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NEMO VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**LICENSED PERSONNEL
POLICY**

2011-2012

LEA #1503

Alternative Licensure Program, no prior teaching license

Each employee newly hired by the district to teach under the alternative licensure program (ALP) shall initially be placed on the salary schedule in the category of a bachelor's degree with no experience, unless the ALP employee has previous teaching experience which requires a different placement on the schedule. Upon receiving his/her teaching license, the employee shall be moved to the position on the salary schedule that corresponds to the level of education degree earned by the employee. Employee's degrees which are not relevant to the ALP's position shall not apply when determining his/her placement on the salary schedule. An alternative licensed teacher shall be eligible for step increases with each successive year of employment, just as would a teacher possessing a traditional teaching license.

Licensed employee, seeking additional area or areas of licensure

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

Increase of Degree

Additional hours earned in the certified personnel employee's field or related field may change the certified personnel's salary index. These hours do not necessarily have to be toward a higher degree. All hours which apply to a bracket step increase on the salary schedule must be graduate hours earned after the Bachelor's Degree has been earned.

If a certified employee increases his/her status before their contract year ends, the contract may be amended upward to include that degree, under condition that the certified employee has provided the Superintendent a certified copy of his/her transcripts reflecting the additional hours earned.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-201, 202, 2403
 A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(f)(4)

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.
Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.2—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS

Evaluations of certified personnel shall be undertaken at least annually.

Evaluations shall be based on a combination of scheduled and informal observations. Additional and more frequent informal observations will be done should it be determined by the administration that the observations would be helpful in addressing performance problems.

Procedures for evaluation are to be developed cooperatively by administrators and certified staff, and updated on an ongoing basis to reflect the needs of the certified personnel and the goals of the educational program. Areas of professional performance to be evaluated should be clearly defined and should be related to the philosophy and objectives of the school.

Certified personnel will be given the opportunity to have consultation after an evaluation. They will be given a copy of the evaluation, and will be given an opportunity to acknowledge in writing any formal evaluation report or documentation prior to its placement in the personnel file. Certified personnel who are having difficulties meeting expectations will be given the opportunity to participate in professional development activities designed to overcome identified deficiencies.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1504

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.3—CERTIFIED STAFF ATTENDANCE

- A. ILLNESS – In the case of absences because of personal or immediate family illness, as defined, the certified staff member is asked to notify the principal at the earliest possible moment, preferably the day before the expected absence. If possible, the principal should be notified the day before the certified staff member expects to return.
- B. DAILY – Certified staff personnel are expected to report and depart at a time specified by the administration, unless they are on other assigned duty.
- C. SCHOOL TIME – All personnel are not to leave the building or grounds during the school hours, including during preparation time or during a lunch break, without clearing such absences with the principal. Supervisory employees will leave word with the secretary where they may be reached.

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.4—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL REDUCTION IN FORCE

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

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

If a reduction in force becomes necessary in a licensure area or specific grade level(s), the RIF shall be conducted for each licensure area and/or specific grade levels on the basis of each employee's points as determined by the schedule contained in this policy. The certified employee, in an occupational category identified as being overstaffed by the superintendent, who has the fewest points will be laid off first. There is no right or implied right for any certified employee to "bump" or displace any other certified employee.

POINTS

Years in profession	1 point per academic year
Years in district	1 point per academic year
Education	1 point BSE degree 2 points Masters and above
Certification areas	1 point for each area
National Teacher Certification	1 point
Current year's identified shortage area	1 point per area

A certified employee with full licensure in a position shall prevail over a certified employee with greater points. "Full licensure" means a permanent, non-contingent license to teach in a subject area or grade level, in contrast with a license that is provisional, temporary, or conditional on the fulfillment of additional course work or passing exams or any other requirement of the Arkansas Department of Education, other than the attainment of professional development training. Total years of service to the district shall include non-continuous years of service. Working fewer than 120 days in a school year shall not constitute a year. All points awarded must be verified by documents on file with the district by October 1, of the current school year. Each certified employee's points shall be totaled with the certified employee's ranked by the total points from the highest to lowest in the licensure areas in which they have been assigned within the last two years, including the current year. In the event that a certified employee's assignment is different this school year from the previous school year, separate point totals shall be developed for each area of assignment. In the event that two employees

subject to a RIF have the same number of points, the employee with the highest number of points as determined by the schedule in this policy shall be retained. The teacher with the fewest points will be laid off first. In the event two or more employees have the same number of points, the teacher(s) shall be retained whose name(s) appear first in the board's minutes of the date of hire. The point totals for each licensed certified employee will be kept in file in the superintendent's office for review. Upon review of the point total, each certified employee has ten (10) working days within which to appeal his or her assignment of points with the superintendent whose decision shall be final.

In the event the district is involved in an annexation or consolidation, certified employees from all the districts involved will be ranked according to the scale adopted. A year of teaching at an annexed or consolidated district will be counted the same as a year at the receiving or resulting district.

Pursuant to any reduction in force and as part of it, the salaries of all certified employees will be brought in compliance, by a partial RIF if necessary, with the receiving district's salary schedule and further adjustments made if length of contract or job assignment change.

If a certified employee is non-renewed under this policy, he or she shall be offered an opportunity to fill a vacancy for which he or she is qualified for a period of up to two (2) years. No employee shall be recalled for a position with greater responsibility, contract length or compensation (except for changes to the salary schedule that occurred during the period of time the employee was absent) than the position he or she lost due to RIF. The non-renewed certified employee shall be recalled for a period of two (2) years in reverse order of the layoff to any position for which he or she is qualified. Notice of vacancies shall be by certified mail and the non-renewed certified employee shall have ten (10) working days from the date the notification is received in which to accept the offer of a position. A lack of response or a certified employee's refusal of a position shall end the district's obligation to make any further recall offers. It is wholly the responsibility of the certified employee to furnish the district a current address and phone number yearly by August 1.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-2407

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.5—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL CONTRACT — RETURN

Written Contracts -- Election of school certified personnel is to be evidenced by a written contract which is binding on both the employee and the employer.

Annual Contracts -- The annual contract of all certified personnel shall be renewed unless the procedure outlined in “cause and procedure for dismissal” has been followed. Follow Arkansas Code 6-17-1501.

A survey of certified personnel’s intentions is to be completed and returned prior to the March School Board meeting.

Certified personnel, upon written request by the certified personnel, may be released from their contracts by the Board upon thirty (30) days notice. No certified personnel shall be required to sign and return a contract for the next year any sooner than thirty (30) days after the contract is issued to the certified personnel. The date of receipt of the contract shall be presumed to be the date of a cover memo which will be attached to the contract. The certified personnel shall have the right to unilaterally rescind any signed contract no later than ten (10) days after the end of the school year.

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.6—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE TRAINING

All employees shall attend all local professional development training sessions as directed by a supervisor.

The District shall develop and implement a plan for the professional development of its certified employees. The district's plan shall, in part, align district resources to address the professional development activities identified in each school's ACSIP. The plan shall describe how the district's categorical funds will be used to address deficiencies in student performance and any identified academic achievement gaps between groups of students. At the end of each school year, the district shall evaluate the professional development activities' effectiveness in improving student performance and closing achievement gaps.

Each certified employee shall receive a minimum of sixty (60) hours of professional development annually to be fulfilled between June 1 and May 31. Professional development hours earned in excess of sixty (60) in the designated year cannot be carried over to the next year. Certified employees who are prevented from obtaining the required professional development hours due to their illness or the illness of an immediate family member as defined in A.C.A. § 6-17-1202 have until the end of the following school year to make up the deficient hours. This extension does not absolve the employee from also obtaining the following year's required 60 hours of professional development.

The goal of all professional development activities shall be improved student achievement and academic performance that results in individual, school-wide, and system-wide improvement designed to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency on the state criterion-referenced assessments. The district's professional development plan shall demonstrate scientifically research-based best practice, and shall be based on student achievement data and in alignment with applicable ADE Rules and/or Arkansas code.

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

Flexible professional development hours (flex hours) are those hours which an employee is allowed to substitute professional development activities, different than those offered by the district, but which still meet criteria of either the employee's Individual Improvement Plan or the school's ACSIP, or both. The district shall determine on an annual basis how many, if any, flex hours of professional development it will allow to be substituted for district scheduled professional development offerings. The determination may be made at an individual building, a grade, or by subject basis. The district administration and the building principal have the authority to require attendance at specific professional development activities. Employees must receive advance approval from the building principal for activities they wish to have qualify for flex professional development hours. To the fullest extent possible, professional development activities are to be scheduled and attended such that teachers do not miss their regular teaching assignments. Six (6) approved flex hours credited toward fulfilling the sixty (60) hour requirement shall equal one contract day. Hours of professional development earned by an employee that is not at the request of the district and is in excess of sixty (60) or not pre-approved by the building principal shall not be credited toward fulfilling the required number of contract days for that employee. Hours earned that count toward the required sixty (60) also count toward the required number of contract days for that employee. Employees shall be paid their daily rate of pay for professional development

hours earned at the request of the district that necessitate the employee work more than the number of days required by their contract.

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

To receive credit for his/her professional development activity each employee is responsible for obtaining and submitting documents of attendance, or completion for each professional development activity he/she attends. Documentation is to be submitted to the building principal or designee.

Teachers and administrators are required to obtain sixty (60) hours of approved professional development annually over a five-year period as part of licensure renewal requirements. At least six (6) of the sixty (60) annual hours shall be in the area of educational technology.

Teachers are required to receive at least two hours annually of their sixty (60) required hours of professional development designed to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

Teachers who provide instruction in Arkansas history shall receive at least two (2) hours of professional development in Arkansas history as part of the sixty (60) hours required annually.

Personnel who are likely to use automated external defibrillators shall receive the training required by Rule. Such training shall count toward the required annual hours of professional development.

Administrators are required to receive at least three hours annually of their sixty (60) required hours of professional development designed to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation. Each administrator's professional development is required to also include training in data disaggregation, instructional leadership and fiscal management.

Teachers required by the superintendent, building principal, or their designee to take approved training related to teaching an advance placement class for a subject covered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service shall receive up to thirty (30) hours of credit toward the sixty (60) hours of professional development required annually.

Certified personnel may earn up to twelve (12) hours of professional development for time they are required to spend in their instructional classroom, office or media center prior to the first day of student/teacher interaction **provided** the time is spent in accordance with the state law and current ADE rules that deal with professional development. The hours may be earned through online professional development approved by the ADE provided the professional development relates to the district's ASCIP and the teacher's professional growth plan.

Teachers are eligible to receive fifteen (15) professional development hours for a college course that meets the criteria identified in law and the applicable ADE rules. The board shall determine if the hours earned apply

toward the required sixty (60). A maximum of thirty (30) hours may be applied toward the sixty (60) hours of professional development required annually.

Employees who do not receive or furnish documentation of the required annual professional development jeopardize the accreditation of their school and academic achievement of their students. Failure of an employee to receive sixty (60) hours of professional development in any given year, unless due to illness as permitted by law, shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Approved professional development activities may include conferences, workshops, institutes, individual learning, mentoring, peer coaching, study groups, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification, distance learning, internships, district/school programs, and approved college/university course work. Professional development activities should be consistent with the objectives developed by the National Staff Development Council Standards.

Professional development activities shall relate to the following areas: content (K-12); instructional strategies; assessment; advocacy/leadership; systemic change process; standards, frameworks, and curriculum alignment; supervision; mentoring/coaching; educational technology; principles of learning/developmental stages; cognitive research; and building a collaborative learning community.

Legal References: Arkansas State Board of Education: Standards of Accreditation 15.04
 ADE Rules Governing Professional Development
 A. C.A. § 6-10-122, 123
 A.C.A. § 6-15-404(f)(2)
 A.C.A. § 6-17-703
 A.C.A. § 6-17-704
 A.C.A. § 6-17-705
 A.C.A. § 6-17-1202
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1004(c)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
 A.C.A. § 6-20-2303(14)

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Last Revised:

3.7—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL DRUG TESTING

Scope of Policy

Each person hired for a position which allows or requires that the employee operate any type of motor vehicle which is privately owned and operated for compensation, or which is owned, leased or otherwise operated by, or for the benefit of the District, and is operated for the transportation of children to or from school or school sponsored activity shall undergo a physical examination, including a drug test. Each person's initial employment for a job entailing a safety sensitive function is conditioned upon the district receiving a negative drug test result for that employee. The offer of employment is also conditioned upon the employee's signing an authorization for the request for information by the district from the Commercial Driver Alcohol and Drug Testing Database.

Methods of Testing

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

Definition

Safety sensitive function includes:

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

Requirements

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

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

Prohibitions

- A. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater;

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

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

Testing for Cause

Drivers involved in an accident in which there is a loss of another person's life shall be tested for alcohol and controlled substances as soon as practicable following the accident. Drivers shall also be tested for alcohol within eight (8) hours and for controlled substances within thirty two (32) hours following an accident for which they receive a citation for a moving traffic violation if the accident involved: 1) bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident, or 2) one or more motor vehicles incurs disabling damage as a result of the accident requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.

Refusal to Submit

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

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

Consequences for Violations

Drivers who engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy, who refuse to take a required drug or alcohol test, refuse to sign the request for information required by law, or who exceed the acceptable limits for the respective tests shall no longer be allowed to perform safety sensitive functions. Actions regarding their continued

employment shall be taken in relation to their inability to perform these functions and could include termination or non-renewal of their contract of employment.

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

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

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-19-108
 A.C.A. § 27-23-201 et seq.
 49 C.F.R. § 382-101 – 605
 49 C.F.R. § part 40
 Arkansas Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing
 Maintenance and Operations of Arkansas Public School Buses and Physical
 Examinations of School Bus Drivers

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Last Revised:

3.8—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL SICK LEAVE

Definitions

1. “Employee” is a full-time employee of the District.
2. “Sick Leave” is absence from work due to illness, whether by the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family, or due to a death in the family. The principal shall determine whether sick leave will be approved on the basis of a death outside the immediate family of the employee.
3. “Current Sick Leave” means those days of sick leave for the current contract year, which leave is granted at the rate of one day of sick leave per contracted month, or major part thereof.
4. “Accumulated Sick Leave” is the total of unused sick leave, up to a maximum of ninety (90) days accrued from previous contract, but not used.
5. “Immediate family” means an employee’s spouse, child, parent (in-laws included), grandparent, sibling (in-laws included), or any other relative provided the other relative lives in the same household as the teacher.
6. “Bereavement Leave” allows an employee to use up to five (5) sick leave days per school year, already included in the employee’s current and/or accumulated sick leave, for bereavement leave, at their discretion.

Sick Leave

Up to 15 days of sick leave, if available, may be taken in connection with the placement, attempted adoption, or adoption of a minor child or children in any 36 month time period. Leave may include time off work needed for home studies, documentation, or travel to and from the adoptive child’s location, or for other necessary activities associated with adoption. This time will be counted as part of the 12 weeks of FMLA leave available, consistent with federal law.

Pay for sick leave shall be at the employee’s daily rate of pay, which is that employee’s total contracted salary, divided by the number of days employed as reflected in the contract. Absences in excess the employee’s accumulated and current sick leave shall result in a deduction from the employee’s pay at the daily rate as defined above. Adjustments for sick leave deductions will be made on the salary check or series of checks, as determined by the Superintendent, issued immediately following the absence/ absences.

Each employee working twenty (20) or more hours per week shall be allowed nine (9) days each year (that day being equal to the normal contracted amount of hours daily. Example: An employee who works ½ day will receive 9 -- ½ days each year.), cumulative to ninety (90) days, for sickness of the employee or member of the immediate family and for which full salary shall be paid. Certified personnel which are contracted for more than nine (9) months are allowed one (1) full day per month, cumulative to ninety (90) days.

At the discretion of the principal (or Superintendent), the District may require a written statement of the employee's physician. Failure to provide such documentation of illness may result in sick leave not being paid, or in dismissal.

Absence from work for three hours will be considered ½ day absence. Absence from work for five or more hours will be considered a full day.

Total sick leave for the contract year is credited to the certified employee at the beginning of the contract year. If an employee leaves, resigns, or is dismissed from his employment position for any reason before the end of the school term, the district will deduct from his last pay check, full compensation for any days sick leave was used in excess of the number of days earned or available. Should the last pay check not be enough to cover the deductions, the employee is responsible for re-paying the district any amount due because of unearned sick leave. The district reserves the right to recover this money in accordance with the law.

When claiming sick leave, the employee must complete a sick leave form on the day of his/her return to duty and file it with the building secretary. If an employee fails or refuses to file or sign his/her sick leave sheet upon return, then that absence will be deducted from his/her pay.

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

Excessive absenteeism, whatever the cause, to the extent that the employee is not carrying out his assigned duties to an extent that the education of students is substantially adversely affected (at the determination of the principal or Superintendent) may result in dismissal.

Sick Leave and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave

When an employee takes sick leave, the district shall determine if the leave qualifies for FMLA leave. The district may request additional information from the employee to help make the applicability determination. If the leave qualifies under the FMLA, the district will notify the employee, either orally or in writing, of the decision within two workdays. If the leave is intermittent as defined in this policy and the circumstances of the leave don't change, the district is only required to notify the employee once of the determination regarding the applicability of sick leave and/or FMLA leave. To the extent the employee has accrued paid leave, any leave taken that qualifies for FMLA leave shall be paid leave and charged against the employee's accrued leave.

Payment for unused sick leave at retirement or T-DROP

A one-time payment shall be paid to all full-time staff members upon retirement with at least ten (10) years of service to the Nemo Vista School District who is considered to have retired, based on ATRS rules and who leaves their employment with the district. Full-time bus driver contract positions do not qualify as a full-time staff member. This one-time payment may be paid at the employee's option upon entering T-DROP under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and who continues to work as a contracted, certified employee for the district. This payment will be \$40.00 times the number of unused sick leave days, up to a maximum of ninety

(90) days. A T-DROP employee who has elected to have his or her sick leave days converted to cash will have those days deducted from the sick leave balance, and will not be eligible to receive this benefit again upon retirement. No employee who has ever received this benefit can ever receive it again, regardless of re-employment by the district.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-1201 et seq.
 29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.
 29 CFR 825.100 et seq.

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.8-1 — CERTIFIED CATASTROPHIC SICK LEAVE

“Catastrophic Sick Leave” is defined as sick leave due to catastrophe, of the employee, employee’s spouse, employee’s children, or any relative living within the employee’s household, that exceeds forty (40) days of leave taken by the employee during the school year. These forty (40) days will be considered leave from the employee’s position, regardless of whether sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave, and/or docking at a daily rate of pay have been taken.

“Catastrophe” is defined as any illness/sickness that is neither elective, nor normal in occurrence. Examples of normal illness are, but not limited to: pregnancy, etc. Examples of elective illness are, but not limited to: cosmetic operations (that are not a requirement of catastrophic recovery), medical surgeries that are not considered emergencies, etc.

A catastrophic sick leave committee, made of five (5) teachers and one (1) principal, will be designed by the Superintendent. This committee will serve to review the catastrophic leave request, once the forty (40) days of sick leave requirement for the school year has been met, and determine whether the leave is to be considered catastrophic.

An employee submitting a catastrophic leave request may only request up to a maximum of forty (40) days per contract year. The employee must have used all sick leave, personal leave, and/or vacation leave, if applicable, before making this request.

If a catastrophic sick leave request is reviewed by the designated committee, and determined to be deemed as catastrophic, the committee will initiate a campus-wide e-mail to certified staff only, alerting them of the situation only, the employee requesting the leave will not be identified. Then, on a voluntary basis only, certified employees can respond to the e-mail request their desire to donate up to five (5) sick leave days per catastrophic leave request. Those certified staff that voluntarily respond, by e-mail to the designated contact, will be allowed to donate on a first come basis, up to the maximum number of days that have been requested and approved by the committee. An e-mail response will be sent to those certified staff that respond to the request, as to whether their donation will or will not be included in the requested catastrophic leave days.

Employees submitting a catastrophic leave request must be aware that their request will be reviewed by a committee, as stated above, and that even though their request may be deemed by the committee as catastrophic; the donation of days is on a voluntary basis only. No employee is required or obligated to donate days to a catastrophic leave request.

Date Adopted: Adopted by the Board on April 21, 2011.

Last Revised:

3.10—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL PLANNING TIME

A master schedule shall be created by the building level principal indicating when each teacher's planning period and scheduled lunch period will be. Planning time is for the purpose of scheduling conferences, instructional planning, and preparation. Each teacher will have the ability to schedule these activities during his/her designated planning time. Teachers may not leave campus during their planning time without prior permission from their building level supervisor.

The planning time shall be in increments of not less than forty (40) minutes and shall occur during the student instructional day unless a teacher requests, in writing, to have his/her planning time occur outside of the student instructional day. For the purposes of this policy, the student instructional day means the time that students are required to be present at school.

Legal Reference: ACA § 6-17-114 (a)(d)

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.11—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

Personal Leave

For the district to function efficiently and have the necessary personnel present to effect a high achieving learning environment, employee absences need to be kept to a minimum. The district acknowledges that there are times during the school year when employees have personal business that needs to be addressed during the school day.

Employees will receive personal days based on years of service in the Nemo Vista School District as follows:

0-5 years of service will receive two (2) personal days each year.

6-10 years of service will receive three (3) personal days each year.

11-15 years of service will receive four (4) personal days each year.

15 + years of service will receive five (5) personal days each year.

Personal leave does not accumulate from one contract year to the next. If the days are not used for personal business, they will be added to sick leave days at the end of the year (June 30), not to exceed ninety (90) days of sick leave to carryover. The decision on the use of the days for personal business will be at the discretion of the principal or Superintendent. Permission to take a personal day should be requested of the principal at least two days in advance of the absence, when the absence is foreseeable. Approval will not normally be granted for a personal day during the first or last week of an employee's contract year, prior to state mandated testing, or immediately preceding or following Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Spring break.

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

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

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

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

Any employee desiring to take personal leave may do so by making a written request to his supervisor at least two school days prior to the time of the requested leave. The two school days requirement may be waived by the supervisor when the supervisor deems it appropriate.

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

Total personal leave for the contract year is credited to the certified employee at the beginning of the contract year. If an employee leaves, resigns, or is dismissed from his employment position for any reason before the end of the school term, the district will deduct from his last pay check, full compensation for any days personal leave used in excess of the number of days earned or available. Should the last pay check not be enough to cover the deductions, the employee is responsible for re-paying the district any amount due because of unearned personal leave. The district reserves the right to recover this money in accordance with the law.

Professional Leave

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

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

If the employee receives and accepts remuneration for their participation in the professional leave activity (e.g. scholastic audits or praxis assessments), the employee shall forfeit his/her daily rate of pay from the district for the time the employee misses. The cost of a substitute, if one is needed, shall be paid by the district for all professional leave.

Sabbatical:

A certified employee may be granted an unpaid leave of absence in the form of a sabbatical for furthering their education or attaining a degree related to being a career educator. The sabbatical would be without pay or benefits for a period not to exceed one (1) school year. The employee on sabbatical must notify the district in writing no later than March 1 of the year of the sabbatical of his or her intention to resume employment, and the failure of the employee to make such notification shall void any obligation of the part of the district to reemploy the individual. The person employed to replace the certified employee on sabbatical will only be employed for the term of the sabbatical, and will be sent notice of non-renewal when the district receives the notification of the absent employee of his or her intention to resume employment. A person replacing an employee who has

been granted a sabbatical will not be subject to the district's reduction in force (RIF) policy, and will have no rights to recall.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-211

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised

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

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

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

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

Legal References: A.C.A. § 12-12-913 (g) (2)
 Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for “Megan’s Law”
 A.C.A. § 5-14-132

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.13—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL PUBLIC OFFICE

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-115

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.14—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL JURY DUTY

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

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

Employees shall receive their regular pay from the district while serving jury duty.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 16-31-106

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.14.1-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL ELECTION DUTY

If a certified employee is selected for election duty, he/she shall be allowed to serve, at the principal or Superintendent's discretion, and must take personal or vacation leave to serve for election duty. Since personal or vacation leave must be taken to participate in election duty, any compensation shall be retained by the employee.

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Date Revised:

3.15—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL LEAVE — INJURY FROM ASSAULT

The Board of Education of the Nemo Vista District shall grant any employee of the district who is absent from duty in a public school due to personal injury from assault or other violent criminal act committed against the employee in the course of employment in the public school leave at full pay while the employee is unable to return to work.

The leave shall last as long as the employee is unable to return to work, but not to exceed one (1) year from the date of injury. Leave granted under this provision shall not be charged to the sick leave of the employee.

The assault or criminal act must have been reported to and verified by the proper authority, i.e., police, etc.

To apply for the leave of absence, and thereafter at the request of the School Board after leave is granted, the employee must present a statement from a medical doctor stating that the employee is under the care of a doctor, and that the employee is incapable, by reason of the personal injury sustained, to return to work. The School Board may request that the employee be examined by a medical doctor of the Board's choosing to verify the inability of the employee to return to work. If there is disagreement between the employee's doctor and the Board's doctor, a third opinion shall be requested from a medical doctor that both the Board and employee agree upon. In such case, the decision from the agreed upon doctor shall be the decision that the Board and the employee shall abide by.

The employee shall not draw workers' compensation or hold any other job during the time the Board is paying full salary under the conditions of this policy and act.

The decision of the School Board shall be final and that decision shall not be subject to appeal through any administrative proceeding, including District grievance policies or procedures.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-1209

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.16—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES

Prekindergarten through sixth grade teachers shall be allotted the amount required by law per student enrolled in the teacher's class to be used for the purchase of classroom supplies and class activities. The amount shall be credited to an account from which the teacher shall be reimbursed for his/her covered purchases to the extent funds are available in the account. For the purposes of this policy, pre-kindergarten through sixth grade teachers shall be eligible for the allotted supply reimbursement for those students enrolled in the teacher's class for more than 50% of the school day at the end of the first three months of the school year.

Teachers may purchase supplies and supplementary materials from the district at the district's cost to take advantage of the school's bulk buying power. To do so, teachers shall complete and have approved by the principal a purchase order for supplies which will then be purchased on the teacher's behalf by the school and subtracted from the teacher's total supply and material allocation. Supplies and materials purchased with school funds, or for which the teacher is reimbursed with school funds, are school property, and should remain on school property.

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

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.17—INSULT OR ABUSE OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

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

1. Cause a breach of the peace;
2. Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; and/or
3. Arouse the person to whom the language is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-106

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.18—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.19—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT

Required Forms

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

All certified personnel must furnish to the Superintendent of schools the following items prior to the first pay day before they can receive any payment for service:

1. A valid Arkansas teacher certificate.
2. A complete college transcript.
3. Elect choice of either contributory (required, unless meet non-contributory status) or non-contributory (only for those contracted <180 days) membership in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Membership in the system is mandatory.
4. A current health certificate (TB skin test).
5. Social Security Number.
6. Current W-4 forms, state and federal, for tax deduction purposes.
7. Completed Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification.
8. Signed Drug Free Workplace Statement.
9. Submission of all forms necessary for Criminal Background and Child Abuse Registry Checks.
10. Personnel Policy Acknowledgement.
11. Computer Use Policy Agreement.

It is NOT the policy of Nemo Vista School District to pay the fee required for the Criminal Background Check required before employing a new certified employee. Prospective employees are responsible for paying the required fee.

Consequences of False, omitted or misleading statements

If the employee provides false or misleading information, or if he withholds information to the same effect, it may be grounds for dismissal.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Nemo Vista School District is an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Recommendation for initial employment

All certified personnel except the Superintendent shall be presented to the Board to be hired or dismissed by recommendation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall be guided in his nominations by the recommendations of the principals and other supervisory personnel. Should a person nominated to be hired by the Superintendent be rejected by the Board, the Superintendent shall submit another nomination for consideration.

Intent Forms

Intent forms will be distributed and are to be returned prior to the March School Board meeting.

Assignment and Transfer

Certified staff may be transferred or reassigned to another position in the district upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and Board approval. As much advance notice as practical will be given to the employee.

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.20—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Employees shall be reimbursed for personal and/or travel expenses incurred while performing duties or attending workshops or other employment-related functions, provided that prior written approval for the activity for which the employee seeks reimbursement has been received from the Superintendent, principal (or other immediate supervision with the authority to make school approvals), or the appropriate designee of the Superintendent and that the teacher's attendance/travel was at the request of the district.

It is the responsibility of the employee to determine the appropriate supervisor from which he must obtain approval.

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

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

Cross Reference: Policy 7.12—EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.21—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL TOBACCO USE

Smoking or the use of tobacco, or products containing tobacco in any form, in or on any property owned or leased by the district, including buses or other school vehicles, is prohibited.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-21-609

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.22—DRESS OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.23—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL POLITICAL ACTIVITY

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

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

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.24—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL DEBTS

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

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

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

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.25—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL GRIEVANCES

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

Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

The school board will address the grievance at the next regular meeting of the school board, unless the employee agrees in writing to an alternate date for the hearing. After reviewing the Level Two Grievance Form and the superintendent's reply, the board will decide if the grievance, on its face, is grievable under district policy. If the grievance is presented as a "group grievance," the Board shall first determine if the composition of the group meets the definition of a "group grievance." If the Board determines that it is a group grievance, the Board shall then determine whether the matter raised is grievable. If the Board rules the composition of the group does not meet the definition of a group grievance, or the grievance, whether group or individual, is not grievable, the matter shall be considered closed. (Individuals within the disallowed group may choose to subsequently refile their grievance as an individual grievance beginning with Level One of the process.) If the Board rules the grievance to be grievable, they shall immediately commence a hearing on the grievance. All parties have the right to representation by a person of their own choosing who is not a member of the employee's immediate family at the appeal hearing before the Board of Directors. The employee shall have no less than 90 minutes to present his/her grievance, unless a shorter period is agreed to by the employee, and both parties shall have the opportunity to present and question witnesses. The hearing shall be open to the public unless the employee requests a private hearing. If the hearing is open, the parent or guardian of any student

under the age of eighteen years who gives testimony may elect to have the student's testimony given in closed session. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the hearing was closed, the Board of Directors may excuse all parties except board members and deliberate, by themselves, on the hearing. At the conclusion of an open hearing, board deliberations shall also be in open session unless the board is deliberating the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of the employee. A decision on the grievance shall be announced no later than the next regular board meeting.

Records

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

Reprisals

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

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-208, 210

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.25F—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL LEVEL TWO GRIEVANCE FORM

Name: _____

Date submitted to supervisor: _____

Personnel Policy grievance is based upon:

Grievance (be specific): _____

What would resolve your grievance? _____

Supervisor's Response

Date submitted to recipient: _____

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.26—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employee – to – Employee

Employees shall not engage in conduct constituting sexual harassment of other employees.

Employees who believe they have been sexually harassed by other employees are encouraged to come forward with complaints. District official or their agents shall investigate promptly all allegations of sexual harassment of employees by other employees, and officials shall take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against employees found to have engaged in conduct constituting sexual harassment of employees.

Complaint Procedure

For the purpose of the following complaint process, “days” mean calendar days.

An employee who believes he/she has been or is being subjected to any form of sexual harassment shall bring the matter to the attention of the principal, immediate supervisor, or Title IX coordinator for employees. No procedure or step in this policy shall have the effect of requiring the employee alleging harassment to present the matter to a person who is the subject of the complaint.

Level One

The employee shall request a conference with the principal or immediate supervisor by submitting the complaint in writing or by requesting a conference. If the complaint is made orally, the supervisor receiving the complaint shall reduce it to writing. The principal or supervisor shall hold the conference as soon as possible, but in any event within seven (7) days after receipt of the complaint. The principal or supervisor shall ordinarily have seven (7) days following the conference within which to investigate and respond. The employee shall be informed if extenuating circumstances delay the investigation.

Level Two

If the outcome of the conference at Level One is not to the employee’s satisfaction, the employee may request a conference with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the complaint. The request should be in writing and

shall be filed within seven (7) days following receipt of a written response or, if not written response is received, within seven (7) days of the response deadline.

The Superintendent or designee shall hold the conference as soon as possible but in any event within seven (7) days after receipt of the written request. The Superintendent or designee shall have seven (7) days following the conference within which to respond.

Level Three

If the outcome at Level Two is not to the employee's satisfaction or if the time for a response has expired, the employee may present the complaint to the Board. The Superintendent shall place the matter on the agenda for the next regular Board meeting.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with copies of the employee's original complaint, all responses, and any written documentation previously submitted by the employee and the administration.

The Level Three proceeding before the Board shall be recorded by audio tape. The presiding officer shall allow a reasonable time for presentation of the complaint. The Board shall consider the grievance and shall request a response from the administration.

Closed Meeting

The Board may hear the allegation of sexual harassment in closed meeting, if posted in accordance with law, unless an open hearing is requested in writing by the employee or Board member against whom the complaint or charge is brought.

Employee – To – Student

Employees shall not engage in conduct constituting sexual harassment or sexual abuse of students. Sexual harassment includes any welcome or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal (oral or written), physical, or visual conduct of a sexual nature. Romantic relationships between District employees and students constitute unprofessional conduct and are prohibited.

Reporting Requirements

Any District employee who receives information about sexual harassment or sexual abuse of a student that may reasonably be characterized as known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall make the reports to appropriate authorities, as required by law.

An employee who suspects or knows that a student is being sexually harassed or sexually abused by a school employee or by another student shall inform his/her principal, immediate supervisor, or Title IX coordinator. The District shall notify parents of any incident of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee.

Investigations

Any allegations of sexual harassment or sexual abuse of students shall be investigated and addressed.

In considering and investigating allegations that an employee has sexually harassed or sexually abused a student, the investigation shall proceed from the presumption that the employee's conduct was unwelcome. See Section 4.27 of the school handbooks, which contains the complaint procedure for students alleging sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee or by another student.

Student Rights and Responsibilities – Sexual Harassment/ Sexual Abuse

Sexual Harassment By Students

Students shall not engage in sexual harassment toward another student or a District employee. A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against a student shall result in disciplinary action.

Sexual harassment by a student includes unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.

Sexual Harassment/ Abuse By Employees

District employees are prohibited from sexually harassing or sexually abusing students. Romantic relationships between students and employees are prohibited.

Reporting Requirements

Any District employee who receives information about sexual harassment or sexual abuse of a student that may reasonably be characterized as known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall make the reports to appropriated authorities, as required by law.

An employee who suspects or knows that a student is being sexually harassed or sexually abused by a school employee or by another student shall inform his/her principal, immediate supervisor, or the Title IX coordinator.

Investigations

Any allegations of sexual harassment or sexual abuse of students shall be investigated and addressed. Any reports of sexual harassment that are not minor shall be referred to the Title IX coordinator. Oral complaints shall be reduced to writing to assist in the District's investigation. To the greatest extent possible, complaints shall be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

Notice to Parents

The District shall notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor. The District shall notify parents of any incident of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee.

Protection from Retaliation

The District shall not retaliate against a student who in good faith reports perceived sexual harassment or sexual abuse.

Complaint Process

For the purpose of the following complaint process, “days” mean calendar days.

Level One

A student or parent who has a complaint alleging sexual harassment by other student(s) or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee may request a conference with the principal, designee, or the Title IX coordinator for students. The student may be accompanied by the parent or other advisor at the initial conference and throughout the complaint process. The initial conference with the student ordinarily shall be held with a person who is the same gender as the student. The conference shall be scheduled and held as soon as possible, but in any event with seven (7) days of receipt of the complaint. At the conference, the persons bringing the complaint shall be informed of the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights.

The principal or designee or the Title IX coordinator shall coordinate an appropriate investigation, which ordinarily shall be completed within seven (7) days of the initial conference. The student or parent shall be informed if extenuating circumstances delay the investigation.

Nothing in the complaint process shall have the effect of requiring a student alleging sexual harassment or sexual to report the matter to a person who is the subject of the complaint.

Level Two

If the resolution of the complaint at Level One is not to the student’s or parent’s satisfaction, the student or parent has seven (7) days to request a conference with the Superintendent or designee, who shall schedule and hold a conference. Prior to or at the conference, the student or parent shall submit a written complaint that includes a statement of the complaint, any evidence in its support, the resolution sought, the student’s and/or parent’s signature, and the date of the conference with the principal, designee, or Title IX coordinator.

Level Three

If the resolution of the complaint at Level Two is not to the student’s or parent’s satisfaction, the student may present the complaint to the Board at its next regular meeting. The complaint shall be included as an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting. Announcing a decision in the student’s or parent’s presence constitutes communication of the decision.

Closed Meeting

The Board shall hear complaints alleging sexual harassment by students or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by employees in closed meeting, unless otherwise required by the Open Meetings Act.

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681, et seq.
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000-e, et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-15-1005 (b) (1)

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.27—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.28—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL COMPUTER USE POLICY

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

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

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

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act; PL 106-554
 20 USC 6777
 47 USC 254(h)
 A.C.A. § 6-21-107
 A.C.A. § 6-21-111

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.28F—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

Name (Please Print) _____

School _____ Date _____

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

1. Conditional Privilege: The Employee’s use of the district’s access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Employee’s abiding by this agreement.
2. Acceptable Use: The Employee agrees that in using the District’s Internet access he/she will obey all federal and state laws and regulations. Internet access is provided as an aid to employees to enable them to better perform their job responsibilities. Under no circumstances shall an Employee’s use of the District’s Internet access interfere with, or detract from, the performance of his/her job-related duties.
3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Employee violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Employee shall be subject to disciplinary action up and including termination.
4. “Misuse of the District’s access to the Internet” includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. using the Internet for any activities deemed lewd, obscene, vulgar, or pornographic as defined by prevailing community standards;
 - b. using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
 - c. posting anonymous messages on the system;
 - d. using encryption software;
 - e. wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
 - f. causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
 - g. vandalizing data of another user;
 - h. obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
 - i. gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
 - j. identifying oneself with another person’s name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
 - k. using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
 - l. theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
 - m. invading the privacy of individuals;
 - n. using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
 - o. introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with, the system;
 - p. degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
 - q. creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;

- r. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files of students not under their jurisdiction;
- s. providing access to the District's Internet Access to unauthorized individuals; or
- t. taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools;
- u. making unauthorized copies of computer software;
- v. personal use of computers during instructional time; or
- w. Installing software on district computers without prior approval of technology director or his/her designee.

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

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

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

Employee's Signature: _____ Date _____

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.29—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

The Nemo Vista School District shall operate by the following calendar.

NEMO VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
LIL' HAWKS PRE-SCHOOL CENTER
2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 10	Full Staff Required/Inservice
August 15	FIRST DAY SCHOOL - STUDENTS
September 2 - out	Inservice – Faculty/staff only
September 5 – out	Labor Day
September 15	Elementary & High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
September 30	Elementary Event Day
October 12-14	9 weeks test
October 14	End first qtr 43 days
October 31	Book Character Event Day - Elementary
November 14	Inservice flex days-Faculty/staff only
November 17	Pre-School Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 23-25- out	Thanksgiving holiday
December 16, 19, & 20	Semester test
December 19	Event Day - Elementary
December 20	Event Day - Elementary
December 21-January 3 - out	Christmas holiday
January 4	Resume classes
January 6	End 2 nd qtr 46 days
February 9	Elementary & High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 10	Inservice - Faculty/staff only
February 14	Event Day - Elementary
March 7, 8, & 9	9 weeks test
March 9	End 3 rd qtr 44 days
March 19 - 23	Spring break
March 26	Classes resume
April 6	Event Day - Elementary
April 12	Pre-School Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 25	Track/Field day – 5 th & 6 th Grade
May 4	Splash day - Elementary

May 11	Graduation
May 15	Event Day - Elementary
May 16, 17, & 18	Semester test
May 18	Last day students
May 18	End 4 th qtr 45 days
May 21 – 25	Inclement weather make up days, if needed
	TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS - 178
	CALENDAR HAS 5 INCLEMENT DAYS, IF NEEDED

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-201

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.30—PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

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

Teachers are required to communicate during the school year with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each of their students to discuss their academic progress. More frequent communication is required with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of students who are performing below grade level.

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

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

Legal References: State Board of Education Standards of Accreditation 12.04.1, 12.04.2, and 12.04.3
A.C.A. § 6-15-1701(b)(3)(C)

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.31—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE - CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legal References: 41 USC § 702, 703, and 706

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.31F—DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CERTIFICATION

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

Signature _____

Date _____

3.32—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Definitions:

Covered active duty means

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

Covered Service Member is

- (A) a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is a 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
- (B) a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves) at any time during the period of five (5) years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy.

Eligible Employee: is an employee who has been employed by the district for at least twelve (12) months and for 1250 hours of service during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave. Full time, licensed teachers are considered to have met the 1250 hour requirement for eligibility.

Health Care Provider: is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery (as appropriate) by the state in which the doctor practices. It also includes any other person determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor to be capable of providing health care services.

Instructional Employee: is a teacher whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include administrators, counselors, librarians, psychologists, or curriculum specialists who are included under the broader definition of “eligible employee” (to the extent the employee has been employed for 12 months).

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

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

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

Qualifying Exigency: Issues that arise due to covered active duty or a call to covered active duty of an employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent. Examples include issues involved with short-notice deployment, military events and related activities, childcare and school activities, the need for financial and legal

arrangements, counseling, rest and recuperation, post-deployment activities, and other activities as defined by federal regulations.

Parent: is the biological parent of an employee or an individual who stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a son or a daughter.

Serious Health Condition: is an injury, illness, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care or continuing treatment by a health care provider.

Serious Injury or Illness:

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

Year: for leave **other than** to care for the serious injury or illness of a covered service member, the twelve (12) month period of eligibility shall begin on the first duty day of the school year.

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

Policy

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

Leave Eligibility

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

1. Because of the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for such son or daughter;
2. Because of the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;
3. To care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent, of the employee, if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent has a serious health condition; and

4. Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the position of such employee.
5. Because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces.
6. To care for a spouse, child, parent or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury.

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

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a **covered service member** shall be entitled to a total of 26 weeks of leave during one 12-month period to care for the service member who has a serious injury or illness as defined in this policy. An eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member is limited for reasons 1 through 5 listed above to a total of 12 weeks of leave during a year as defined in this policy. For example, an eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member for 16 weeks during a 12 month period could only take a total of 10 weeks for reasons 1 through 5.

If husband and wife are both eligible employees employed by the district, the husband and wife are entitled to a total of 26 weeks of leave during one 12-month period to care for their spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a **covered service member** with a serious injury or illness as defined in this policy. A husband and wife who care for such a covered service member is limited for reasons 1 through 5 listed above to a total of 12 weeks of leave during a year as defined in this policy. For example, an eligible employee who cares for such a covered service member for 16 weeks during a 12 month period could only take a total of 10 weeks for reasons 1 through 5.

District Notice to Employees

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

Employee Notice to District

Foreseeable:

When the need for leave is foreseeable for reasons 1 through 4 or 6 listed above, the employee shall provide the district with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave for the specified reason, except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable. As soon as practicable means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances in the individual case.

When the necessity for leave for reason 5 listed above is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty, the employee shall provide such notice to the district as is reasonable and practicable regardless of how far in advance the leave is foreseeable.

When the need for leave is for reasons 3, 4, or 6 listed above, the employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the district subject to the approval of the health care provider of the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee.

Failure by the employee to give thirty (30) days notice may delay the taking of FMLA leave until at least thirty (30) days after the date the employee provides notice to the district.

Unforeseeable:

When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee shall provide the district notice of the need for leave as soon as practicable given the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Ordinarily, the employee shall notify the district within two (2) working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not feasible. Notice may be provided in person, by telephone, telegraph, fax, or other electronic means.

Medical Certification

When the need for leave is for reasons 3, 4, or 6 listed above, the employee should provide a medical certification from a licensed, practicing health care provider supporting the need for leave at the time the notice for leave is given, but must provide certification at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date the leave is to begin. The certification shall include the date on which the serious health condition began, the probable duration of the condition, and the appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition. Leave taken for reason 3 listed above, must include certification that the eligible employee is needed to care for the son, daughter, spouse, or parent and an estimate of the amount of time the employee is needed to provide the care. For reason 4 listed above, the certification must include a statement that the employee is unable to perform the required functions of his/her position.

If FMLA leave is to be taken on an intermittent or reduced work schedule basis for planned medical treatment, the certification shall include the dates on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment.

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

Recertification: The district may request the employee obtain a recertification, at the employee's expense, no more often than every thirty (30) days unless one or more of the following circumstances apply;

- a. The employee requests an extension of leave;
- b. Circumstances described by the previous certification have changed significantly; and/or
- c. The district receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the certification.

The employee must provide the recertification in no more than fifteen (15) calendar days after the district's request.

No second or third opinion on recertification may be required.

Sick Leave and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave

When an employee takes sick leave, the district shall determine if the leave qualifies for FMLA leave. The district may request additional information from the employee to help make the applicability determination. If the leave qualifies under the FMLA, the district will notify the employee, either orally or in writing, of the decision within two workdays. If the leave is intermittent or on a reduced schedule as defined in this policy and the circumstances of the leave don't change, the district is only required to notify the employee once of the determination regarding the applicability of sick leave and/or FMLA leave. To the extent the employee has accrued paid leave, any leave taken that qualifies for FMLA leave shall be paid leave and charged against the employee's accrued leave.

Concurrent Leave

The district requires employees to substitute any applicable accrued leave for any part of the twelve (12) week period of FMLA leave. All FMLA leave is unpaid unless substituted by applicable accrued leave.

Workers Compensation: FMLA leave may run concurrently with a workers' compensation absence when the injury is one that meets the criteria for a serious health condition. To the extent that workers compensation benefits and FMLA leave run concurrently, the employee will not be charged for any paid leave accrued by the employee. If the health care provider treating the employee for the workers compensation injury certifies the employee is able to return to a "light duty job," but is unable to return to the employee's same or equivalent job, the employee may decline the district's offer of a "light duty job." As a result, the employee may lose his/her workers' compensation payments, but for the duration of the employee's FMLA leave, the employee will be paid for the leave to the extent that the employee has accrued applicable leave.

Health Insurance Coverage

The district shall maintain coverage under any group health plan for the duration of FMLA leave the employee takes at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued in active employment with the district. The employee remains responsible for any portion of premium payments customarily paid by the employee. When on unpaid FMLA leave, it is the employee's responsibility to submit his/her portion of the cost of the group health plan coverage to the district's business office on or before it would be made by payroll deduction.

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

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

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

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

Reporting Requirements During Leave

Employees shall inform the district every week during FMLA leave of their current status and intent to return to work.

Return to Work

Medical Certification: An employee who has taken FMLA leave under reason 4 stated above shall provide the district with certification from a health care provider that the employee is able to resume work.

Return to Previous Position: An employee returning from FMLA leave is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. An equivalent position must involve the same or substantially similar duties and responsibilities, which must entail substantially equivalent skill, effort, and authority. The employee may not be restored to a position requiring additional licensure or certification.

Failure to Return to Work: In the event that an employee is unable or fails to return to work, the superintendent will make a determination at that time regarding the documented need for a severance of the employee's contract due to the inability of the employee to fulfill the responsibilities and requirements of their contract.

Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

Eligible employees may only take intermittent or reduced schedule leave for reasons 1 and 2 listed above if the district agrees to permit such leave upon request of the employee.

Eligible employees may take intermittent or reduced schedule leave due to reasons 3, 4, and 6 listed above if they have

- (A) made a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the son, daughter, spouse, or parent of the employee, as appropriate; and

(B) provided the employer with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under such subparagraph, except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

Eligible employees requesting intermittent or reduced schedule leave that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment may be transferred to an alternative position for which the employee is qualified with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the employee's intermittent or reduced schedule leave.

If an eligible employee who meets the definition of an instructional employee requests intermittent or reduced schedule leave that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and the employee would be on leave for greater than 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the district may require the employee to elect either

- a. to take medical leave for periods of a particular duration, not to exceed the duration of the planned medical treatment; or
- b. to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the employer for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the employee.

Leave taken by eligible instructional employees near the end of the academic term

Leave more than 5 weeks prior to end of term

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, due to reasons 1 through 6 listed above, more than 5 weeks prior to the end of the academic term, the district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of such term, if

- (A) the leave is of at least 3 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 3-week period before the end of such term.

Leave less than 5 weeks prior to end of term

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, due to reasons 1, 2, 3, or 6 listed above, during the period that commences 5 weeks prior to the end of the academic term, the district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of such term, if

- (A) the leave is of greater than 2 weeks duration; and
- (B) the return to employment would occur during the 2-week period before the end of such term.

Leave less than 3 weeks prior to end of term

If the eligible, instructional employee begins leave, due to 1, 2, 3, or 6 listed above, during the period that commences 3 weeks prior to the end of the academic term and the duration of the leave is greater than 5 working days, the agency or school may require the employee to continue to take leave until the end of such term.

Legal References: 29 USC §§ 2601 et seq.
 29 CFR 825.100 et seq.

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

29 CFR 825.114 - What is a "serious health condition" entitling an employee to FMLA leave?

(a) For purposes of FMLA, "serious health condition" entitling an employee to FMLA leave means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Substance abuse may be a serious health condition if the conditions of this section are met. However, FMLA leave may only be taken for treatment for substance abuse by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services on referral by a health care provider. On the other hand, absence because of the employee's use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify for FMLA leave.

(e) Absences attributable to incapacity under paragraphs (a)(2) (ii) or (iii) qualify for FMLA leave even though the employee or the immediate family member does not receive treatment from a health care provider during the absence, and even if the absence does not last more than three days. For example, an employee with asthma may be unable to report for work due to the onset of an asthma attack or because the employee's health care provider has advised the employee to stay home when the pollen count exceeds a certain level. An employee who is pregnant may be unable to report to work because of severe morning sickness.

3.33—ASSIGNMENT OF EXTRA DUTIES FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

From time to time extra duties may be assigned to certified personnel by the school principal or the Superintendent as circumstances dictate.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-201

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.34—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL CELL PHONE USE

Use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices by employees during instructional time is strictly forbidden unless specifically approved in advance by the superintendent, building principal, or their designees.

In any instance where the district issues a cell phone or school computer to a school employee for use for school business purposes, the employee shall not use the equipment for personal use. Any employee who uses a school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.35—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL BENEFITS

The Nemo Vista School District provides its certified personnel benefits consisting of the following.

1. Health insurance assistance, at the level determined by state law, for eligible participating employees;
2. Contribution toward optional dental insurance for employees, in the amount of \$8.86 per month;
3. Contribution to the teacher retirement system, as determined by law;
4. One sick leave day per calendar month or greater part thereof, worked;
5. Personal days, based on years of service, per policy;
6. Optional participation in a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan, that includes supplemental insurance coverages.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-201

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.36—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL DISMISSAL AND NON-RENEWAL

For procedures relating to the termination and non-renewal of teachers, please refer to the Arkansas Teacher Fair Dismissal Act A.C.A. §§ 6-17-1501 through 1510. The Act specifically is not made a part of this policy by this reference.

A copy of the Act is available for review in the office of the principal of each school building.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-201

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.37—ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHER AIDES

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-201

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.38—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BULLYING

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

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

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

Definitions:

Bullying means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that causes or creates a clear and present danger of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Sarcastic "compliments" about another student's personal appearance,
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
4. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student's race, gender, ethnicity or personal characteristics,
6. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
7. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
8. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
9. Stealing or hiding books or belongings, and/or
10. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others.
11. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 3.26, is also a form of bullying,
12. Teasing or name-calling based on belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected

gender roles (Examples: “Slut”) or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual (Examples: “You are so gay.” “Fag” “Queer”).

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-514

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.39— CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RECORDS AND REPORTS

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

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-17-104

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.40—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, MALTREATMENT OR NEGLECT

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

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

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

Legal References: A.C.A. § 12-12-504, 507, 517

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.41—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER MONITORING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised: April 21, 2011.

3.42—RELEASE OF STUDENT’S FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

Legal References: Commissioner’s Memos IA-05-018, FIN 09-041, and IA 99-011
 ADE Eligibility Manual for School Meals Revised July 2008
 7 CFR 210.1 – 210.31
 7 CFR 220.1 – 220.22
 42 USC 1758(b)(6)

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

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

Any employees possessing a teaching license, regardless of whether holding such a license is a condition of employment in the employee's current job assignment, must at all times maintain such a license in good standing with the State Board of Education. Any employee who is reprimanded, has his or her license put under any period of probation, or has his or her license revoked by the State Board of Education pursuant to Arkansas State Board of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators will face disciplinary action, up to and including termination or nonrenewal of his or her contract of employment.

Legal References: Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators;
 A.C.A. § 6-11-105
 A.C.A. § 6-17-401
 A.C.A. § 6-17-410
 A.C.A. § 6-17-422

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.44—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL WORKPLACE INJURIES AND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The district provides Workers’ Compensation Insurance, as required by law. Employees who sustain **any** injury at work must immediately notify their immediate supervisor, or in the absence of their immediate supervisor notify the District Treasurer. An injured employee must fill out a Form N and the employee’s supervisor will determine whether to report the claim or to file the paperwork if the injury requires neither medical treatment or lost work time. While many injuries will require no medical treatment or time lost at work, should the need for treatment arise later, it is important that there be a record that the injury occurred. All employees have a duty to provide information and make statements as requested for the purposes of the claim assessment and investigation.

For injuries requiring medical attention, the district will exercise its right to designate the initial treating physician and an injured employee will be directed to seek medical attention, if necessary, from a specific physician or clinic.

Workers’ Compensation absences may be designated as FMLA absences when the criteria are met under FMLA for a serious health condition.

An employee who is absent from work due to a workplace injury or receiving temporary disability benefits due to a Workers’ Compensation claim will be compensated to bring the total amount of combined income up to 100% of usual contracted pay. No employee may realize a net compensation gain from a combination of Workers’ Compensation benefits and district salary compensation in excess of contracted pay.

Legal References: Ark. Workers Compensation Commission RULE 099.33 - MANAGED CARE
A.C.A. § 11-9-508(d)(5)(A)
A.C.A. § 11-9-514(a)(3)(A)(i)

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on November 22, 2010, and effective on December 13, 2010 by majority vote of Certified Staff.

Last Revised:

3.45—CERTIFIED PERSONNEL SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ETHICS

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

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

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

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

Definitions:

Social networking websites are online groups of Internet users allowing communication between multiple individuals. The fundamental purpose of social networking websites is to socialize. Examples include, but are not limited to, Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. Staff members are discouraged from creating personal social networking sites to which they invite students to be friends or followers. Employees taking such action do so at their own risk and are advised to monitor the site's privacy settings regularly.

Professional/education social networks are education oriented websites designed to allow and encourage teachers and students to communicate and collaborate around school subjects and projects. District employees may set up blogs and other professional/education social networking accounts using District resources and following District guidelines to promote communications with students, parents, and the community concerning school-related activities and for the purpose of supplementing classroom instruction. Accessing professional/education social networks during school hours is permitted.

Blogs are a type of networking and can be either social or professional in their orientation. Professional blogs are encouraged and can provide a place for teachers to post homework, keep parents up-to-date, and interact

with students concerning school related activities. Social blogs are discouraged to the extent they involve teachers and students in a non-education oriented format.

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: RULES GOVERNING THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARKANSAS EDUCATORS

Date Adopted: Adopted by Board on April 21, 2011.

Last Revised:

3.47—DEPOSITING COLLECTED FUNDS

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

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

Date adopted: Adopted by Board on April 21, 2011.

Last Revised: