

LARUE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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2023 - 2024

Employee Handbook

LARUE COUNTY SCHOOLS

# 2023 - 2024 Employee Handbook

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As required by law, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), genetic information, disability, or limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions in its programs and activities and provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

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# Introduction

## Welcome

Welcome to LaRue County Schools. You are very important to the success of the organization. Our business is providing a top-notch education to the students of LaRue County. It takes all of us working together to make this happen.

The purpose of the handbook is to acquaint you with general Board of Education policies that govern and affect your employment and to outline the benefits available to you as an employee of the District.

Because this handbook is a general source of information, it is not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, a contract. It is **not** an all-encompassing document and may not cover every possible situation or unusual circumstance. If a conflict exists between information in this handbook and Board policy or administrative procedures, the policies and procedures govern. It is the employee's responsibility to refer to the actual policies and/or administrative procedures for further information. Complete copies of those documents are available at the Central Office. Policies and procedures also are available online via the District's web site or through this Internet address: <http://policy.ksba.org/101/>. Any employee is free to review official policies and procedures and is expected to be familiar with those related to his/her job responsibilities. Employees and students who fail to comply with Board policies may be subject to disciplinary action. **01.5**

School council policies, which are also available from the Principal, may also apply in some instances. **02.4241**

In this handbook, **bolded policy codes** indicate related Board of Education policies. If an employee has questions, s/he should contact his/her immediate supervisor or Beverly Sullivan in the Central Office.

## District Mission

The mission of the LaRue County School District, in partnership with the entire community, is to provide all students, through individualized learning experiences, the knowledge and critical thinking and life skills to succeed in a diverse society.

## Future Policy Changes

Although every effort will be made to update the handbook on a timely basis, the LaRue County Board of Education reserves the right, and has the sole discretion, to change any policies, procedures, benefits, and terms of employment without notice, consultation, or publication, except as may be required by contractual agreements and law.

The District reserves the right, and has the sole discretion, to modify or change any portion of this handbook at any time.

## Central Office Personnel and School Administrators

Person/Address	Telephone/E-mail	Fax
Superintendent David Raleigh 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:david.raleigh@larue.kyschools.us">david.raleigh@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement Amanda Reed 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:amanda.reed@larue.kyschools.us">amanda.reed@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Supervisor of Instruction Tara Wooden 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:tara.wooden@larue.kyschools.us">tara.wooden@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Director of Student Services/DPP Title IX/Equity Coordinator Eric Allen 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:eric.allen@larue.kyschools.us">eric.allen@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Director of School Nutrition/Benefits Stephanie Utley 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:stephanie.utley@larue.kyschools.us">stephanie.utley@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Director of Exceptional Child/Preschool Programs/504 Coordinator Savannah Boone 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:savannah.boone@larue.kyschools.us">savannah.boone@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Director of Finance Jessica Castenir 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:jessica.castenir@larue.kyschools.us">jessica.castenir@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Director of Transportation Nathan Wheeler 88 Eagle Lane Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:nathan.wheeler@larue.kyschools.us">nathan.wheeler@larue.kyschools.us</a>	

<b>Person/Address</b>	<b>Telephone/E-mail</b>	<b>Fax</b>
Human Resource Specialist Cindy Dunn 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:cindy.dunn@larue.kyschools.us">cindy.dunn@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Payroll Amy Fortner 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4111 <a href="mailto:amy.fortner@larue.kyschools.us">amy.fortner@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Chief Information Officer Freddie Newby 925 S. Lincoln Blvd. Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-2210 <a href="mailto:freddie.newby@larue.kyschools.us">freddie.newby@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
LaRue County High School Justin Craft, Principal 925 S. Lincoln Blvd. Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-2210 <a href="mailto:justin.craft@larue.kyschools.us">justin.craft@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-9469
LaRue County Middle School Adryanne Warren, Principal 911 S. Lincoln Blvd. Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-3196 <a href="mailto:adryanne.warren@larue.kyschools.us">adryanne.warren@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-9088
The Life Connection/The Nest D.W. Cruse 81 Bud's Lake Road Sonora, KY 42776	(270) 491-2121 <a href="mailto:d.w.cruse@larue.kyschools.us">d.w.cruse@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-8800
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Tina Nesbitt, Principal 2101 Lincoln Farm Road Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-4112 <a href="mailto:tina.nesbitt@larue.kyschools.us">tina.nesbitt@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-4142
Hodgenville Elementary School Pat Reed, Principal 33 Eagle Lane Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-3506 <a href="mailto:patrick.reed@larue.kyschools.us">patrick.reed@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-8800
Preschool on College Street Karen Ward, Principal 208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270) 358-8383 <a href="mailto:karen.ward@larue.kyschools.us">karen.ward@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270) 358-3053
Director of Maintenance W.L. Miller 88 Eagle Lane Hodgenville, KY 42748	(270)358-4111 <a href="mailto:william.miller@larue.kyschools.us">william.miller@larue.kyschools.us</a>	(270)766-8040



## Section

# 1

## General Terms of Employment

### Equal Opportunity Employment

As required by Title IX, the District does not discriminate on the basis of sex regarding admission to the District or in the educational programs or activities operated by the District. Inquiries regarding Title IX Sexual Harassment may be referred to the District Title IX Coordinator (TIXC), the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

The LaRue County Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), genetic information, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, age, disabling condition, or limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities or limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions will be provided as required by law.

If considerations of sex, age or disability have a bona fide relationship to the unique requirements of a particular job or if there are federal or state legal requirements that apply, then sex, age or disability may be taken into account as a bona fide occupational qualification, provided such consideration is consistent with governing law.

If you have questions concerning District compliance with state and federal equal opportunity employment laws, contact Beverly Sullivan at the Board of Education's Central Office. **03.113/03.212**

### Harassment/Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment

The LaRue County Board of Education intends that employees have a safe and orderly work environment in which to do their jobs. Therefore, the Board does not condone and will not tolerate harassment of or discrimination against employees, students, or visitors to the school or District, or any act prohibited by Board policy that disrupts the work place or the educational process and/or keeps employees from doing their jobs.

**GENERAL TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT**

Any employee who believes that he or she, or any other employee, student, or visitor to the school or District is being or has been subjected to harassment or discrimination shall bring the matter to the attention of his/her Principal/immediate supervisor or the District’s Title IX/Equity Coordinator as required by Board policy. The District will investigate any such concerns promptly and confidentially.

No employee will be subject to any form of reprisal or retaliation for having made a good-faith complaint under this policy. For complete information concerning the District’s position prohibiting harassment/discrimination, assistance in reporting and responding to alleged incidents, and examples of prohibited behaviors, employees should refer to the District’s policies and related procedures. **03.162/03.262**

The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination under Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title IX Sexual Harassment/Discrimination: **01.1**

The District’s Title IX Coordinator (TIXC) is Eric Allen.

208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	270-358-4111	eric.allen@larue.kyschools.us
Office Address	Telephone #	Email Address

The District’s Section 504 Coordinator is Savannah Boone.

208 College Street Hodgenville, KY 42748	270-358-4111	savannah.boone@larue.kyschools.us
Office Address	Telephone #	Email Address

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the TIXC, or by any other means that results in the TIXC receiving the person’s verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the TIXC. **09.428111**

Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures are located on the District Website.

Employees wishing to initiate a complaint concerning discrimination in the delivery of benefits or services in the District’s school nutrition program should go to the link below or mail a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, or email, [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html)

## Hiring

Except for noncontracted substitute teachers, all certified personnel are required to sign a written contract with the District. All regular full-time and part-time classified employees also shall receive a contract.

A list of all District job openings are available on the District website.

When the District hires full-time certified or classified employees previously retired under KRS, those employees shall participate in the District's health insurance program. For further information on hiring, refer to policies **03.11/03.21**.

## Transfer of Tenure

The continuing service contract status of a teacher shall not be terminated when the teacher leaves employment, all provisions of KRS 161.720 to KRS 161.810 to the contrary notwithstanding, and the continuing service contract status shall be transferred to the next school district, for a period of up to seven (7) months from the time employment in the first school district has terminated.

The Board may require newly employed teachers who have attained continuing-contract status from another Kentucky district to serve a one (1)-year probation period before being considered for continuing-contract status in the District. **03.115**

## Job Responsibilities

Every employee is assigned an immediate supervisor. All employees receive a copy of their job description and responsibilities for review. Immediate supervisors may assign other duties as needed. Employees should ask their supervisor if they have questions regarding their assigned duties and/or responsibilities. **03.132/03.232**

All employees are expected to use sound judgment in the performance of their duties and take reasonable and commonly accepted measures to protect the health, safety, and well-being of others, as well as District property. In addition, employees shall cooperate fully with all investigations conducted by the District as authorized by policy or law. **03.133/03.233**

**Certified Employees:** All teachers in the District shall review records of assigned students to determine whether an IEP or 504 plan is in place.

## Criminal Background Check and Testing

Applicants, employees, and student teachers must undergo records checks and testing as required by law.

New hires and student teachers assigned within the District must complete both a state and a federal criminal history background check as well as a Child Abuse/Neglect background check. Contact Human Resources for access to each process.

An employee shall report to the Superintendent if the employee has been found by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to have abused or neglected a child, and if the employee has waived the right to appeal such a substantiated finding or the finding has been upheld upon appeal. **03.11/03.21**

## Confidentiality

In certain circumstances employees will receive confidential information regarding students' or employees' medical, educational or court records. Employees are required to keep student and personnel information in the strictest confidence and are legally prohibited from passing confidential information along to any unauthorized individual. Employees with whom juvenile court information is shared as permitted by law shall be asked to sign a statement indicating they understand the information is to be held in strictest confidence.

### *Access to be Limited*

Employees may only access student record information in which they have a legitimate educational interest. **03.111/03.211/ 09.14/09.213/09.43**

Both federal law and Board policy prohibit employees from making unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal information regarding minors over the Internet. **08.2323**

## Information Security Breach

Information security breaches shall be handled in accordance with KRS 61.931, KRS 61.932, and KRS 61.933 including, but not limited to, investigations and notifications.

Within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery or notification of a security breach, the District shall notify the Commissioner of the Kentucky State Police, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Attorney General, and the Education Commissioner. **01.61**

## Salaries and Payroll Distribution

Payroll is issued on the twenty-fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) of the month . Direct deposit advices are also available to employees at this time. In the event that the twenty-fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) falls on a weekend, payroll will be issued on the Friday before the regularly scheduled payday. In December, payroll will be issued on the last day of work before the break. At the end of the school year, employees who have completed their duties will be paid their remaining salary before the end of the fiscal year (June 30). **03.121/03.221**

**Certified Personnel:** Salaries for certified personnel are based on a single-salary schedule reflecting the school term as approved by the Board in keeping with statutory requirements. Compensation for additional days of employment is prorated on the employee's base pay.

Determination of and changes to certified employees' rank and experience are determined in compliance with Policy **03.121**. No later than forty-five (45) days before the first student attendance day of each year or June 15<sup>th</sup>, whichever comes first, the Superintendent will notify certified personnel of the best estimate of their salary for the coming year.

**Classified Personnel:** Classified personnel may be paid on an hourly or salary basis, as determined by the Board. **03.221**

The work week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Overtime will be paid only if an employee actually works over 40 hours within the work week. (If an employee takes a paid day off or there is a holiday within the week, that time does not count toward the 40 hours worked for overtime purposes).

## **Hours of Duty**

**Certified Employees:** Certified employees are not allowed to leave their job assignment during duty hours without the express permission of their immediate supervisor. Teachers shall be on duty in the classroom at least fifteen (15) minutes before the start of school and shall remain at least fifteen (15) minutes after the closing of school.

Certified employees whose duties require routine visits away from the school, i.e., driver education, agriculture, business and office, and counselors shall file a tentative schedule of all such school activities with their immediate supervisor. **03.1332**

**Classified Employees:** Classified employees shall be prompt in attendance and shall work the hours specified by their contract. Classified employees are not allowed to leave their job assignment during duty hours without the express permission of their immediate supervisor.

## **Supervision Responsibilities**

While at school or during school-related or school-sponsored activities, students must be under the supervision of a qualified adult at all times. All District employees are required to assist in providing appropriate supervision and correction of students. **09.221**

Employees are expected to take reasonable and prudent action in situations involving student welfare and safety, including following District policy requirements for intervening and reporting to the Principal or their immediate supervisor those situations that threaten, harass, or endanger the safety of students, other staff members, or visitors to the school or District. Such instances shall include, but are not limited to, bullying or hazing of students and harassment/discrimination of staff, students or visitors by any party.

The Student Discipline Code shall specify to whom reports of alleged instances of bullying or hazing shall be made. **03.162/03.262/09.422/09.42811**

## **Bullying/Hazing**

"Bullying" is defined as any unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated:

1. That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event; or
2. That disrupts the education process.

## GENERAL TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

“Hazing” is defined as an action which endangers the mental or physical health of a minor or student for the purpose of recruitment, initiation into, affiliation with, or enhancing or maintaining membership or status within any organization\*, including but not limited to actions which cause, coerce, or force a minor or a student to:

1. Violate federal or state criminal law;
2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug, tobacco product, or other controlled substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of mental harm or physical injury;
3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating or paddling, branding, or exposure to the elements;
4. Endure brutality of a mental nature, including personal servitude, sleep deprivation, or circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial mental distress;
5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature; or
6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of mental harm or physical injury to the minor or student.

“Organization” is defined as a number of persons who are associated with a school or postsecondary education institution and each other, including a student organization, fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or similar group and includes any student organization registered pursuant to policies of the school or postsecondary education institution at any time during the previous five (5) years. **09.422**

### **Dress and Appearance**

Each supervisor is to meet with their employees at the beginning of each school year and discuss what is acceptable and not acceptable concerning dress and attire.

## Section

# 2

## Benefits and Leave

### Insurance

The Board provides unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and liability insurance for all employees. In addition, the state of Kentucky provides group health and life insurance to employees who are eligible as determined by Kentucky Administrative Regulation. **03.124/03.224**

Optional insurance coverage available to employees includes:

Disability, Accident, Cancer, Ambulance, Hospital, Critical Illness, Dental, Vision, and Additional Life Insurance

### Salary Deductions

LaRue County School District makes all payroll deductions required by law. Employees may choose from the following optional payroll deductions:

- Health insurance program;
- Options of the life insurance plan provided by the Board.
- State approved deferred compensation plan;
- State-designated Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) plans;
- Board approved Tax Sheltered Annuity program (403-b); and
- Cafeteria Plan.

#### **03.1211/03.2211**

Coverage for new employees will begin on the first day of the second month following the employee's hire date. Example: if employment begins anytime in August, the employee is eligible for coverage October 1.

### Expense Reimbursement

Provided the Superintendent/designee has given prior approval to incur necessary and appropriate expenses school personnel are reimbursed for travel that is required as part of their duties or for school-

related activities approved by the Superintendent/designee. Allowable expenses include mileage at the current state rate, gasoline used for Board vehicles, tolls and parking fees, car rental, fares charged for travel on common carriers (plane, bus, etc.), food (as authorized by policy and/or procedure), and lodging.

Any meal exceeding \$5.00 must be substantiated by a detailed receipt listing all items. Maximum allowable food expenditure per day shall be \$30.00 unless an exception is approved by the Superintendent or the Board. Dinner only is covered on first night of stay. Breakfast only is covered on returning day. Itemized receipts must accompany requests for reimbursement.

Employees must submit travel vouchers within one (1) week of travel with the exception of vouchers for homebound instructional and agriculture related travel which are to be submitted at the end of each month. No requests for travel reimbursement will be considered unless filed on the proper form and accompanied by itemized receipts. Should employees receive reimbursement based on incomplete or improper documentation, they may be required to reimburse the District. **03.125/03.225**

## **Holidays**

All full-time certified employees who work the minimum school year or more and classified employees who qualify are paid for four (4) annual holidays as indicated in the school calendar.

Certified personnel employed under a 240 day contract shall receive eight (8) additional paid holidays for a total of twelve (12) paid holidays designated by the Superintendent. Unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent, employees must work or be on paid leave the day prior to a scheduled holiday in order to receive the paid holiday.

Twelve-month classified employees (260 day employees and employees under a 240 day contract) shall receive eight (8) additional paid holidays for a total of twelve (12) paid holidays designated by the Superintendent. **03.122/03.222**

## **Annual Leave**

The employee must obtain approval from his/her immediate supervisor before taking annual leave. The employee's immediate supervisor may deny the request for annual leave if s/he deems that the time for such leave would cause undue hardship or interfere with the daily operations of the District.



**Certified Personnel:** Twelve (12) month certified employees are employed on a 240 day contract. Twenty (20) days of annual leave shall be granted to all certified staff employed on a twelve month basis. For the first year of employment, annual leave shall be accrued at the rate of 1/10 of the eligible annual leave per month, not to exceed total leave time available. Thereafter, all available annual leave days shall accrue at the beginning of each fiscal year. No annual leave may be taken during the first nine months of employment with the District without approval from the Superintendent/designee; however, annual leave time will accrue during this period of time.

The use of annual leave must be approved by the employee's immediate supervisor prior to the date(s) requested and shall not interrupt or place a hardship on school operations. As necessary, the employee's immediate supervisor may deny the requested annual leave time or request the employee to reschedule his/her annual leave to a time that is more appropriate to the maintenance/continuity of school operation. Unless otherwise approved by the immediate supervisor, annual leave shall not be taken while school is in session. Employees shall submit their request for the use of annual leave on the District's approved annual leave/personal leave request form, as well as Frontline Absence Management. Employees shall be responsible for accurately completing annual leave/personal leave forms that shall become part of their payroll record.

**Classified Personnel:** Twelve-month (260 day) classified employees shall accrue paid annual leave at the rate of one (1) day per month. No annual leave may be taken during the first nine (9) months of employment with the District without approval from the Superintendent/designee; however, annual leave time will accrue during this period.

Twelve month (260 day) classified employees may accumulate a maximum of twenty-four (24) unused paid annual leave days. There will be no compensation for additional accumulated unused annual leave. Leave may be taken only in whole or half day increments. The employee shall be paid his/her normal daily rate of pay exclusive of any overtime wages for each day of annual paid leave.

Full-time, twelve-month (240 day) classified employees shall receive a contract and twenty (20) days of annual leave.

For the first year of employment, annual leave shall be accrued at the rate of 1/10 of the eligible annual leave per month, not to exceed total leave time available. Thereafter, all available annual leave days shall accrue at the beginning of each fiscal year. No annual leave may be taken during the first nine months of employment with the District without approval from the Superintendent/designee; however, annual leave time will accrue during this period of time.

All twelve-month (240 day) employees shall be permitted to carry over and accumulate a maximum of forty (40) days of unused accrued annual leave. Compensation for accrued annual leave shall be made when an employee retires from the District at a rate not to exceed the daily salary rate calculated from the employee's last annual salary and shall be considered part of the employee's annual compensation.

**03.122/03.222**

## **Leave Policies**

In order to provide the highest level of service, employees are expected to be at work and on time every day. However, when circumstances dictate, the Board provides various types of leave under which absences may be authorized. Employees who must be absent should inform their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

Listed below is general information regarding several types of leave available to employees. Please note that in many cases a written request, submitted for approval before leave begins, is required.

Authorization of leave and time taken off from one's job shall be in accordance with a specific leave policy. Absence from work that is not based on appropriate leave for which the employee is qualified may lead to disciplinary consequences, up to and including termination of employment.

Employees on extended leave, including those on professional leave serving in charter schools, who plan to return the next school year must notify the Superintendent/designee in writing of their intention to return to work by April 1.

Employees shall not experience loss of income or benefits, including sick leave, when they are assaulted while performing assigned duties and the resulting injuries qualify them for workers' compensation benefits. **03.123/03.223**

For complete information regarding leaves of absence, refer to the District's *Policy Manual*.

## **Personal Leave**

Full-time employees are entitled to three (3) days of paid personal leave each school year. Employees who work for less than a full year are entitled to a prorata part of the authorized personal leave days. Your supervisor must approve the leave date, but no reasons will be required for the leave.

Unless approved by the Superintendent or designee, personal leave shall not be taken prior to September 5 or after May 10, immediately preceding or following a holiday or other scheduled break in the school calendar, between December 5 and the holiday break, or during any scheduled professional development or records day.

Except for emergencies, requests for the use of personal leave shall be made in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the leave date. Those employees making earliest application shall be given preference. Leave days approved and taken as personal leave shall not be changed to another form of approved leave at a later date. Employees taking personal leave must file a personal statement on their return to work stating that the leave was personal in nature. Other limitations are set out in Policy. **03.1231/03.2231**

## **Sick Leave**

Full-time employees are entitled to ten (10) days of paid sick leave each school year. Employees who work for less than a full year are entitled to a prorata part of the authorized sick leave days. Sick leave days not taken during the school year they were granted accumulate without limit for all employees. Upon return to work an employee claiming sick leave must file a personal statement or a certificate of a physician stating that the employee was ill or that the employee was absent for the purpose of attending to a member of the immediate family who was ill. **03.1232/03.2232**

Sick leave being used to supplement workers' compensation benefits in order to maintain the equivalent up to a full salary, shall only be deducted in the exact amount needed to reach that total. No one-half (1/2) or whole (1) days may be used.

See the "Retirement" section for information about reimbursement for unused sick leave at retirement.

## **Sick Leave Donation Program**

Certified employees who have accrued more than fifteen (15) days of sick leave may request to transfer sick leave days to another certified employee who is authorized to receive the donation. The number of days donated shall not reduce the employee's sick leave balance to less than fifteen (15) days.

Classified employees who have accrued more than fifteen (15) days of sick leave may request to transfer sick leave days to another employee who is authorized to receive the donation. The number of days donated shall not reduce the employee's sick leave balance to less than fifteen (15) days.

Employees are eligible to receive donated days if they meet the criteria established in statute.

Any sick leave not used shall be returned on a proportionate/pro-rated basis to employees who donated days. **03.1232/03.2232**

Applications to donate sick leave should be returned to Neysa Gardner.

## **Family and Medical Leave**

Employees are eligible for up to twelve (12) workweeks of family and medical leave each school year, if they have been employed by the District for twelve (12) months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) months preceding the start of the leave, and otherwise qualify for family and medical leave for one of the reasons below:

Classified employees who have completed one (1) year of continuous employment and who have actually worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12)-month period immediately preceding the requested leave are entitled to family and medical leave (FML). Employees who qualify may take up to twelve (12) workweeks of leave per year:

1. For the birth and care of an employee's newborn child or for placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care;
2. To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition, as defined by federal law;
3. For an employee's own serious health condition, as defined by federal law, that makes the employee unable to perform her/his job.
4. To address a qualifying exigency (need) defined by federal regulation arising out of the covered active duty or call to active duty involving deployment to a foreign country of the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent who serves in a reserve component or as an active or retired member of the Regular Armed Forces or Reserve in support of a contingency operation; and
5. To care for a covered service member (spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin) who has incurred or aggravated a serious injury or illness in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces that has rendered or may render the family member medically unfit to perform his/her duties or to care for a covered veteran with a serious injury or illness as defined by federal regulations.

When family and medical military caregiver leave is taken based on a serious illness or injury of a covered service member, an eligible employee may take up to twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave during a single twelve-month period.

## **BENEFITS AND LEAVE**

Paid leave used under this policy shall run concurrent with the twelve (12) workweeks to which the employee is entitled. Employees should contact their immediate supervisor as soon as they know they will need to use Family and Medical Leave. **03.12322/03.22322**

Following is a summary of the major provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provided by the United States Department of Labor.

**FML Basic Leave Entitlement**

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

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

**Military Family Leave Entitlements** - Eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter or parent is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered servicemember during a single 12-month period. A covered servicemember is: (1) a current 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 was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.\*

\*The FMLA definitions of “serious injury or illness” for current servicemembers and veterans are distinct from the FMLA definition of “serious health condition”.

**Benefits and Protections** - During FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee’s health coverage under any “group health plan” on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

Use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee’s leave.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least 12 months, have 1,250 hours of service in the previous 12 months\*, and if at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

\*Special hours of service eligibility requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.

**Definition of Serious Health Condition** - A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee’s job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

**Use of Leave** - An employee does not need to use this leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. Employees must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer’s operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may also be taken on an intermittent basis.

**Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave** - Employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, employees must comply with the employer’s normal paid leave policies.

**Employee Responsibilities** - Employees must provide 30 days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable. When 30 days notice is not possible, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable and generally must comply with an employer’s normal call-in procedures.

Employees must provide sufficient information for the employer to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Sufficient information may include that the employee is unable to perform job functions, the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or continuing treatment by a health care provider, or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave.

Employees also must inform the employer if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. Employees also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

**Employer Responsibilities** - Covered employers must inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice must specify any additional information required as well as the employees’ rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for the ineligibility.

Covered employers must inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee’s leave entitlement. If the employer determines that the leave is not FMLA-protected, the employer must notify the employee.

**Unlawful Acts by Employers** - FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to: interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided or to discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

**Enforcement** - An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer. FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

## **Quarantine Leave**

Employees shall receive at least ten (10) days for quarantine due to exposure to a reportable infectious or contagious disease under 902 KAR 2:020 or any other infectious or contagious disease designated as reportable to a local health department or the Department for Public Health by a valid order or administrative regulation of the local health department serving the school District or the Department for Public Health.

Leave granted shall be on a day-by-day basis, as needed, and shall not accumulate or carry over year to year, and shall not be transferrable to any other classification of paid leave established by KRS 161.155, KRS 161.154, or Board policy. **03.12323/03.22323**

## **Maternity Leave**

Employees may use up to thirty (30) days of sick leave immediately following the birth or adoption of a child.

The parent of a newborn or an employee who adopts a child may also request an unpaid leave of absence not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the birth or placement occurred. Thereafter, leave may be extended in increments of no more than one (1) year.

Employees eligible for family and medical leave are entitled to up to twelve (12) workweeks of unpaid leave to care for the employee's child after birth or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leave to care for an employee's healthy newborn baby or minor child who is adopted or accepted for foster care must be taken within twelve (12) months of the birth or placement of the child. **03.1233/03.2233**

The Board may only request medical information necessary to decide whether to grant a leave of absence; shall not request or retain unnecessary medical information; and shall not disclose any medical information received, except as permitted by state and federal law. **03.1233**

## **Extended Disability Leave**

Unpaid disability leave for the remainder of the school year is available to employees who need it. Thereafter, leave may be extended by the Board in increments of no more than one (1) year.

The Superintendent may require an employee to secure a medical practitioner's verification of a medical condition that will justify the need for disability leave. **03.1234/03.2234**

The Board may only request medical information necessary to decide whether to grant a leave of absence; shall not request or retain unnecessary medical information; and shall not disclose any medical information received, except as permitted by state and federal law. **03.1234**

## **Educational Leave**

**Certified Employees:** The Board may grant unpaid leave for a period no longer than one (1) year for educational or professional purposes. An additional year may be granted by the Board Leave may be granted for full-time attendance at universities or other training or professional activities. Leave will not be granted for part-time educational activities.

The Board shall grant a two (2) year unpaid leave to employees under continuing service contracts who have been offered employment with a charter school.

A teacher with continuing status shall notify the District of the teacher's intent to work in a converted charter school.

A teacher working in a converted charter school shall notify the District of the teacher's intent to return to employment the next school year by April 15 of each year of the granted leave.

Written application for educational/professional leave must be made at least sixty (60) days before the leave is to begin. **03.1235**

**Classified Employees:** Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the Board may grant short-term paid leaves to classified employees for training necessary to enhance skills required for their jobs or in anticipation of a different position within the school system. **03.2235**

## **Jury Leave**

Any employee who serves on a jury in a duly constituted local, state, or federal court shall be granted leave with full compensation for the period of his actual jury service.

The employee shall reimburse the Board for any compensation (except expense monies) received as jury pay.

Employees who will be absent from work to serve on a jury must notify their immediate supervisor in advance. **03.1237/03.2237**

## **Military/Disaster Services Leave**

Military leave is granted under the provisions and conditions specified in law. As soon as they are notified of an upcoming military-related absence, employees are responsible for notifying their immediate supervisor.

The Board may grant disaster services leave to requesting eligible employees. **03.1238/03.2238**

## **Unpaid Leave**

To minimize disruption of the educational program, the Board strongly discourages employees from requesting unpaid leave for extended periods during the regular school term for vacation and other similar reasons. Such requests may be approved under extraordinary circumstances only by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall utilize standards in determining what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance to include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Could this activity have been scheduled to take place outside the instructional calendar?
2. Will the absence of the employee disrupt educational services?

## **BENEFITS AND LEAVE**

3. Will approval of this request mean that the employee will be unable to fulfill critical portions of his/her contractual obligations?

Leave without pay, not to exceed five (5) days per request, may be granted by the Superintendent. Requests shall be made in writing and shall be submitted to the immediate supervisor and to the Superintendent for approval. Leave without pay days shall not accumulate. **03.123/03.223**

Taking unpaid leave at the end of your contract may disqualify you from the state provided health insurance/life insurance benefits during the summer months. Please contact the Benefits Coordinator at the Central Office for details.



## Section

# 3

## Personnel Management

### Transfer

Employees who wish to request a voluntary transfer should contact their immediate supervisor for assistance.

Employees charged with a felony offense may be transferred to a second position with no change in pay until such time as they are found not guilty, the charges are dismissed, their employment is terminated, or the Superintendent determines that further personnel action is not required. **03.1311/03.2311**

### Employee Discipline

Termination and nonrenewal of contracts are the responsibility of the Superintendent. **03.17/03.27/03.2711**

Certified employees who resign or terminate their contracts must do so in compliance with KRS 161.780.

### Employee Separation

An employee who voluntarily leaves the District shall complete an exit survey that includes, but is not limited to the position vacated, the employee's years of service in the position and in the District, if the employee is taking a similar position in another district, and the reason(s) provided for leaving the District. This information shall be reported to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) by the District in a system developed by KDE without providing personally identifiable information. **03.17/03.272**

### Retirement

Employees who decide to retire should give the Superintendent/designee notice as far in advance as possible, but no later than two (2) weeks before retirement. Retirement benefits are solely a matter of contract between the employee and her/his retirement system (the Teacher's Retirement System or the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority). Employees retiring from the District may be compensated for unused sick days only once, even if they are subsequently rehired.

The Board compensates employees only upon direct initial retirement for each unused sick day at the rate of thirty percent (30%) of the daily salary, based on the employee's last annual salary. **03.175/03.273**

## Evaluations

All employees are given an opportunity to review their evaluations and an opportunity to attach a written response to the evaluation. Any employee who believes that s/he was not fairly evaluated may appeal his/her evaluation in accordance with Policy. **03.18/03.28**

## Training/In-Service

The Board provides a high quality, personalized, and evidence-based program for professional development and staff trainings.

**Certified Personnel:** Unless an employee is granted leave, failure to complete and document required professional development during the academic year will result in a reduction in salary and may be reflected in the employee's evaluation. **03.19**

**Classified Personnel:** The Superintendent shall develop and implement a program for continuing training for selected classified personnel. **03.29**

## District Training

Procedure **03.19 AP.23** may be used to track completion of local and state employee training requirements that apply across the District and maintain a record for the information of the Superintendent and Board.

## Personnel Records

One (1) master personnel file is maintained in the Central Office for each employee. The Principal/supervisor may maintain a personnel folder for each person under his/her supervision. Employees may inspect their personnel files. **03.15/03.25**

## Retention of Recordings

Employees shall comply with the statutory requirement that school officials are to retain any digital, video, or audio recording as required by law. **01.61**

## Section

# 4

## Employee Conduct

### Absenteeism/Tardiness/Substitutes

Employees are expected to notify their immediate supervisor when they must be tardy or absent by entering their absence into the Frontline Management System. Staff in positions requiring substitutes must enter their absence in the Frontline Management System no later than 6:30 a.m. to request a substitute for the day.

### Staff Meetings

Unless they are on leave or have been excused by the administrator who called the meeting, staff members shall attend called meetings. **03.1335**

### Political Activities

Employees shall not promote, organize, or engage in political activities while performing their duties or during the work day. Promoting or engaging in political activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Encouraging students to adopt or support a particular political position, party, or candidate; or
- Using school property or materials to advance the support of a particular political position, party, or candidate. **03.1324/03.2324**

In addition, KRS 161.164 prohibits employees from taking part in the management of any political campaign for school board.

### Employee Religious Expression

The District shall not punish or prohibit an employee from, or punish an employee for, engaging in private religious expression otherwise protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution absent a showing that the employee has engaged in actual coercion. **03.13241/03.23241**

## Disrupting the Educational Process

Any employee who participates in or encourages activities that disrupt the educational process may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Behavior that disrupts the educational process includes, but is not limited to:

- conduct that threatens the health, safety or welfare of others;
  - conduct that may damage public or private property (including the property of students or staff);
  - illegal activity;
  - conduct that interferes with a student's access to educational opportunities or programs, including ability to attend, participate in, and benefit from instructional and extracurricular activities; or
  - conduct that disrupts delivery of instructional services or interferes with the orderly administration of the school and school-related activities or District operations.
- 03.1325/03.2325**

## Previewing Student Materials

All materials presented for student use or viewing shall be reviewed by the teacher before use. **08.234**

## Controversial Issues

Teachers who suspect that materials or a given issue may be inappropriate or controversial shall confer with the Principal prior to the classroom use of the materials or discussion of the issue. **08.1353**

## Drug-Free/Alcohol-Free Schools

Employees must not manufacture, distribute, dispense, be under the influence of, purchase, possess, use, or attempt to obtain, sell or transfer any of the following in the workplace or in the performance of duties:

1. Alcoholic beverages;
2. Controlled substances, prohibited drugs and substances, and drug paraphernalia; and or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance as defined by federal regulation.
3. Substances that "look like" a controlled substance. In instances involving look-alike substances, there must be evidence of the employee's intent to pass off the item as a controlled substance.

In addition, employees shall not possess prescription drugs for the purpose of sale or distribution.

Employee who violate the terms of the District's drug-free/alcohol-free policy may be suspended, non-renewed or terminated. Violations may result in notification of appropriate legal officials.

Employees who know or believe that the District's alcohol-free/drug-free policies have been violated must promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. **09.423**

Any employee convicted of any criminal drug statute involving illegal use of alcohol, illicit drugs, prescription drugs, or over-the-counter drugs shall, within five (5) working days after receiving notice of a conviction, provide notification of the conviction to the Superintendent.

Employees are subject to random or periodic drug testing following reprimand or discipline for misconduct involving illegal use of controlled substances. **03.13251/03.23251**

## **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse for CDL/CLP Operators**

Reporting of the following information on individual drivers to the federal Clearinghouse is required: verified positive, adulterated, or substituted test results; confirmed alcohol tests at .04 or higher; refusal to submit to required tests; the reporting of actual knowledge (as defined by federal regulation) of Department of Transportation (DOT) regulatory violations, including violations based on prohibited on duty, pre-duty, or post-accident alcohol use and controlled substance use; and regulatory return to duty and follow-up testing information as applicable.

The District shall not allow a driver to perform any safety-sensitive function if the results of a Clearinghouse query on the driver demonstrate a disqualification as provided by regulation and such driver may be subject to personnel action up to and including termination. **06.221**

## **Weapons**

Except where expressly and specifically permitted by Kentucky Revised Statute, carrying, bringing, using or possessing any weapon or dangerous instrument in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Except for School Resource Officers (SROs) as provided in KRS 158.4414, and authorized law enforcement officials, including peace officers and police as provided in KRS 527.070 and KRS 527.020, the Board prohibits carrying concealed weapons on school property. Staff members who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Employees who know or believe that this policy has been violated must promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. **05.48**

## **Tobacco, Alternative Nicotine Product, or Vapor Products**

The use of any tobacco product, alternative nicotine product, or vapor product as defined in KRS 438.305 is prohibited for all persons and at all times on or in all property, including any vehicle, that is owned, operated, leased, or contracted for use by the Board and while attending or participating in any school-related student trip or student activity and is in the presence of a student or students.

School employees shall enforce the policy. A person in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline or penalties as set forth by Board. 03.1327/03.2327/06.221

## **Use of School Property**

Employees are responsible for school equipment, supplies, books, furniture, and apparatus under their care and use. Employees shall immediately report to their immediate supervisor any property that is damaged, lost, stolen, or vandalized.

No employee shall perform personal services for themselves or for others for pay or profit during work time and/or using District property or facilities.

Employees may not use any District facility, vehicle, electronic communication system, equipment, or materials to perform outside work. These items (including security codes and electronic records such as e-mail) are District property.

District-owned telecommunication devices shall be used primarily for authorized District business purposes. However, occasional personal use of such equipment is permitted.

Employees may not use a code, access a file, or retrieve any stored communication unless they have been given authorization to do so. Employees cannot expect confidentiality or privacy of the information in their e-mail accounts. Authorized District personnel may monitor the use of electronic equipment from time to time.

Employees who drive any Board-owned vehicle and/or transport students must annually provide the Superintendent/designee with a copy of their driving record. Employees who receive a traffic citation during the year must report the citation to the Superintendent/designee before driving a Board-owned vehicle or transporting students. **03.1321/03.2321**

## **Use of Personal Cell Phones/Telecommunication Devices**

Due to privacy concerns, and except for emergency situations, personally owned recording devices are not to be used to create video or audio recordings or to take pictures while on duty or working with students except with prior permission from the Principal/designee or immediate supervisor. Such devices include, but are not limited to, personal cell phones and tablets.

For exceptions, see Board Policies **03.13214/03.23214**.

## **Health, Safety and Security**

It is the intent of the Board to provide a safe and healthful working environment for all employees. Employees should report any security hazard or conditions they believe to be unsafe to their immediate supervisor.

In addition, employees are required to notify their supervisor immediately after sustaining a work-related injury or accident. A report should be made within 24-48 hours of the occurrence and prior to leaving the work premises, UNLESS the injury is a medical emergency, in which case the report can be filed following receipt of emergency medical care.

The District shall follow established timelines in policy when making oral reports to the Kentucky Labor Cabinet to report employee fatalities, amputations, hospitalizations, , including hospitalization resulting from a heart attack, or the loss of an eye.

File a Report	After Hours Hotline
(502)-564-3070	(800) 321-6742

For information on the District’s plans for Hazard Communication, Bloodborne Pathogen Control, Lockout/Tagout, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Asbestos Management, contact your immediate supervisor or see the District’s *Policy Manual* and related procedures.

Employees should use their school/worksite two-way communication system to notify the Principal, supervisor or other administrator of an existing emergency. **03.14/03.24/05.4**

### **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**

The District shall maintain AEDs in designated locations throughout the District. An AED shall be used in emergency situations warranting its use in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent/designee. Expected users documented as having completed required training shall be authorized to use a defibrillator. **05.4**

### **Assaults and Threats of Violence**

Employees should immediately report any threats they receive (oral, written or electronic) to their immediate supervisor.

Under provisions of state law (KRS 158.150) and regulation (702 KAR 5:080), school personnel may remove threatening or violent students from a classroom or from the District’s transportation system pending further disciplinary action. However, before the need arises, employees should familiarize themselves with policy and procedures that are required. **09.425**

### **Child Abuse**

Any school personnel who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child under eighteen (18) is dependent, abused or neglected, or a victim of human trafficking, or is a victim of female genital mutilation, shall immediately make an oral report to a local law enforcement agency, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or its designated representative, the Commonwealth’s or County Attorney.

After making that oral report, the employee shall then immediately notify the Principal of the suspected abuse. If the Principal is suspected of child abuse, the employee shall notify the Superintendent/designee.

Upon notification, the Principal or the Superintendent/designee shall facilitate the cooperation of the school with the investigation of the report. Any person who knowingly causes intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in the investigation of the report shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional assistants, coaches, and extracurricular sponsors shall complete Board selected training on child abuse and neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting by January 31, 2017, and every two (2) years thereafter. School administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional assistants, coaches, and extracurricular sponsors hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the training within ninety (90) days of being hired, and every two (2) years thereafter. **09.227**

## **Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion**

Use of physical restraint and seclusion shall be in accordance with Board policy and procedure. **09.2212**

## **Civility**

Employees should be polite and helpful while interacting with parents, visitors and members of the public. Individuals who come onto District property or contact employees on school business are expected to behave accordingly. Employees who fail to observe appropriate standards of behavior are subject to disciplinary measures, including dismissal.

In cases involving physical attack of an employee or immediate threat of harm, employees should take immediate action to protect themselves and others. In the absence of an immediate threat, employees should attempt to calmly and politely inform the individual of the provisions of Policy **10.21** or provide him/her with a copy. If the individual continues to be discourteous, the employee may respond as needed, including, but not limited to: hanging up on the caller; ending a meeting; asking the individual to leave the school; calling the site administrator/designee for assistance; and/or calling the police.

As soon as possible after any such incident, employees should submit a written incident report to their immediate supervisor. **10.21**

## **Grievances/Communications**

The Superintendent/designee has developed specific procedures to assist employees in making a complaint. For full information refer to Policy **03.16/03.26** and related procedures.

Grievances are individual in nature and must be brought by the individual employee. The Board shall not hear grievances or complaints concerning simple disagreement or dissatisfaction with a personnel action. **03.16/03.26**

## **Outside Employment or Activities**

Employees may not perform any duties related to an outside job during their regular working hours. **03.1331/03.2331**

## **Required Reports**

Although you may be directed to make additional reports, the following reports are required by law and/or Board policy:



- Within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery or notification of a security breach, the District shall notify the Commissioner of the Kentucky State Police, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Attorney General, and the Education Commissioner. **01.61**
- An employee shall report to the Superintendent if the employee has been found by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to have abused or neglected a child, and if the employee has waived the right to appeal such a substantiated finding or the finding has been upheld upon appeal. **03.11/03.21**
- Report to the immediate supervisor damaged, lost, stolen, or vandalized school property or if District property has been used for unauthorized purposes. **03.1321/03.2321**
- If you know or believe that the District's alcohol-free/drug-free policies have been violated, promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. This is required if you know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the use, possession, or sale of controlled substances on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event. **03.13251/03.23251/09.423**
- Upon the request of a victim, school personnel shall report an act of domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse to a law enforcement officer. School personnel shall discuss the report with the victim prior to contacting a law enforcement officer.  

School personnel shall report to a law enforcement officer when s/he has a belief that the death of a victim with whom s/he has had a professional interaction is related to domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse. **03.13253/03.23253/09.425**
- Report potential safety or security hazards to the Principal and notify your supervisor immediately after sustaining a work-related injury or accident. **03.14/03.24, 05.4**
- Report to the Principal/immediate supervisor or the District's Title IX Coordinator if you, another employee, a student or a visitor to the school or District is being or has been subjected to harassment or discrimination. **03.162/03.262, 09.42811**
- Employees who believe or have been made aware that they or any other employee, student, or visitor has been subject to Title IX Sexual Harassment shall report it to the TIXC. Failure to make such a report shall be grounds for discipline up to and including termination. If the knowledge of the reporting party gives rise to reasonable cause to believe that the reported conduct constitutes child abuse Policy 09.227 or a reportable criminal offense Policy 09.221, notification of state officials shall be made as required by law. **03.1621/03.2621/09.428111**
- If you suspect that financial fraud, impropriety or irregularity has occurred, immediately report those suspicions to Principal or the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is the alleged party, employees should address the complaint to the Board chairperson. **04.41**
- Report to the Principal any student who is missing during or after a fire/tornado/bomb threat drill or evacuation. **05.41 AP.1/05.42 AP.1/05.43 AP.1**
- When notified of a bomb threat, scan the area noting any items that appear to be out of place, and report same to Principal/designee. **05.43 AP.1**

- If you know or believe that the District’s weapon policy has been violated, promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. This is required when you know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the carrying, possession, or use of a deadly weapon on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event. **05.48**
- District bus drivers taking medication either by prescription or without prescription shall report to their immediate supervisor and shall not drive if that medication may affect the driver's ability to safely drive a school bus or perform other driver responsibilities.**06.221**
- District employees who know or have reasonable cause to believe that a student has been the victim of a violation of any felony offense specified in KRS Chapter 508 (assault and related offenses) committed by another student while on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to the Principal of the school attended by the victim.

The Principal shall notify the parents, legal guardians, or other persons exercising custodial control or supervision of the student when the student is involved in such an incident.

Within forty-eight (48) hours of the original report of the incident, the Principal also shall file with the Board and the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police or the County Attorney a written report containing the statutorily required information. **09.2211**

- Notify the Principal as soon as possible when you use seclusion or physical restraint with a student, but no later than the end of the school day on which it occurs, and document in writing the incident by the end of the next school day. **09.2212**
- If you know or have reasonable cause to believe that a child under eighteen (18) is dependent, abused or neglected, or a victim of human trafficking, or is a victim of female genital mutilation, you shall **immediately** make an oral report to a local law enforcement agency or Kentucky State Police, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or its designated representative, the Commonwealth’s or County Attorney. (See **Child Abuse** section.) **09.227**
- District employees shall report to the Principal or to their immediate supervisor those situations that threaten, harass, or endanger the safety of students, other staff members, or visitors to the school or District. Such instances shall include, but are not limited to, bullying or hazing of students and harassment/discrimination of staff, students or visitors by any party. In serious instances of peer-to-peer bullying/hazing/harassment, employees must report to the alleged victim’s Principal, as directed by Board Policy 09.42811.

In certain cases, employees must do the following:

1. Report bullying and hazing to appropriate law enforcement authorities as required by policy 09.2211; and
  2. Investigate and complete documentation as required by policy 09.42811 covering federally protected areas. **09.422**
- Report to the Principal any threats you receive (oral, written or electronic). **09.425**

## Code of Ethics for Certified School Personnel

KRS 161.028 requires that the Education Professional Standards Board develop a professional code of ethics. The Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky Certified Personnel is codified in 16 KAR 1:020, establishes the ethical standards for Kentucky certified school personnel and establishes that violation of the code may be grounds for revocation or suspension of Kentucky teacher or administrator certification.

Per LaRue County Schools Board policy 03.17, employees who violate provisions of the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. **03.17**

SOURCE: 16 KAR 1:020

Section 1. Certified personnel in the Commonwealth:

(1) Shall strive toward excellence, recognize the importance of the pursuit of truth, nurture democratic citizenship, and safeguard the freedom to learn and to teach;

(2) Shall believe in the worth and dignity of each human being and in educational opportunities for all;

(3) Shall strive to uphold the responsibilities of the education profession, including the following obligations to students, to parents, and to the education profession:

(a) To students:

1. Shall provide students with professional education services in a nondiscriminatory manner and in consonance with accepted best practice known to the educator;
2. Shall respect the constitutional rights of all students;
3. Shall take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students;
4. Shall not use professional relationships or authority with students for personal advantage;
5. Shall keep in confidence information about students which has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
6. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students or colleagues;
7. Shall refrain from subjecting students to embarrassment or disparagement; and
8. Shall not engage in any sexually related behavior with a student with or without consent, but shall maintain a professional approach with students. Sexually related behavior shall include such behaviors as sexual jokes; sexual remarks; sexual kidding or teasing; sexual innuendo; pressure for dates or sexual favors; inappropriate physical touching, kissing, or grabbing; rape; threats of physical harm; and sexual assault.

(b) To parents:

1. Shall make reasonable effort to communicate to parents information which should be revealed in the interest of the student;
2. Shall endeavor to understand community cultures and diverse home environments of students;
3. Shall not knowingly distort or misrepresent facts concerning educational issues;
4. Shall distinguish between personal views and the views of the employing educational agency;
5. Shall not interfere in the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of others;

6. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain, for the promotion of political candidates, or for partisan political activities; and
7. Shall not accept gratuities, gifts, or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment, and shall not offer any of these to obtain special advantage.

(c) To the education profession:

1. Shall exemplify behaviors which maintain the dignity and integrity of the profession;
2. Shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities;
3. Shall keep in confidence information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
4. Shall not use coercive means or give special treatment in order to influence professional decisions;
5. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility only on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications; and
6. Shall not knowingly falsify or misrepresent records of facts relating to the educator's own qualifications or those of other professionals.

Section 2. Violation of this administrative regulation may result in cause to initiate proceedings for revocation or suspension of Kentucky certification as provided in KRS 161.120 and 704 KAR 20:585.

## Appendix

This Appendix contains the following documents:

- Nutrition Integrity Statement
- District Wellness Policy

## Nutrition Integrity

The Board is committed to the standards and goals contained in the nutrition integrity policy recommended by the Kentucky School Nutrition Association and incorporated by reference.

## District Wellness Policy

### SCHOOL WELLNESS COMMITTEE

#### *Committee Role and Membership*

The District will form a wellness team consistent with the guidelines set forth by state regulations. This committee will meet at least once per year to review the policy and to discuss the individual schools wellness committee minutes. The Wellness Committee will consist of members from each school, the Board of Education, the Lincoln Trail Health Department and the community. The Wellness Committee will also be responsible for evaluating the policy each year through the Wellness School Assessment Tool that has been provided for schools to maintain their perspective policies.

#### **Members:**

DPP	BOE	Athletic Director	LCHS	Nurse	HES
Board Member	BOE	YSC	YSC	S.A.M.	ALES
Food Service Coordinator	BOE	P.E. Teacher	LCHS	Counselor	ALES
Director of Finance	BOE	P.E. Teacher	LCMS	Assistant Principal	LCMS
Instructional Supervisor	BOE	P.E. Teacher	HES		
Health Dept. Representative	LTDHD	P.E. Teacher	ALES		

### SMART SNACKS CALCULATOR

[https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take\\_action/schools/snacks\\_and\\_beverages/smart\\_snacks/alliance\\_product\\_calculator/](https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take_action/schools/snacks_and_beverages/smart_snacks/alliance_product_calculator/)

### ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TOPICS IN HEALTH EDUCATION

- How physical activity can contribute to healthy weight.
- How physical activity can contribute to the learning process.
- How physical activity, fitness and exercise differ.
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity.
- Decreasing time with video games and TV.
- Preventing injury while participating in physical activities.
- How drugs and alcohol can not only hinder you in physical activity but can be dangerous.
- How to influence others to participate in activities that are deemed appropriate for a healthy lifestyle.
- How to avoid negatives that hinder participation in physical activities.

## COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION

The Comprehensive District Improvement Plan and The Comprehensive School Improvement Plan will show:

- District Schools will use Health and PE core content studies to deliver classroom instruction and activities to develop student awareness and knowledge of health related risk behavior.
- Cool School.
- Partner with Extension Office to provide to students/staff USDA Nutrition Education Information.
- Utilize Health Department to educate students and staff on healthy options for eating through education.
- Schools will review their PLCS program review yearly and make adjustments to meet the requirements set forth in the demonstrators.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

District Schools will follow all physical education requirements of KDE and goals set by District Wellness Policy

- Fuel up to play 60
- Fitness Club
- Tennis and Golf Camps (FRYSC)
- Schools 5K's
- Walking Club
- Tour de LaRue
- Intramural Activities

Students at the high school level will participate daily during their freshmen year and will have the ability to participate in upper levels of Physical Education.

Student teacher ratios will be determined for Physical Education classes by the individual SBDM's and will be recommended by this committee that the number of students will be conducive to student success.

Elementary and Middle Schools will provide for all students Physical Education opportunities established through individual curriculum committees and SBDM Council's.

Recess will be available for all elementary students as determined by SBDM councils.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

LaRue County Schools will have services readily available that will include preventative services, emergency care, and management of most health conditions and will monitor immunizations, health physicals, eye and dental screening and will ensure they are kept up to date:

- Provide or oversee screening for scoliosis, vision and hearing.
- Will distribute all medication and will educate and train staff to distribute student medication when a School Nurse is not available.
- Provide training in health care procedures for staff that care for students with special needs.
- Dental screenings and varnishing for students 5 and under.
- LCS has taken a step in providing nurses for the elementary schools and the middle school.

## SCHOOL NUTRITION

District schools will promote healthy food choices in compliance with federal, state and local requirements through the following:

- All foods sold to students during the school day are will be in compliance with USDA Smart Snacks
  - Federal nutrition standards.
- Snacks and beverages sold to students participating in on-site programs after school ends will meet USDA Smart Snacks federal nutrition standards. Staff will have access to the USDA Smart Snacks calculator on the school web-site under the LaRue County Nutrition Department section.
- School administrators shall encourage the foods and beverages served for celebrations to meet the USDA Smart Snacks federal nutrition standards by utilizing the USDA Smart Snacks calculator available on the school nutrition web-site.
- The complete Smart Snacks regulations will be available to all staff and parents on the District nutrition web-site.
- Free, safe, and fresh drinking water is available to all students and staff throughout the school day via water fountains in various places throughout the building and in the school cafeterias.
- School administrators will highly encourage the use of non-food items for fundraisers, if food items are used they will not be made available to students during the school day.
- School breakfast will be made readily available to all students via Breakfast in the Classroom at the elementary level and through hallway breakfast carts in the middle and high schools.
- Breakfast and lunch meals, including low fat milk will meet current USDA nutrition standards.



- The Community Eligibility Program will be implemented in all schools thus providing a “cashless” meal availability for all students to further protect student privacy and eliminate all discriminatory elements.
- Schools will strive to increase both breakfast and lunch student participation through various methods including implementation of the Community Eligibility Program and staff encouragement for students to access healthy, fresh and nutritious school meals rather than bring meals from home with lower nutrition standards.
- LaRue County School campuses will be a “closed campus” in that students will not be allowed to eat breakfast or lunch at other locations rather than the school cafeterias.
- Meal times will be adequate and administrators will strive to allow 20 minutes or more for students to eat lunch while also encouraging breakfast in the classroom or second chance breakfast.
- All food service staff will receive annual re-certification training as required by both state and federal regulations.
- School administrators will encourage a pleasant and well supervised environment for school meals.
- All school menus will be readily available with nutrition for all foods served on the District web-site.
- Whenever possible, recess will be encouraged to take place before school lunch.

**SCHOOL COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

District schools may provide mental health counseling services and referrals to Social Services for students through FRC/YSC, school counselors and other local agencies. Court ordered students will also be afforded counseling during the school day. Individual assessments will be made upon referral and appropriate services will be administered with parent consent according to FRYSC and District Policy and implementation to ensure the students ultimate success in the classroom. Suicide training will be made available to all staff members at the beginning of each school year.

**HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

Healthy School Environment: Schools throughout the District will provide and maintain a healthy school environment as listed below:

- Each elementary school will establish a school-wide approach to addressing expectations and procedures for student behavior.
- Each elementary school will develop a school-wide character education program.
- Each elementary school will use a behavior interventionist to promote positive behavior, positive school climate, and healthy life habits.
- The middle school will implement a program to recognize students who exhibit positive character traits and promote academic achievement.

- Where appropriate, mentoring programs will be implemented to reach out to at risk students to help maintain a healthy life socially and academically.
- Schools will not use food for rewards unless these items meet the smart snacks calculator established by Federal Regulations.
- The high school will implement a leadership group program to help with the inclusion of new students and to promote a healthy school environment.
- Where appropriate, student advisory groups and extra-curricular clubs will address other issues that affect school climate.
- The middle and high school will each maintain an Ambassador Program to help with the inclusion of new students and to promote a healthy school environment.

**PROMOTION OF HEALTHY STAFF**

- All employees will be given the opportunity for Living Well screenings.
- StayWell will help all staff to look at healthier alternatives.
- LTDHD will help staff with wellness checks each year. (Health Screenings).
- YSC will collaborate with other District staff to provide physical activity clubs at each school or staff.
- Tobacco free environment is provided on all school grounds per District Policy.
- Our District will help educate staff on the importance of stress reduction by way of educational materials and continuing programs.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Family and Community Involvement: The District will offer on-going opportunities for families to be involved in health and wellness activities, mental wellness activities, and to interact with community agencies and businesses which promote health and wellness. Activities may include health/resource fairs; speakers on pertinent topics; exercise classes, walking clubs. Information regarding community health and wellness activities, as well as activities that promote mental wellness, will be made available regularly.
- Partnership for reduced rates at SNAP and E-town Swim & Fitness.
- 
- Partner with local health department to provide materials to promote healthier life style.
- Partner with local mental health agencies to provide materials to promote and encourage mental wellness.
- Parent night at all District Schools.
- Cooperative Extension Services.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE MARKETING**

All marketing on the school campus during the school day shall be of only those foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards of the Smart Snack in School Nutrition Standards (7 C.F.R 210.11 and 702 KAR 6:090).

**RECORDKEEPING**

The District and each school in the District shall maintain the following records:

- A copy of the written wellness policy or plan;
- Documentation on how the policy and assessments are made available to the public;
- The most recent assessment of implementation of the policy;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including who was involved in the process and how stakeholders were made aware of their ability to participate; and
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with annual public notification requirements and annual reporting to the KDE.

**EVALUATION**

The Coordinated School Health Committee is made up of representatives from District schools, food service professionals, school health professionals, school board member, administration and other interested community leaders.

This committee will annually evaluate the Wellness Policy and submit findings to the Superintendent or Designee no later than the regular May Board Meeting.

District Wellness Policy will be implemented upon Board approval of the policy and approval of each subsequent revision of the policy. The superintendent/designee shall monitor compliance with this policy. At the school level, the Principal/designee will monitor compliance with the wellness policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance as directed by the superintendent/designee.

Policy will be evaluated annually by the District Wellness Committee with input from a variety of stakeholders including students, parents, faculty and staff, Board members, and the District Wellness Committee. Successful completion of policy implementation and/or need for revisions will be measured in a variety of methods including but not limited to: Effective School Surveys, National School Lunch/Breakfast Daily Production Records, Daily Count & Cash Reconciliation Reports, Daily Participation Reports, Vending Machine Sales Records, parent, student and principal surveys as deemed appropriate. Progress reports and any recommended revisions will be presented to the Board of Education for formal adoption of the District Wellness Policy in June of each year.

District Wellness & Nutrition Integrity Policy will be printed and added to student handbooks, personnel handbook, and the District's website. Progress reports on implementation and approved updates to the policy will be presented annually at the Board of Education June meeting and will be available for public review.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

The Wellness Plan submitted to KDE shall include within the findings and recommendations the following:

1. Extent to which the District is in compliance with this Policy.
2. A comparison of how the District measures up to model wellness policies provided by recognized state and national authorities.
3. A description of the measurable progress made towards reaching goals of the District wellness policy and addressing any gaps in the wellness report for the previous year.

**THIS POLICY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE FOLLOWING BOARD APPROVAL.**

**REFERENCES:**

P. L. 111-296  
KRS 160.290

Adopted/Amended: 2017

# Acknowledgement Form

2023-2024 School Year

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have received a copy  
*Employee Name*

of the Employee Handbook issued by the District, and understand and agree that I am to review this handbook in detail and to consult District and school policies and procedures with my Principal/supervisor if I have any questions concerning its contents.

I understand and agree:

1. that this handbook is intended as a general guide to District personnel policies and that it is not intended to create any sort of contract between the District and any one or all of its employees;
2. that the District may modify any or all of these policies, in whole or in part, at any time, with or without prior notice; and
3. that in the event the District modifies any of the policies contained in this handbook, the changes will become binding on me immediately upon issuance of the new policy by the District.

*I understand that as an employee of the District I am required to review and follow the policies set forth in this Employee Handbook and I agree to do so.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Employee Name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Employee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Return this signed form to the Central Office.**