered active duty means deployment with the Armed Forces to a foreign country. This leave is also available to care for veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, provided the veteran was a service member at any time within the five (5) years prior to the start of the treatment, recuperation or therapy. Leave is available for up to twenty-six (26) weeks in a twelve (12) month period. This type of leave is available for serious injury or illness which results in:

- inpatient medical treatment, recuperation or therapy;
- 2. outpatient services at a military treatment facility or assignment to a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of service members receiving outpatient medical services; or



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 4 of 14

3. assignment to the temporary disability retired list.

The maximum twenty-six (26) weeks of Federal leave to care for a service member includes, and is not in addition to, all other FMLA leave. In other words, employees may not take more than a total of twenty-six (26) weeks of FMLA leave during a single twelve (12) month period for any qualifying reasons under the FMLA. For instance, if an employee takes the maximum twelve (12) weeks of Federal FMLA leave for his/her own serious health condition, the employee may then only take fourteen (14) weeks of FMLA leave within that same twelve (12) month period to care for a military family member injured in the line of duty.

See the District Administrator to determine whether your request for leave qualifies under one (1) of the above categories.

#### **Amount of Leave Available**

Under the FMLA, if the staff member satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth above, s/he is entitled to a total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave in a <u>calendar year</u> for any of the reasons stated above, with the exception of leave to care for an injured service member, which is provided as described in (F) above.

Under the WFMLA, if the staff member satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth above, s/he is entitled to ten (10) work weeks of leave in a <u>calendar year</u> as follows:

- A. a total of six (6) weeks of leave for the birth of his/her natural child and/or the placement of a child with the staff member for, or as a precondition to, adoption;
- B. a total of two (2) weeks of leave to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition; and
- C. a total of two (2) weeks of leave due to the staff member's serious health condition.

Board policy calls for concurrent Federal/State leave coverage whenever a staff member is eligible for leave under both the FMLA and WFMLA to the extent available under the law.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 5 of 14

#### **Definitions of Serious Health Conditions**

In conjunction with the certification provided by a healthcare provider, the Board reserves the right to determine whether an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition constitutes a serious health condition entitling a staff member to family or medical leave under State or Federal law.

In general, a "serious health condition" under this policy means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves one (1) of the following:

### A. <u>Hospital Care</u>

Inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital or other care facility, including any period of incapacity or subsequent treatment in connection with or consequent to such inpatient care.

#### B. Absence Plus Treatment

A period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive calendar days\* (including any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition), that also involves:

- 1. treatment two (2) or more times by a healthcare provider, a nurse, physician's assistant or physical therapist under a healthcare provider's supervision, order or referral as appropriate within thirty (30) days of the first date of incapacity; or
- 2. treatment by a healthcare provider on at least one (1) occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the healthcare provider and occurs within seven (7) days of the first day of incapacity.

\*Under the WFMLA, leave may also be available for a "serious health condition" of less than three (3) consecutive days in duration.

#### C. Pregnancy

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



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 6 of 14

### D. <u>Chronic Conditions Requiring Treatment</u>

A chronic condition which:

- 1. requires periodic visits of at least two (2) times per year for treatment by a healthcare provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under a healthcare provider's supervision;
- 2. continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); <u>and</u>
- 3. may cause episodic rather than continuing periods of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).

#### E. Permanent/Long-Term Conditions Requiring Supervision

A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. You or your family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a healthcare provider (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease). The continued existence of such a chronic condition is subject to certification no more than once every six (6) months.

#### F. Multiple Treatments (Non-Chronic Conditions)

Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a healthcare provider or by a provider of healthcare services under orders of, or on referral by, a healthcare provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, including: cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.); severe arthritis (physical therapy); or kidney disease (dialysis).



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 7 of 14

### Required Staff Member Notice

The staff member must provide the District Administrator with notice in a reasonable and practicable manner before leave taken under this policy is to begin, if the need for leave is foreseeable (e.g., an expected birth, placement or adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for your own serious health condition or that of a family member). When requesting partial or intermittent leave in connection with childbirth or adoption, the staff member must provide at least as much notice as required for taking other non-emergency or non-medical leave, as well as a definite schedule for the leave. Where advance notice is not practical due to uncertainty as to when leave will be required to begin, a change in circumstances or medical emergency, notice must be given as soon as practical. Employees must provide an explanation as to why proper advance notice was not provided in such cases and may be required to verify the explanation. Notice that was not provided timely without reasonable explanation may result in the denial of the leave request.

The staff member must provide a written request for leave, the reasons for the requested leave, and the anticipated beginning date and duration of the leave by submitting a FMLA leave request form to the District Administrator (forms available from the U.S. Department of Labor).

When planning medical treatment, the staff member should consult with his/her supervisor and make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to disrupt unduly the District's operations, subject to the approval of the staff member's healthcare provider. The staff member is ordinarily expected to consult with his/her supervisor in order to work out a treatment schedule which best suits his/her needs, as well as the District's.

If a staff member must take more leave than originally anticipated, s/he must notify the District Administrator within two (2) business days of learning of the circumstances necessitating the extension.

#### Certification By Healthcare Provider

If a staff member requests leave due to his/her own serious health condition or the serious health condition of his/her spouse, child or parent, the Board requires that the leave request be supported by certification issued and signed by the healthcare provider for the individual with a serious health condition. The Board reserves the right to certify all information permitted by law.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 8 of 14

The staff member must provide the fully completed certification to the District Administrator within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date that the certification is provided to the staff member, unless it is not practicable to do so despite the staff member's diligent, good faith efforts. If it is not practicable to return the certification within fifteen (15) calendar days, it must be returned to the District Administrator as soon as practicable.

If the staff member fails to submit the certification, the leave or continuation of leave may be delayed until the certification is submitted. Further, any absence prior to the date the certification is furnished may be considered unauthorized. A staff member who is absent without authorization may be disciplined, up to and including termination.

The District Administrator will give a staff member a reasonable opportunity to cure any deficiency in a certification, but not fewer than seven (7) calendar days. It is the responsibility of the staff member or family member with a serious health condition to use a healthcare provider who will complete and furnish an accurate certification in a timely manner.

A member of the administration, other than the staff member's direct supervisor, may contact the healthcare provider to obtain answers to unanswered questions on the form or to clarify illegible answers and to authenticate the certification.

If the District Administrator doubts the validity of a certification, it may require, at the Board's expense, that the staff member obtain a second opinion from a Board-designated provider, not regularly employed by the Board. If the opinions of the staff member's and the Board's healthcare providers differ, a third, final and binding opinion may be obtained. The staff member must cooperate in obtaining a second or third opinion including facilitating the transfer of pertinent records to the subsequent healthcare providers.

The District Administrator may request re-certifications on a periodic basis as permitted by law.

#### **Designation of Leave**

In all circumstances, it is the responsibility of the District Administrator to designate leave, whether paid or unpaid, as FMLA leave and to give the staff member notice of the designation and his/her rights and responsibilities under this policy.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 9 of 14

The District Administrator will give the staff member the notice on each occasion that s/he notifies his/her supervisor of the need for leave that may be FMLA-qualifying, including, but not limited to, when the staff member requests another type of leave for an FMLA-qualifying reason. In the case of intermittent or reduced schedule leave, only one notice will be provided unless the circumstances regarding the leave have changed.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the District Administrator will, at a minimum, verbally notify the staff member whether leave is being designated as FMLA leave within two business days of the date the staff member provides information to the District Administrator sufficient to enable him/her to determine that the leave is being taken for an FMLA-qualifying reason.

The District Administrator will confirm the verbal notice with the written notice as soon as feasible, but no later than the first payday following the verbal notice (unless the payday is less than one (1) week after the verbal notice, in which case the notice must be no later than the subsequent payday).

#### Manner In Which Leave Can Be Taken

Leave available under this policy may be taken in full and, under certain circumstances, may also be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule. Intermittent leave is leave taken in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason. Reduced schedule leave is leave that reduces the usual number of working hours per day or week. The staff member must consult with his/her supervisor and make a reasonable effort to schedule intermittent or reduced schedule leave so it does not unduly disrupt the District's operations.

Intermittent or reduced schedule leave due to a serious health condition must be medically necessary. Medically necessary means there must be a medical need for the leave and the leave can be best accommodated through an intermittent or reduced leave schedule, as certified by the healthcare provider in the Certification.

When leave is governed only by the FMLA, the District Administrator may offer a staff member a temporary transfer to another position for which s/he is qualified with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the intermittent or reduced schedule leave when the need for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment or the staff member takes such leave for the birth of a child or for placement of a child for adoption or foster care. The staff member may reject this offer in which case there will be no adverse effect on the leave or entitlement to return to the same or similar position following leave. Any time spent by the staff member in an alternative position will not count against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 10 of 14

Instructional staff members (i.e. individuals whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting) who request intermittent leave or a reduced-leave schedule governed only by the FMLA, which would exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total number of working days over the period of anticipated leave, must elect either to:

- A. take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
- B. transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the District Administrator for which the instructional staff member is qualified, and that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates the recurring periods of leave than the staff member's regular position.

The District Administrator may require instructional staff members who take Federal leave near the end of an academic term to extend their leave through the end of the academic term if:

- A. the leave is commenced more than five (5) weeks from the end of the term but the employee intends to return during the final three (3) weeks of the term and the leave is longer than three (3) weeks in duration:
- B. the leave is commenced within five (5) weeks of the end of the term and the employee intends to return during the final two (2) weeks of the term and the leave period was at least two (2) weeks in duration; or
- C. the leave commences within three (3) weeks of the end of a term and the leave was at least five (5) working days in duration.

Staff members whose leave is extended at the end of an academic term under this section will be charged against their FMLA entitlement only the time that they required for purposes of their leave.

### Coordinating Leaves - Substitution

Generally, leave taken under this policy is unpaid. However, for leave governed exclusively by the FMLA, the staff member may use the following leaves provided by the Board, if available:

A. vacation or personal leave, if available, for any family or medical leave;



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 11 of 14

- B. accrued paid family leave (i.e., paid leave covering the particular circumstances for which the staff member is seeking leave), if available, for birth, adoption, or to care for a seriously ill family member; and
- C. accrued paid medical or sick leave, if available, to care for a seriously ill family member, or for the staff member's own serious health condition.

A staff member may not substitute paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave taken under this policy in any situation where the Board would not normally provide such paid leave.

For leaves governed by the WFMLA, a staff member may substitute paid or unpaid leave, which s/he have earned and accrued, for leave taken under this policy, if available. The Board reserves the right to deny substitution as permitted by law.

Any paid leave substituted for unpaid FMLA leave or WFMLA leave will decrease, in whole or in part, the staff member's FMLA and/or WFMLA leave entitlement.

#### **Continuation of Benefits**

A staff member will remain eligible for group health insurance benefits under the Board's group health plan during leave taken under this policy under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the staff member had been actively employed during the entire leave. However, the staff member has the option of choosing not to retain such coverage during family or medical leave.

During leave taken under this policy, the Board will continue to pay any portion of group health insurance premiums for coverage that it was responsible for paying immediately prior to the leave as required by law. The staff member will be responsible for paying his/her portion of health insurance premiums regardless of whether his/her family and medical leave is paid or unpaid. It is the staff member's responsibility to make arrangements with the District Administrator for making premium payments for group health insurance during leaves.

To the extent permitted by law, the Board reserves the right to require the staff member to place up to eight (8) weeks of health insurance premiums in escrow prior to leave, or to discontinue coverage if such premiums are received more than thirty (30) days late.

The staff member's entitlement to benefits other than group health benefits during a period of family or medical leave is determined by the Board's policy regarding provision of such benefits when a staff member is on other types of leave.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 12 of 14

If a staff member fails to return to work or fails to remain at work for a period provided under the law, the District may recover its portion of the premiums paid for medical benefit coverage during the leave, unless the reason for the staff member's failure to return to work is due to the continuation of the serious health condition or the onset of a new serious health condition.

#### **Accrual of Benefits**

The use of leave under this policy will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of the staff member's leave. A staff member will not continue to accrue seniority or any other employment benefit during leave taken under this policy, except that such benefit shall accrue if the staff member elects to use other leaves provided by the Board, and if such benefits would normally accrue during such leave.

#### **Employment Restoration**

A staff member will generally be reinstated to the same position s/he held when leave began or a position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment, if such position remains available, and the staff member possesses the ability to perform the essential functions of the job satisfactorily, with or without any accommodation that may be required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The staff member, however, has no greater right to reinstatement or benefits than if s/he had been actively employed during the leave. Further, if the staff member gives unequivocal notice of intent not to return to work, s/he is not entitled to be reinstated.

A staff member who exceeds his/her FMLA/WFMLA leave, but remains off work under a non-FMLA/WFMLA leave policy, is not entitled to reinstatement to the same or a similar position under the FMLA/WFMLA; however, the staff member <u>may</u> be eligible to be reinstated under the non-FMLA/WFMLA leave policy.

A staff member who is able to return to work prior to the expiration of leave must notify his/her supervisor immediately. Upon such notice, the District Administrator will promptly reinstate the staff member to active employment, provided s/he has the present skill and ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job satisfactorily with or without accommodation. However, the reinstatement need not occur until the third business day following the staff member's notification of his/her ability to return to work.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 13 of 14

#### Fitness For Duty Certification

If leave is due to the staff member's serious health condition, s/he must present certification to return to work to his/her supervisor upon returning to work. The staff member's principal attending physician must complete the certification. The certification must indicate that the staff member has been released to return to work. It must also specify any physical or other limitation on the staff member's ability to perform regular or other duties and the duration of the limitations. No certification will be required when the staff member returns from intermittent leave, except as otherwise permitted or required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

The certification will be limited to the particular health condition that caused the staff member's need for leave, except as otherwise permitted by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. If the staff member is an "individual with a disability" within the meaning of the ADA, any fitness-for-duty physical examination or inquiry by the District will be job related and consistent with business necessity.

Reinstatement may be delayed until the staff member submits the certification. Under such circumstances, if the staff member does not promptly provide a certification or qualify for another leave of absence, s/he may be disciplined, up to and including termination.

With the staff member's permission, the Board's healthcare provider may contact the staff member's healthcare provider to clarify and authenticate the certification, but no additional information may be requested or required, and the staff member's return to work may not be delayed while the contact is being made. No second or third fitness for duty certification may be required.

#### Confidentiality

All medical information relating to leave, whether written or verbal, shall be kept confidential to the maximum extent possible. All medical documents including, but not limited to, medical certifications and return-to-work statements must be maintained in confidential, secure files separate from personnel files.

### No Discrimination

Leave under this policy will not be used as a negative factor in employment actions, such as hiring, promotions, disciplinary actions or under attendance policies.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3430.01/page 14 of 14

### Miscellaneous

The District Administrator may designate another administrator to perform his/her duties under this policy.

A staff member who fraudulently obtains leave under this policy is not protected by this policy's job restoration or maintenance of health benefits provisions.

The District Administrator shall see that the policy is posted properly.

The District Administrator shall provide a copy of the policy upon the request of a staff member.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et. seq. 29 C.F.R. Part 825 103.10, Wis. Stats. Wis. Admin. Department of Workforce Development (DWD) 225 National Defense Authorization Act of 2010



PROFESSIONAL STAFF 3531/page 1 of 1

### UNAUTHORIZED WORK STOPPAGE

The Board of Education is obligated and committed to provide certain basic services to students participating in District programs. Therefore, if the schools are open and the students are in attendance, those basic services will be provided.

Recognizing the fact that the District, for various reasons, could experience an unauthorized work stoppage, the Board remains committed to providing educational and related services to the schools and will fulfill its obligations to operate the schools when possible.

Professional staff members who fail to perform their normal duties when so required as part of a concerted unauthorized work stoppage will be subject to loss of pay and fringe benefits, including paid insurance coverage, as well as disciplinary measures, up to and including termination.

110.70(4)(l), Wis. Stats.